

WACO FLY FISHING CLUB

June, 2013 www.wacoflyfishingclub.org Volume XIX: No.6

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Location:

Waco Wetlands Center

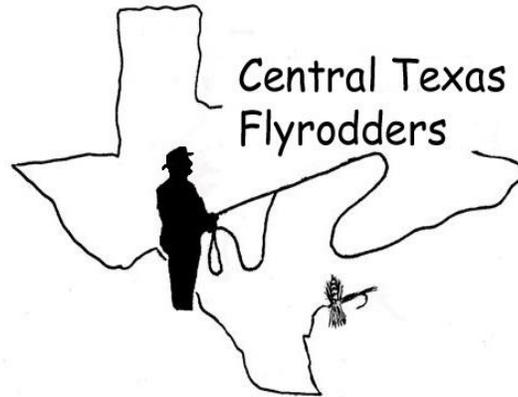
Program:

Lefty Ray Chapa

About 7:00 pm

Fly Tying and Tall Tales

About 6:00 p.m.



JUNE PROGRAM – LEFTY RAY CHAPA

Our June program will have something for everyone who chases fish in Texas with a fly rod. Lefty Ray Chapa will present *Fishing the 12 Months of Texas*. Our state offers year long fly fishing opportunities in warm water, salt water and even the cold winter waters of the Guadalupe River. Lefty Ray will cover it all. What a great way to plan your outings for the rest of the year.

Lefty Ray is well qualified to cover a subject as large as Texas. If you have attended one of his presentations in the past you know he will give us a quality program. As a professional photographer his slide show alone is worth the price of admission. I know, its free, but you get the point. Lefty Ray is also a fishing guide and has been published in a number of outdoor magazines.

Having attended several of his presentations in the past I know Lefty Ray is a believer in wearing clothing that blends into your background. On the Texas coast that means blue shirts to match the sky behind you, a point he made the last time he was in Waco. After that talk here, I believe the local Academy sold out of the color. A few months later, I was reading a magazine article on fishing the Texas coast, probably in *Southwest Fly Fishing*. I hadn't noticed the name of the author, but about half way into the article I saw a picture caption that emphasized the importance of sky blue shirts at the coast. I turned back to the beginning and sure enough the author was Lefty Ray. The experience made me feel like I knew a little bit about fly fishing.

If you haven't had the pleasure of learning from Lefty Ray Chapa this is your chance, just make the short drive to the Wetlands. Feel free to bring a guest, even someone who does not fly fish. Lefty Ray will focus on fly fishing, but there will be good information for those who use conventional tackle. And you never know, maybe we'll get a convert.

Bob Hanley

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

Russell Husted, President of the newly formed Texas Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers, took us to Colorado. For about \$500.00 you too can fish for Trout in some of the prettiest waters in the country. Russell's slides proved that – the pretty part and the Trout part.

The basic idea is to fish the public streams around Creede, South Fork and Pagosa Springs. These are small streams that are overlooked by anglers seeking the notorious bigger waters. The fish in the small streams are usually not the biggest in Colorado, but there are a few exceptions and all are colorful and well-marked.

Russell likes to keep it simple and relies on several basic patterns like stimulators, bugmeisters and his mutant elk hair caddis, all fished dry. There is no reason to put a hurt on your brain trying to “match the hatch.” These fish usually are not picky.

Russell's enthusiasm for the fishing was as evident as the quality of the fishery. Our resident Trout Whisperer, Dale Connally was taking copious notes and photographed the informational screens. Point made?

Fishing this area of Colorado should appeal to old cheap skates, or is it better to say the mature frugal fly fishers in our club. This fishing really is available for about \$500.00 a week, less if you camp. If you prefer a roof over your head Russell suggested staying at the Foothills Lodge in South Fork, currently about \$79.00 a night plus \$5.00 a night for each person sharing the room.

TEXAS COUNCIL OF THE IFFF

At the May meeting, Russell Husted also updated us on the status of the new Texas Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers.

There has already been progress. The council website is up and running and our club is already included in it. A new, New Braunfels Fly Fishing Club has formed and efforts are underway to start clubs in west Texas. As hoped, interaction between Texas clubs is already improved. By the way, we are invited to join the Fort Worth Fly Fishers on their Colorado outing starting July 20, 2013.

The FFF, now the IFFF has always been a quality organization, but in the past the focus has not really included Texas. That is changing. For example, it appears that the Texas Council will bring the attention of the entire organization to public access issues in Texas.



Our club has been affiliated with the FFF for years and has continued that affiliation with the IFFF. This is a good time to consider becoming an individual member and be part of an exciting upgrade of the IFFF presence in Texas.

For more information on the new Texas Council see: www.texasounciliff.com.

LATHAM SPRINGS AND THE JOHN MADDUX PERCH ON THE FLY TUTORIAL

Our club has some truly talented members. Johnny Elkins is the undisputed master at catching White Bass on the fly. Dale Connally is our Trout whisperer. Nobody makes a prettier or more effective fly rod than Bill Whitehead. Pat Vanek has started to log more than a few miles presenting programs to other clubs. There's more, but you get the point.

Well its time to add John Maddux to the list - near the top. After our outings at Highview and Latham Springs, John has established himself as the master at catching Perch, not just any Perch, big Perch. After beaching his Kayak with a count of twenty-six Perch and three Bass, John decided to make a few more casts, you know kill a little time while the outing wound down. Seven casts later, John was seven for seven. He hooked and lost number eight, but got number nine to hand along with enough others to total sixty on the day, sixty-three if you add the Bass.

I decided to mug John while he was bringing number ten in. Bill Whitehead joined the mugging a little later and began his share of catching. He did well for a mere mortal, I bet he caught one fish to every two or three that John caught.



I struggled, catching maybe a half dozen while witnessing the hordes that John and Bill brought in. They were usually doubled. I finally realized that a slow retrieve with an occasional stop was the answer. Of course by then the honey hole was pretty worked over. You could tell, John was leaving to put his fly rod up.

I was still in store for a treat though. Bill let me use his sweet little 4 wt. It cast like a dream which was surprising because it was short for a fly rod, maybe six feet, and light. Even so, it easily put out plenty of line. Bill's holding it in the picture. After a few casts with that outfit I even caught my last Perch of the day, not quite as big as the one Bill is holding in the picture.



I had caught my share, but nothing like John. I didn't keep count because we were playing that one fly game and I had lost my first fly on my first strike hours earlier. If you are going to play a one fly game it is important to use light tippet and make sure its old. Oh, and don't check your knots.

Anyway, there was no question about the catcher of the most fish.



WACO FLY FISHING 101 - 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

CENTEX CHAPTER – CCA- THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2013

The Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) is a non-profit organization with 17 coastal state chapters spanning the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic seaboard, and the Pacific Northwest.

CCA began in 1977 after drastic commercial overfishing along the Texas coast decimated redfish and speckled trout populations. 14 concerned recreational anglers created the Gulf Coast Conservation Association to combat commercial overfishing.

The stewardship started with the "Save the Redfish" campaign, and by 1985, chapters had formed along the Gulf Coast. By the early '90s, the mid-Atlantic region and New England had chapters. Washington and Oregon opened CCA chapters in 2007.

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.



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. The shop carries an extensive array of fly tying materials as well finished flies ready to tie on. There is also Chris Johnson's guide service. For the anniversary bash Chris is putting much of his inventory on sale and handing out door prizes.



If you can't make the anniversary bash don't forget tying night every Wednesday at the shop beginning at 7:00 pm. You can just tie or learn the fly of the week. If you get an early start, the Tyers get together at Pok E Jo's BBQ for dinner about 6:00 pm.

Also, mark your calendar so you do not miss our August meeting on Tuesday, August 13, 2013. Chris is going to present his program on the hot spots around Round Rock and Georgetown. The program covers the Llano River, San Gabriel River and Brushy Creek. These waters are not as close as the Bosques, but have ample access and Rio Grande Perch.

NEW CLUB WEBSITE

Our new club website continues to improve. We are now linked to Facebook, a good way to share information. See version 1.1, at:

www.wacoflyfishingclub.org

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
- Webmaster - Dale Connally 710-4004
- At Large Billy Whitehead

