



NEWSLETTER
February, 2015 Volume XX: No. 2
www.wacoflyfishingclub.org

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

NEW LOCATION: *****

Baylor University

PROGRAM:

Fly Tying and Tall Tales

About 6:00 p.m.

Highland Lakes Guide

Keith Barnes

About 7:00 p.m.

**DID YOU NOTICE THAT OUR NEXT MEETING
WILL BE AT BAYLOR?**

NEW LOGO

Once upon a time a young man chanced upon Johnny Elkins and Allen Cross on a local stream and was taught to fly fish by them. The lessons took and the young man became an avid fly fisher eventually moving to Rockport on the Texas coast to become a fly fishing guide. While there, the young man chanced upon renowned wildlife artist, Herb Booth. It turned out that the young man had a talent for art and he was tutored by Booth. More recently, the young man chanced upon Kevin Townsend and was featured on several episodes of the television series *KT Diaries* as an outstanding up and coming wildlife artist which the young man truly is.

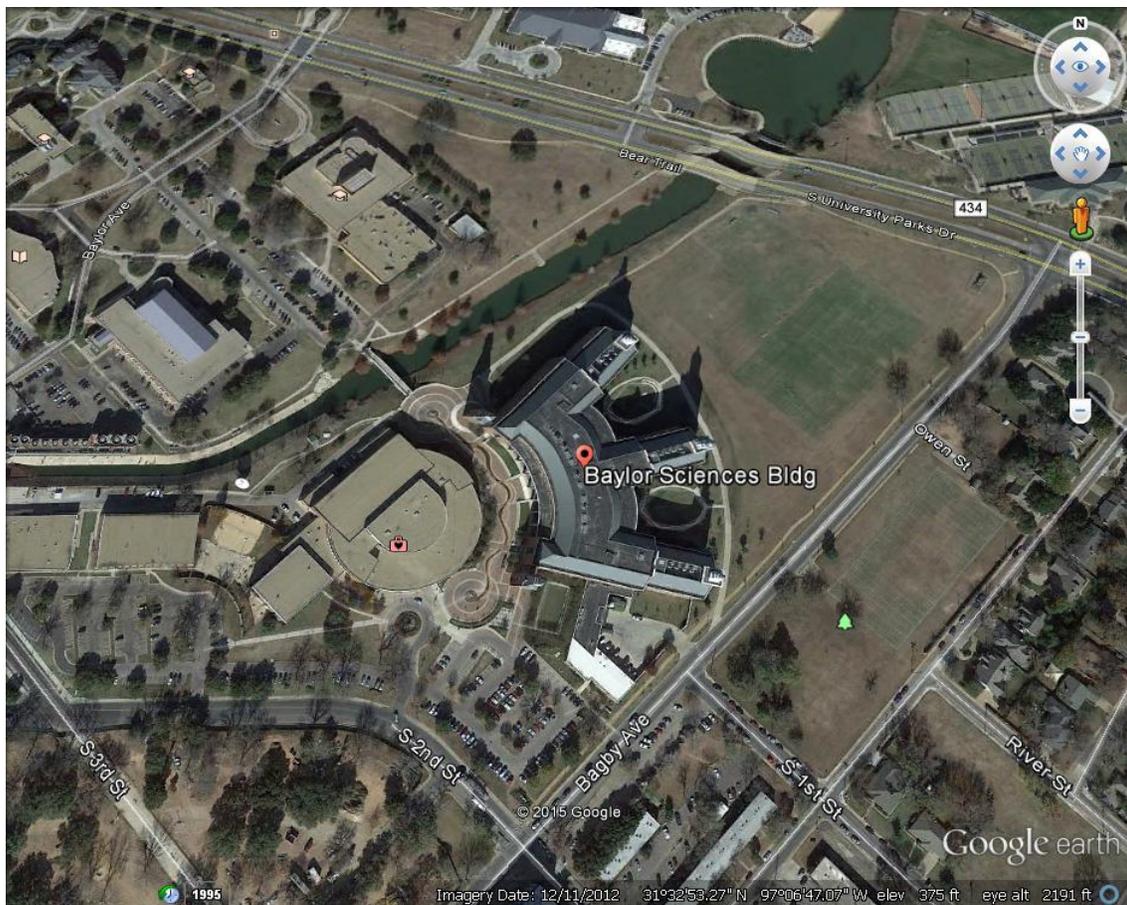
This young man remembers his roots and agreed to produce our new club logo. Aply, the initial "C" at the bottom of our new logo stands for the young man's first name, Chance - Chance Yarbrough. With his fly fishing roots in our area, Chance knew our signature fish is the White Bass. All of us, or at least almost all of us, chase Whites during their spring run which should be any time now.

If you are interested in wildlife art, particularly art featuring Texas fish, flora and fauna take a look at Chance's website - www.chanceyarbroughart.com

We plan to use our new logo to promote our club, you know things like caps, windshield stickers and other promotional materials. Anyone who fishes will be captivated by the design and is sure to take a look, learning about our club in the process.

NEW LOCATION

One of the goals the club officers have set for this year is to experiment - to try some new things. Thanks to Bob Cervenka, we have an opportunity to have our next three meetings at Baylor in one of those high tech, big screen kind of rooms.



The actual location on campus is the Baylor Science Building. It is not hard to find, even college kids can. From I35 head east on University Parks and turn right onto Bagby. Stay on Bagby

until 2nd and turn right onto 2nd. Turn into the first driveway on your right and park. The Science Building is in sight.

We hope everybody in the club and some guests will give these new digs a try because we have an opportunity to meet at Baylor from now on if we want to. But, we want to give it a try first and then see what everybody thinks. The club officers really want your input on this issue and anything else concerning our club, that's how we make our club better. Officer contact information is at the end of most newsletters.

WHITE BASS SAFARI WITH GUIDE KEITH BARNES

Lake Buchanan produces big White Bass with an occasional Hybrid thrown in to keep things interesting. A popular place to sample this fishing was once Colorado Bend State Park, but the drought has cut the river off from the lake. The answer to the problem is a White Bass Safari with Guide Keith Barnes. Basically you drive around on the exposed lake bed looking for windy points. The fish stack up on some of these points and are reachable.

Keith lives on Lake Buchanan. He has been fishing the upper lakes of the Highland Lakes chain for the past 25 years, the last 15 years as a dedicated fly fisher. In addition to covering his White Bass Safaris he will talk White Bass fishing in general, including the occasional collateral benefits like Gar, Drum and Buffalo. With the White Bass run just around the corner this is a program you do not want to miss. Even if you can't make the two hour drive to the Lake Buchanan area, the White Bass around here will appreciate Keith's techniques, but they will probably be smaller.



Two at a time from Hog Creek-Buchanan Whites average bigger.

JANUARY PROGRAM - FISHING ALASKA WITH GUIDE ROB FUENTES

Guide Rob Fuentes gave us a primer on planning a fishing trip to Alaska. Timing is important. It is best if you plan well in advance of when you want go. You might still be able to book for 2015, but the clock is ticking.

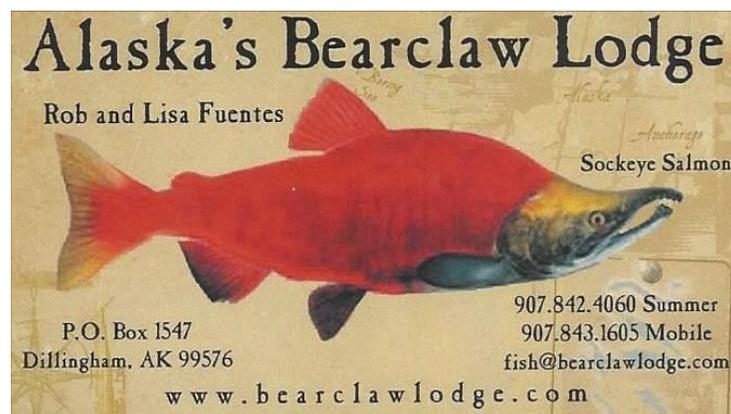
It is probably a better idea to book two years before you plan to make your trip. That is, book now for 2016. This will give you more options and give you more time to save up for the trip. John Maddux has started saving for a 2016 trip. He is a financial guy so following John's example is probably a good idea. Going to Alaska is not cheap, but Rob's operation is doable. Bearclaw Lodge is currently charging \$4,095 for six nights and five days of guided fishing. Other lodges in the same watershed charge more than that. Air fare is an additional \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Rob also recommended getting references from the lodge of your choice, preferably for the time period you plan to go. Obviously, Bearclaw Lodge must have very good references.

A typical day at Bearclaw Lodge begins with breakfast. Your guide will be waiting and ready to go when you finish breakfast. Lunch is on the water, either a shore lunch or a prepared lunch. Around 5:00 pm you return to the lodge for a three course dinner. The evening is open. If you haven't been worn out by the day's fishing, you can fish around the lodge on your own. It sounds like the perfect agenda - eat, fish, sleep, repeat. Fortunately, cell phone service is not available although there is a satellite phone for emergencies.

Another timing issue is deciding what you want to fish for and how you would like to fish. Different species of Salmon run at different times of the season. Also, once the Salmon start spawning you are pretty much forced to use egg and bead patterns. Bearclaw's website has a chart that will tell you the best time to fish for the species you want to target.

Thanks to John Laughlin for setting up this program for us.



DUES ARE DUE - INCENTIVES TO PAY AND RECRUIT

We are on a calendar year so dues are due for 2015. As an incentive to get your dues paid, all paid members as of the meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 will have one chance in a prize drawing. You will be in the drawing if your dues are received at or before the March meeting.

If you recruit new members, you will receive another chance in the raffle for each recruit who is paid up by the time of the drawing. A new member is anyone who was not a paid member in

2014. It is the responsibility of the recruiter to confirm his new members with Treasurer/Membership Guy, David Beyer before the drawing.

All of the old hands in our club are familiar with the fly rods that Billy Whitehead builds. A lucky few have had a chance to fish with one and an even luckier few own one. Well, now we all have a shot at owning one of Billy's works of fly fishing art. The lead prize in our membership drawing is a 7'9" 3 wt. on an IM8 graphite blank that Billy has made for us. Just a chance at winning that rod is more than worth paying your dues. And, that is just the lead prize.

The way the drawing will work is that the first name drawn will have his/her pick of the available prizes. Second name will have a pick from what is left, and so on until all prizes are gone. You need not be present to win, but if you cannot make the meeting give a list of prize preferences to Treasurer, David Beyer with your dues payment.

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

I recently "laid aside business and gone a'fishing" and now my back is sore. You know, that place to the right of your spine and about midway between your shoulder and your beltline that will let you know if you fished too hard. Or maybe it means you are not fishing enough to stay in shape. Either way, it is a price I am paying for a little over a day of fishing the Guad, a price I am happy to pay.

I had to be in Austin on Saturday for a family deal. I left on Friday so I could fish for about a day and half to put me in a really good mood for that family deal, a house warming party. I figured I owed it to the family to make sure I was in the proper frame of mind to do my part to keep the party lively. It is the kind of sacrifice we are all willing to make for our families.

The Guad can get crowded these days so I planned to hit the river during the Friday lunch hour hoping that hunger would open up some of the better spots.. Unfortunately my first target pool was occupied when I got there and it really is not big enough for two unless the two are buddies fishing together. A stranger moving in would be a bit of a mugger.

Not a problem, I would fish some decent water just downstream. Unfortunately, that downstream water has not been that productive for me this year and lunch hour on Friday did not prove to be an exception. Fortunately, I could see the upstream pool and noticed when it opened up. I quickly beat it upstream.

To my surprise I had the pool to myself for several hours. The only other angler I saw did not mug me. The fish were not suicidal, you had to work for them, but that makes the fishing even better. I lost count, which means more than five or six, but I don't think I caught more than ten. For me, that's a good couple of hours on the Guad.

The highlight was one of those Palomino Trout. A few Palominos were stocked this year by GRTU. Palominos are a strain of Rainbow Trout that do not occur naturally. They are the result of selective breeding at fish hatcheries and can be traced back to a single mutated fish.



Back in the 90's, I vacationed at a small lake in New Mexico that held some Palomino Trout, but not colored this vibrantly. My experience is that Palomino Trout were harder to catch than normally pigmented Rainbows. If you are a Trout and this colorful you better be smart because you can easily be seen by ospreys and other predators, which includes us. Maybe that's it.

I confess that I was a little excited when I netted the Palomino, it really was a handsome fish. I then proceeded to worry because it had trouble recovering. I brought it to net as quickly as I could and never took it completely out of the water even during hook removal and the photo session. Even so, for a long time it just rested in the net rather than swim out. When it did swim out it went to the bottom just in front of my feet and rolled onto its side - not a good sign. I had no trouble netting the fish again and held it in the net in a little stronger current for a long time, probably ten minutes. I know I was getting tired of the bent over position that was necessary to keep the net in the current (it just occurred to me that maybe my sore back is related to this release). Finally the Palomino seemed to recover. He tried to swim out of the net a time or two before I let him go. This time the fish swam off and took up a position in what I had learned was a feeding lane. You can easily see a Palomino even in the heavy broken water of this pool and he was the only one in the pool.

Better news is that the Palomino was there the next morning.

Bob Hanley

HAPPENINGS IN THE WORLD OF FLY FISHING

For the most comprehensive listing of fly fishing events in Texas and detailed information about those events go to the Texas Council website - <http://texascounciliff.com/>

The following is some of what is scheduled for the coming months.

Living Waters Fly Fishing (www.livingwatersflyfishing.com) in Round Rock will host a Fly Tying Night every Wednesday in February beginning with BBQ at Pok-E-Jo's at 6:00 pm. Saturday, February 14, 2015 is Tenkara Day starting about 10:00 am and Saturday, February 28, 2015 is White Bass Day with our February speaker, Keith Barnes and some other guy by the name of Pat Vanek.

Troutfest 2017 - This year Troutfest starts with a banquet and auction on Friday, February 20, 2015. The exposition is Saturday and Sunday, February 21 & 22, 2015. If you have any interest in fishing the Gaudalupe River, Trout fishing in general or any type of fly fishing you will enjoy Troutfest. The location is right on the Guad at Rio Raft in Satler, Texas. For more information go to the GRTU website:

www.grtu.org



WACO FLY FISHING 101

We decided to have a Waco Fly Fishing 101 class before the March meeting, weather permitting. The class will last about an hour and begin about 6:00 pm. The "students" are welcome to stay for the March meeting. These classes are designed for people who are interested in fly fishing but have not had an opportunity to give it a try and for people who are just starting. That is, it is a basic course. We have to limit attendance to about twelve people so if you know someone who would like to attend the course let Bob Hanley know. It will be first come first served, but we will probably do the course again in April so anybody that we can't fit in March can be at the top of the April list.

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CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2015

- | | |
|---|--|
| • President &
Newsletter | Bob Hanley 776-5444,
www.nevilleandhanley@yahoo.com |
| • Vice-President | Allen Cross |
| • IFFF Liaison | John Maddux 666-9009 |
| • Treasurer/Membership | David Beyer |
| • Education Chairman | Bill "Coach" Menefee |
| • Webmaster | Loren Smith, Dale Connally |
| • At Large | Billy Whitehead |



Waco Fly Fishing Club
2015 Membership Application

Dues: Individual \$ 24.00
 Family \$ 36.00
 Student \$ 16.00

Were you a club member in 2014?

Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Home _____

Cell _____

Work _____

E-mail address: _____

How do you prefer your monthly club newsletter delivered? Mail E-mail
 Mail and E-mail

Comments, ideas, or suggestions?

Payments and this form can be turned in at regular club meetings or by mail to:

Bob Hanley
P.O. Box 8030
Waco, Texas 76710