

WACO FLY FISHING CLUB

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

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Location:

Waco Wetlands Center

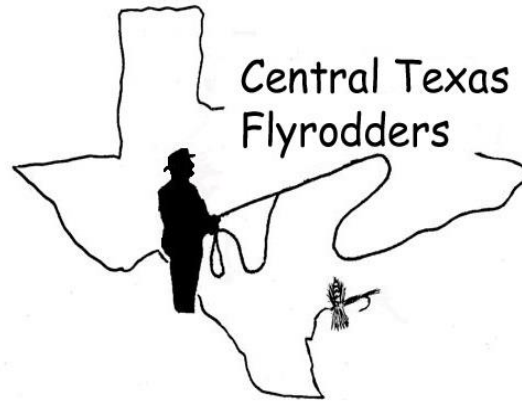
Program:

**Sean Polk – the Paluxy &
Upper Brazos**

About 7:00 pm

Fly Tying and Tall Tales

About 6:00 p.m.



JULY PROGRAM – SEAN POLK

Sean Polk will travel to Waco from Tailwaters Fly Fishing Co., the full service fly shop in Dallas, to tell us about the opportunities for fly fishing on the Paluxy River and the Upper Brazos. Sean will discuss access points, times of year, flies, gear, and techniques.

Sean Polk is a longtime fixture on the North Texas fly fishing scene. He has worked for several shops in the area and is currently the Retail Manager and Education Director for Tailwaters Fly Fishing in Dallas. Sean is a long time fly fisher learning the trade from his father and honing his skills on the rivers and lakes of North Texas. He spends the majority of his time on the Paluxy River near Glen Rose, as well as the Upper Brazos River.

Sean's extensive knowledge of local fly fishing helped him to become a popular speaker for the area fly fishing clubs. He has also been featured in the Lone Star Outdoor News, The Outdoor Channel, The Orvis News, and his flies have been featured in Field & Stream.

Some of Sean's favorite places to fish are his home waters of the Paluxy River, Belize, the Pacific Northwest, the marshes of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast of Texas.

Tailwaters Fly Fishing Company, LLC was founded in Dallas, Texas in January, 2007. Tailwaters carries everything you would expect and it is the only fly fishing pro shop in Texas with a full service, in-house travel agency. The travel department has actually been operating for over ten years. Tailwaters' retail storefront is located on McKinney Ave, in the lively and historic Uptown neighborhood of Dallas.

Tailwaters also offers a Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) certified fly fishing education program for both newcomers and experienced anglers. Collectively, Tailwaters' ownership, management, and staff have decades of experience in fly fishing travel, retail,

and education. They have traveled the world and work with the greatest product manufacturers in the business.

Store Location:
2416 McKinney Ave.
Dallas, Tx. 75201

Call Toll Free:
888-TAIL-H20
(888-824-5420)

Website:

www.tailwatersflyfishing.com



JUNE PROGRAM – LEFTY RAY CHAPA

As he promised, Lefty Ray Chapa covered *Fishing the 12 Months of Texas*. He started us fishing for Rainbows at the Guadalupe and elsewhere during the winter months. The Trout fishing opportunities at the Guad are fairly well known as are the put and take opportunities provided throughout the state by TPWD. Less well known are the Shonto Ranch in Kerrville and various opportunities on the Nueces River. (We need volunteers to check out the these venues and report back to the club) The Guad struggles against hot Texas weather and low flows to be a holdover fishery; the others are basically “put and take.” You can and may be required to release the Trout, but they are not going to survive the summer. However, as Lefty Ray put it, these are opportunities to fish when folks up North are forced by weather and closed seasons to watch fishing shows on TV.

The next fishing “season” is the White Bass run. Lefty Ray focused on chasing the Whites at Colorado Bend State Park. Unfortunately, we need more rain for that to be an opportunity. This past year there was not much of a run, if any, due to low water levels. When we recover fully from the drought Bend is one of the premier places to be for White Bass. Lefty warned that now is the time to make reservations for next spring. Bend fills up with rainfall optimists months in advance.

As the White Bass run winds down it is time to start looking for Bass and Perch. Lefty typically fishes the various Hill Country streams and shared a variety of techniques with us, all of which and more will be covered in his *Guide to Fly Fishing the Hill Country*. This book will be released soon in an E Book format. More on that later.

Back to fishing. June is the best time to start looking towards the Coast. In fact, the easily accessible flats between Aransas Pass and Port Aransas may offer the best area for hunting Redfish in the country. Lefty Ray covered his techniques for hunting Reds on the flats. He actually hunts them waiting to cast until he sees a target. Blind casting is more like blindly shooting a deer rifle into the brush hoping to hit a deer or trying to bowl through a curtain. Why waste the effort. Your time is better spent finding the fish first.

The Texas coast does offer blind casting opportunities for species like Specks, a topic thoroughly covered in Lefty Ray's E Book *Fly Fishing Saltwater Cuts*. More on that later.

The Hill Country and the Texas Coast offer prime fishing opportunities through October and into November if it stays warm enough, which has been the case in recent years. The summer and fall also offer the opportunity to fish the jetties for a variety of species ranging from in shore fish like big Reds and Specks to off shore fish like Jacks and Tarpon.

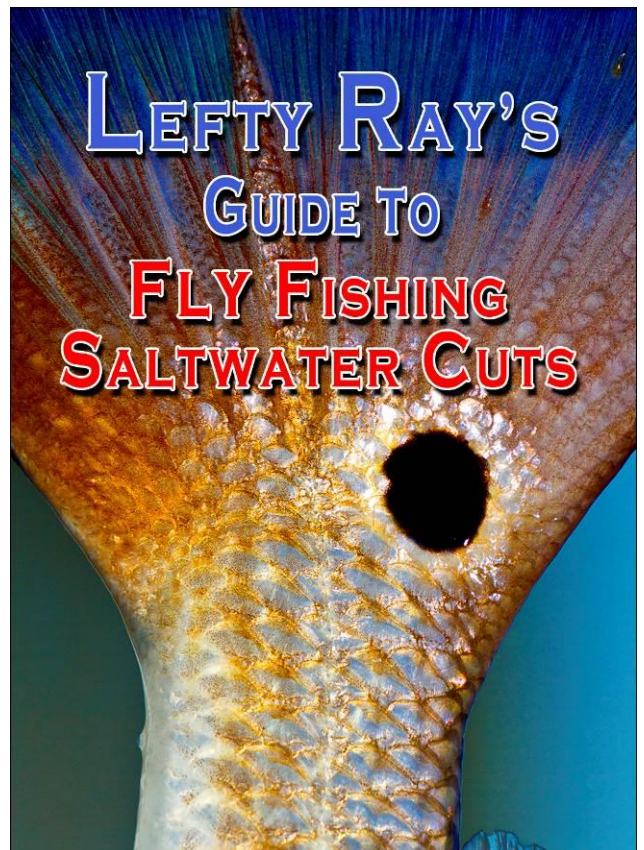
Lefty covered a lot of ground but was still able to provide us with the basic information needed to take advantage of the year round fishing opportunities we have in Texas. There was so much information that even the old hands were able to pick up something. For example, be careful when fishing the crystal clear waters of the Texas Hill Country. The water is so clear that it is difficult to judge the depth. Check the depth before taking the next step or getting out of your kayak. You may avoid floating your hat.

With Lefty Rays photography only fishing would have been a better way to spend the evening. Make that only excellent fishing would have been better and, if you factor in what we learned, you will be a better fly fisher.

LATER

Over the years, Lefty Ray has authored a number of articles for outdoor magazines. He has recently decided to take advantage of new technology to publish what he calls E Book articles. These are short "books" or maybe long "articles." What Lefty likes about the format is the opportunity to provide lots of photographs and other visuals, something he is not able to do in a traditional magazine format. His *Fly Fishing Saltwater Cuts* has become quite popular, currently selling ahead of at least one of John Gierach's books. Lefty was justifiably proud of that, but immediately pointed out he was just behind a book on bait fishing for Catfish.

As soon as I figure out the technology I plan to read this E Book. If anybody is more tech savvy than me (that's not saying much) and you read this thing before me, please provide us with a review for the newsletter. The Amazon reviews are generally favorable. There is some criticism that the book is too basic, but that might just be the reviewers showing off or mad that they didn't figure out how to share their vast knowledge on the subject before Lefty Ray.



One reviewer complained that the book is “very geocentric.” Not a problem for me because the book is centered where I go – the Texas Coastal Bend.

The Hill County book is not yet available, but is coming out soon, so stay tuned to Amazon.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

There are many benefits of being a member of our club. Already this year we have had a number of quality speakers like Lefty Ray Chapa and the White Bass master Johnny Elkins (with assistance from the contender for that title, Pat Vanek). We have had two outings so far this year and there are more on the agenda. I hope you find the newsletter informative and entertaining.

Having said all of that, maybe the greatest benefit of all is just getting together with each other to fish, tie flies or tell fish tales. We get to trade information on favorite fly patterns and that secret hot spot. Sometimes we swap or just share flies.

For fly tyers there is something special about catching fish on a fly you have tied yourself particularly if you have customized the fly in some way. We all secretly hope to be the next Bob Clouser. But, there is something equally special about sharing a few examples of a favored fly or catching fish on a fly that you have given by someone else in the club.

Some time back I mentioned in a newsletter that I have a hair spinning impairment which makes it a challenge for me to tie Jim Gray’s Llanolope fly. I can make them, but the loosely packed deer or antelope hair isn’t very pretty. The fish probably don’t really care, but that is a different topic.

Anyway, at the club meeting following that newsletter, Bill Whitehead quietly handed me a few of his Llanolopes. Quality ties as you can see from the one partially inhaled by that very nice Perch in the picture. Note how tightly the hair is packed



On a recent outing on the Brazos River that fly had me feeling like John Maddux at Latham Springs. I wasn’t hooking up on every cast, but near enough. The main problem with getting a hook-up was the speed of the strike. Some of those Perch would hit the fly the instant it landed – way too fast for me to set the hook. Of course, that’s not a bad

problem to have when most were just slow enough for me to hook and when the speedsters occasionally hooked themselves.

As well constructed as that fly was it could not hold up indefinitely to the abuse. After three or four casts without any action I looked at the fly and saw that the foam head was gone. No problem, I would just tie on another. I didn't have another with white foam, but surely a Llanolope with yellow foam wouldn't matter. Interestingly, it did.

My general theory is that warm water fish are not that selective. If they are going to eat they will eat pretty much anything that is decently presented. I guess "pretty much" is not always.

That morning I ended up changing patterns several times after that first fly got torn up. I caught a lot more fish, but nothing like on that white Llanolope. A good morning on the Brazos and a lesson learned. Thanks again Bill.

Bob Hanley

TRIP REPORT – MIDDLE BOSQUE AT BARRETT ROAD

If you enjoy dragging your kayak over gravel try fishing the Middle Bosque upstream from the Barrett Road "boat ramp". That big gravel bar has completely cut the river off from the lake. In fact, you can only paddle upstream about thirty yards before you get to drag you yak. After crossing the gravel bar you can paddle past the left side bluffs all the way to where the river narrows before you get to drag again. There is not much water that is "navigable in fact" past that.

There is still enough water to fish though. I started with an old stimulator just for grins. I fished it wet when it became water logged and it did better than on top. Somewhere along the line I realized I was seeing a few crawdads so I switched to one of Cal Deal's Christmas Crawdads and did well on Perch with a few small Bass thrown in. This Perch was above average, but not by much.



The treat of the day happened when I decided to fish a minute or two after completing the second to last kayak drag on the way downstream. This Catfish hammered the Crawdad fly just as it hit the water. You know like a depth charge. The fish put up a memorable battle against the little 4 wt. I was using.



Not a bad way to spend a Saturday morning - a fishing expedition with a good workout thrown in.

Bob Hanley

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

