

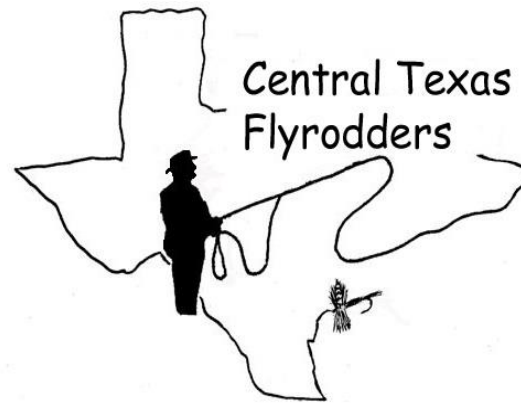
WACO FLY FISHING CLUB

December, 2014 www.wacoflyfishingclub.org Volume XX: No. 12

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Location:
Rosati's Pizza

Program:
CHRISTMAS PARTY
About 6:30 p.m.



DECEMBER PROGRAM - THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year the Christmas Party is going to be a bit different. We are going to the party room at Rosati's Pizza in Hewitt. We'll have plenty of privacy and more pizza than we should eat. The street address is 824 Hewitt Drive. For a landmark, you can get there from the Wal-Mart parking lot. We'll start the party about 6:30 pm on Tuesday, December 9, 2014. Pizza and iced tea will be provided. Adult beverages will be available for purchase from Rosati's.

As good as it is, the pizza we come in second to our traditional White Elephant Gift Exchange. To participate in the gift exchange, bring a fly fishing oriented gift with a value of about \$30.00. Remember, you can shop locally at The Outhouse and at The Bear Mountain. If you haven't visited The Bear Mountain's Fly Shop lately, you should, it continues to grow.



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.

Participation in the raffle is easy. Tickets are \$5.00 each and five for \$20.00. We'll have some great prizes starting with a fly rod, custom built by Bill Whitehead. It is a four piece, 7 1/2 fiberglass rod in four weight. This is the perfect rod for fishing Texas streams and you can't buy a rod of this quality. Most of us have admired Bill's work over the years and a lucky few have even had the pleasure of borrowing one to catch a fish or two at one of our outings. An even luckier few have won one, Bill has a generous natural and has donated a rod or in the past.

JANUARY PROGRAM

From a fly fishing stand point January is not our best month. You can hope for some abnormal fishing friendly weather, tie flies or take a drive to the Guadalupe River. Or, dream about one of those destination trips to a place like Alaska.

Well thanks to John Laughlin at The Bear Mountain, Guide Rob Fuentes will present a program on fly fishing out of Alaska's Bearclaw Lodge. Rob has several affordable options he will tell us about. Just maybe you can figure a way to mark Alaska off your bucket list. More details in the January Newsletter, but mark your calendar now. This should be a fascinating program.

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

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

A QUICK TRIP TO THE GUADALUPE RIVER

After surviving the worst of a bout of pneumonia I knew I would have to wet a line to complete the recovery process. While I was sick I did muster enough energy to renew my membership with the Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited lease program and to check the website to learn that the Texas Trout season was now open.

I also had existing plans to spend Thanksgiving in Austin so I went down a bit early to wet the aforesaid line.

On day one I played around some casting and retrieving a woolly bugger. This style of fishing can be productive and allows you to enjoy the scenery rather than focus on a strike indicator. You can watch the scenery while drift fishing, but you miss strikes. Just ask Chris Johnson or any of the guides I have fished with in the last year or so.

Anyway, it was fun watching the deer swim across the river and the turkeys overhead. The Woodies and Ospreys are always a treat. After a few hours, my score was one fish rolled and a second broken off, so the technique was not proving to be overly productive. It was time to get serious so I decided to try one of the newer GRTU leases which allowed me to get to an old favorite, the lost lease at Kanz.

Drifting a woolly bugger above various nymph patterns produced the first Trout of the season, on the woolly bugger. This was a nice male fish, but his fight was not quite up to Rainbow Trout standards. Two other fish from the same plunge pool also came to the net with relative ease. This plunge pool ran into very shallow water that extended quite a ways downstream so they didn't have much room to run. Maybe that was it. Just an observation. No complaints, it wasn't like they just swam into the net.



First Trout of the season.

A bigger fish downstream definitely did not want to get netted, but he did. He jumped free of the net before his picture however.

There were a few of the usual Trout fishing frustrations. I went back to casting and retrieving a woolly bugger, tied to 5X tippet and broke it off on the first take. The frustration was my stupidity. It is difficult to impossible to hook and land a Trout casting and retrieving a woolly bugger on 5X tippet. I know that, but laziness prevailed and I hadn't upgraded my leader. I guess I could blame malaise associated with the pneumonia, but that would not be true, I was substantially recovered. And, I confess to some level of laziness that goes back many years.

Another frustration was the Trout that threw the hook at the net. This fish had put up an impressive fight and to lose it at the net made the whole process somewhat incomplete. Of course, when placed in an historical context, catch and release fishing is by definition incomplete because that fish was not headed for the grill anyway. If I knew I had touched the fish with the net maybe I would claim it caught, like touching the leader on a Tarpon. I know it was close to the net, very close, when the hook came out, but I can't say I know I touched it with the net. A minor frustration, I got all the fight from the fish except that last head shake.

All frustrations vanished on Thanksgiving morning. I had to leave for Austin by 10:00 am. I decided to fish a super secrete location I learned from Chris Johnson on a float last Trout season. In fact, I talked with Chris at this spot the morning before Thanksgiving. That was the site of my almost netted fish. I hadn't stayed long that morning so it seemed like the place to end the trip.

I won't give away Chris' entire technique for fishing this spot, only the part about using small midges. The morning started a little slow. I really do not remember why, but at some point I decided that the skinny little midges I was using were not getting enough action so I changed to

something meatier. The fish really liked this fly. When I got down to the last of the three I had, I took a picture so I would know what to tie for the next trip in case I lost that last fly fishing. I didn't lose, but probably would have if I hadn't taken the picture.



The best way to describe the action is to say that I lost count of the fish I caught. That is not to say it was a double digit morning, it might have been, but I really can't say that because I quit counting around five or six fish. Also, none of these fish came quickly to the net. Almost all were above average in size, which is saying something because GRTU stocks big Trout. Then there was the time spent getting the flies out of the net because I still don't have one of those clear plastic bags. Well I do, but I am having a devil of a time attaching it to the net frame so I was using a back-up net that was really too small for the fish I was catching. Not making an excuse for that Trout lost at the net - not really.



Thanksgiving Day Rainbow

It was a perfect start to Thanksgiving. Just being on the Guadalupe river is something to be thankful for. Add in some outstanding fishing and you really do have a blessing to appreciate. Oh yeah, there is also the return of good health and family waiting in Austin. I hope everyone had an equally meaningful and enjoyable Thanksgiving.

Bob Hanley

ADDENDUM

One surprise on Thanksgiving morning was the successful hook set and capture of a spinning rod and reel. After skillfully setting the hook in some heavy water, the fish would not budge. You think you are snagged, but I gave it a minute because more than one Trout in heavy water felt like a snag until it started to swim upstream. Well this time it was a true snag. I only had three of those meaty midges so I decided to deploy my wading staff and brave that heavy current to save my rig and look what I caught. I am trying to locate the owner through the Texas Kayak Fisherman website, but so far no luck..



GUADALUPE RIVER TROUT UNLIMITED

If you read the Guadalupe River trip report you know the Texas Trout Season is here. The fish are already getting acclimated to life as free swimming Trout, eating size 20 midges.

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



DESTINATION TEXAS

The Texas Council of the IFFF has scheduled the second Destination Texas for May 29-31, 2015. The event will once again be held in New Braunfels. Mark your calendars, this is an event you don't want to miss. Details in future newsletters.

PLANNING IS UNDERWAY FOR 2015

If you didn't think fly fishing was the most rewarding way to fish you probably wouldn't be a member of this club. It is hard to explain, maybe even hard to fully understand objectively, but there is something special about catching fish on fly tackle. One factor is the more direct connection to the fish, you actually hold the line in your hand for much and sometimes all of the process.

Many non-fly fishers seem to have a glimmer of what fly fishing is all about. We have all had many people express a desire to give fly fishing a try, but they have been hesitant to actually do so. Most seem to think fly fishing is extremely difficult even though it is not (unless you want it to be). After all, how could something so special be easy. There is also the cost of fly fishing tackle, enough to make anyone not already a true believer back off.

We can help these people give fly fishing a try, at no cost, like we did with Waco Fly Fishing 101 back in 2013. We can also try Waco Fly Fishing 102 where we do more than give a premier on fly fishing and a chance to cast to grass burrs. How about basic instruction on the water, preferably Perch water where everyone can actually catch their first fish on the fly.

In addition to growing our ranks, we are hoping to make better use of our website. Fly Tying demonstrations will continue and might be expanded. The dues/membership raffle will be reinstated. We are open to your ideas, even better if you are willing to help implement them. Feel free to contact any of the Club Officers.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2014

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