

WACO FLY FISHING CLUB

November, 2014 www.wacoflyfishingclub.org Volume XX: No. 11

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, November 11, 2014

Location:

Waco Wetlands Center

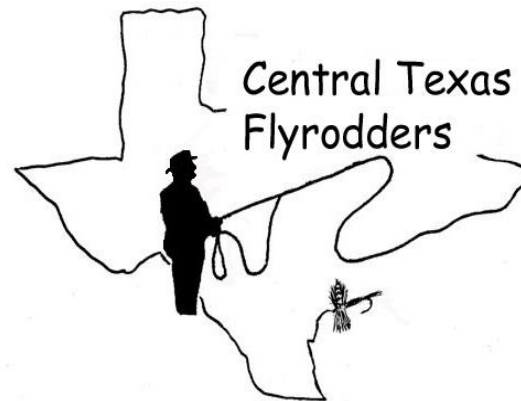
Program:

Still Working on It

About 7:00 pm

Fly Tying and Tall Tales

About 6:00 pm



NOVEMBER PROGRAM

The Club Officers are meeting this week with the goal of getting 2015 off to a big start. If you have ideas for 2015 let one of the officers know. Unfortunately, we do not yet have an official program for our November meeting, but will work on that also. We will send out an email with the details later this week.

DECEMBER PROGRAM - THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

It is hard to believe, but the holidays are just around the corner. Our Christmas Party is set for Tuesday, December 9, 2014. Details will be published in the December newsletter. For now, mark your calendar.

We do know that the festivities will include a White Elephant Gift Exchange and our annual Christmas Raffle. To participate in the gift exchange, bring a fly fishing oriented gift with a value of about \$30.00. Even though the fly fishing department at Cabelas has already crashed and burned, you can still shop locally at The Outhouse and at The Bear Mountain. Wherever you buy your gift, be sure and wrap it so that it cannot be identified prior to its first selection. Secrecy is important in a White Elephant Gift Exchange.



To participate in the raffle bring a few dollars. Raffle prizes are still being acquired, but we always have a few good items and proceeds go into the club treasury.

OCTOBER PROGRAM - JIM GRAY

Well, Jim Gray did it again - another outstanding program that has me dreaming about a Colorado River fishing trip as soon as I can make it happen. One scenario is to join up with the Austin Fly Fishers on their next outing to the Colorado. We have all been invited, I'm just not sure I can wait. As soon as the trip is scheduled it will be announced in our newsletter.

The stretch of the Colorado that Jim described is the 55 miles of river Southeast of Austin. From Jim's description this stretch of the river is more like our North Bosque than it is like Hill Country streams or our Middle Bosque. That is, cut banks lined with big trees and water that tends to be somewhat less than clear. Of course, the Colorado has more water than the North Bosque. In fact, during the summer there are daily releases from the Longhorn Dam in Austin to deliver water to downstream rice farmers. As a general rule, the Colorado is not wadable.

At the present time, there are some Access issues that make for fairly long floats, the shortest being 3.5 miles. There are also some security issues at the access points closest to Austin. The future is bright however thanks to the ongoing efforts of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to lease access points. In addition, a new park at the 973 Bridge is scheduled to open in 2016. You can currently access the river there, but the area is notorious for break-ins.

What the Colorado offers is large Bass and Rio Grande Cichlids. This is a place to use big flies to catch big fish. The current state record Guadalupe Bass recently came from the Colorado. Two pound Guadalupe Bass are not uncommon on the Colorado. They are uncommon just about everywhere else.

Given erratic flows, long floats and lots of water to fish, going with someone knowledgeable of the river might be a good way to get started. As mentioned earlier, the Austin Fly Fishers are planning an outing on the Colorado next year and we are invited. There is plenty of water for a crowd and joining the Austin group will certainly speed any newcomer's travel up the learning curve, not to mention getting to know some kindred spirits.

Of course, going with a guide is another alternative. Think of the guide's fee as tuition. You also get someone to do the heavy lifting like controlling the boat to optimize your opportunities to fish the best holding water. A good shore lunch is also part of the deal. Chris Johnson of Living Waters Fly Fishing guides on the Colorado.

A tip for fishing the Colorado that Jim emphasized is hitting the banks - as close as you dare, keeping in mind that risking your fly will catch more fish.

Jim's talk provided detailed tutorial on how to access and fish the Colorado in far more detail than can be provided in this newsletter, but Jim is giving his talk again this Saturday in Round Rock. Details below.

Thanks Jim for a great program.

Bob Hanley

SOME HAVE "LAID ASIDE BUSINESS AND GONE A'FISHING"

Life is short so get out there. Let's get more reports in the newsletter.

THE NORTH WOODS OF MAINE

Back in my childhood, when the only computers were at NASA or on Star Trek, I subscribed to *Outdoor Life* magazine which led to one of those outdoor book clubs where you got five or six books for a dollar if you agreed to buy some others over the next year or two. Between the magazine and all of those books I became acquainted with celebrities like Lee Wulff and fishing in all sorts of exotic places. Somehow fishing for Landlocked Salmon struck a chord and made it high on my bucket list before bucket lists had even been invented. Over the years I forgot the special appeal of Landlocked Salmon and even why they had such an appeal to me. That is, until a family wedding was scheduled for Portland, Maine.

Always following Dale Connally's advice to schedule fishing around family trips, I did some research and, long story condensed, we added four days at Moosehead Lake which is about ten miles from the Kennebec River, home to Landlocked Salmon and Brook Trout. A little more research led me to the Maine Guide Fly Shop in Greenville, Maine, a neat little town on the banks of Moosehead Lake. Our rented house was only a mile or two from the shop.

Owner and guide, Dan took us on a float down the Kennebec. It was October first and the trees lining the river had put their best colors on for us. The water was clear, but stained from the tannin produced by all those trees in the North Woods. Think of clear dark tea. With the stain in the water, deep pools and the flows, the Kennebec is not one of those rivers where you sight fish. Not that it mattered, Dan knew where the fish lived and, more importantly where they ate.

The Kennebec is not a huge river and is wadable in many places, but many of those places are not that easy to get to on foot even though the entire river bank is public access. There are some trails to the water, but otherwise you have to get through all those trees. We waded on our own a time or two, but the highlight of the trip was the float. The flow was about perfect, plenty of water, but not too much. Probably about the same as the combined flows of every river in Texas right now. Maybe a little more.

The fishing was good, but we had to work for them. I caught enough to lose count which is plenty to make me happy. My first fish came pretty quickly and was a Salmon, small, but a bona fide Landlocked Salmon. My next was a little Brook Trout hen. Brook Trout are native to the Kennebec, but also stocked so I have decided to call this fish a Brookie from her native waters.

Over the next hour or two, I continued to catch fish, the size of the fish increased and I lost count. My oldest daughter Michelle, who usually out fishes me on our trips, was getting skunked. She had a good one hooked, but it got off just after Dan grabbed the net. If you are catching fish you can laugh and point out the obvious - you got most of the fight and were going to let go anyway. Somehow it's not quite the same if you have yet to actually land one.

Dan had the timing down and we made our lunch reservations right on time. After appetizers we dined on fresh cooked grilled chicken Caesar salad. I caught another Salmon and a male Brook Trout just to the left of the picture while Dan was packing the boat after we ate.



As we returned to the float I was a bit worried that Michelle had yet to boat a fish. Even if your fishing partner is not your daughter you still want him or her to catch fish. Maybe not as many as you catch or as big as the ones you catch, but still, you want to spread the action around some.

I shouldn't have worried. Michelle caught the two biggest fish of the trip after lunch. Big enough that she got to use her big Bertha landing technique developed at the San Juan and refined last year on the Guad. The Landlocked Salmon do not run much line off your reel, but they sure like to jump and they pull plenty hard.



Yeah, they do look a lot like Brown Trout, but with a pointier head. When I was researching for the trip I saw some Landlocked salmon photos and thought Brown Trout so I took a look at Robert J. Behnke's book, Trout and Salmon of North America. I learned that Atlantic Salmon are the same species as Landlocked Salmon, the Atlantics just get a lot bigger because they grow up in the ocean instead of a lake. They share the scientific name *Salmo Salar*. Brown Trout are the same genus, *Salmo*, specifically *Salmo trutta*. Pacific Salmon are a different genus, *Oncorhynchus*, which includes Rainbows and Cutts.

At the end of the float, as we approached Indian Pond, the lake home of the Landlocked Salmon in the Kennebec, I caught the last one, chrome bright from the lake.



Even though this trip is now off the bucket list I would definitely return and book with Dan. A lifelong outdoorsman and guide, Dan really knew his business and the North Woods of Maine. Most importantly, he was excellent company.

GUADALUPE RIVER TROUT UNLIMITED

The Texas Trout Season is almost here. Thanks to the Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited the river will soon be full of Rainbow Trout, not just the small fish that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department stocks, but the big GRTU fish. There will be Rainbows in excess of twenty inches.

GRTU is optimistic that the Guad can turn into a year round Trout fishery now that another stretch of the river has special regulations that should prevent overharvest of the bigger fish. This stretch of the river begins just 800 yards below the dam where the water is colder and the odds are better that the Trout can make it through



the summer.

If you have not fished for Trout on the Guad it is well worth the drive. Like all fishing, your odds of success will go up with experience. You can log time on the river and figure it out for yourself. There is public access to the river for a slight fee at places like Rio Raft in Satler. Most of the time you will want to drift things like nymphs and egg patterns. Streamers like woolly buggers are effective when the fish are fresh and dumb. Streamers are also effective around sunset even when the fish have been in the river long enough to learn a thing or two about hook avoidance. While not known as a dry fishery, pay attention. If there is a hatch with surface action, give dry flies a try. It pays to have some big yellow stimulators or similar patterns in case you are lucky enough to be present during a Hex. hatch

Of course, you can get a jump on the learning curve by hiring a guide. Chris Johnson of Living Waters Fly Fishing will put you on fish and teach you a thing or two in process. Chris has also been very supportive of our club, so keep him in mind.

Another option is to join GRTU. This season, for about \$150.00 you gain access to the Guad through twenty leases sites. Your membership also helps pay for all those big Trout, you know, doing your part. For information see www.grtu.org.

SATURDAY AT LIVING WATERS FLY SHOP

If you missed Jim Gray's presentation at our October meeting you catch the make-up class this Saturday, November 8, 2014 at 10:00 am at the Living Waters Fly Shop in Round Rock. For information see www.livingwatersflyfishing.com.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2014

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