



NEWSLETTER
March, 2015 Volume XX: No. 3
www.wacoflyfishingclub.org

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

NEW LOCATION: *****

Baylor University

PROGRAM:

Fly Tying and Tall Tales

About 6:00 p.m.

Texas Council President, Russell Husted

Fishing the Brazos River

About 7:00 p.m.

**OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE AT BAYLOR -
MAP AND DIRECTIONS ON PAGE 7**

MARCH MEETING - FISHING THE BRAZOS RIVER

For some reason not many of us fish the Brazos River on a regular basis. Maybe it is limited access. For whatever reason we are underutilizing a tremendous fishery.

Somehow Russell Husted manages to find time to fly fish while leading the award winning Texas Council of the IFFF. He also has a day job. Russell thinks of the Brazos River between Lake Whitney and Waco as home water. He has done well on the Brazos, catching some very large Bass. At our March meeting he will show us how it is done. In addition to tips and techniques on the fishing, Russell will show us several little know public access points. This will be an ideal program for guests, even non-fly fishing guests, so feel free to invite someone along.



Russell Husted with a very nice Brazos River Bass

Just warn your guests that fly fishing is contagious; once properly exposed to fly fishing they will not want to go back to conventional tackle.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM - WHITE BASS SAFARI WITH GUIDE KEITH BARNES

Guide Keith Barnes provided a great deal of information on fishing for White Bass and their relatives, way more than can be summarized here. But there is room for a few of the high points.

Like all of us, Keith includes Clouser minnows in his arsenal and agrees with all White Bass experts on the importance of tying them sparsely. About the only time to tie on a fresh Clouser is when it is so mangled that the eyes fall off. That is when you are fishing in a stream. For lake fishing, tie your Clousers larger and make them fuller.

Confidence in your fly is important. Keith likes a grey and white Clouser while a fishing companion, Guide Billy Trimble believes in chartreuse and white. When they fish together using their respective preferred colors they basically match each other fish for fish. If Keith switches to chartreuse and white, his catch rate dwindles. It is a confidence thing and it does matter. You catch more fish when you have confidence in what you are doing.

With continuing drought conditions in Texas, several White Bass runs have been halted by low stream flows. But, the drought has opened up some lake fishing opportunities, sort of balancing things out. Keith lives on the shore of Lake Buchanan or at least he used to. The water has retreated enough that it is easy for him to drive on what was once lake bed.

Keith has taken this opportunity to drive around on the lake bed looking for windy points. When the wind is right it creates currents that attract Whites and their larger cousins. The shad spawn doesn't hurt giving the predators a shallow water food source. Use the usual White Bass stuff

just a little larger in size. In addition to the big cousins, the Whites tend to be larger, at least on Buchanan.

For a tutorial on fishing the former lake bed of Buchanan contact Keith, he will be happy to be your guide. www.highlandlakesflyfishing.com

DUES ARE DUE - INCENTIVES TO PAY AND RECRUIT

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, 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 one of Billy's creations, a 7'9" 3 wt. on an IM8 graphite blank. Just a chance at winning that rod is more than worth paying your dues. And, that is just the lead prize.

Our new Vice President, Alan Cross has donated one of his handmade solid oak fly tying benches. You can also win a cap bearing our new logo, collectable flies, the last of the old logo fly boxes and more. Odds are good that you will win something.

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": MIDDLE BOSQUE AT FM 3047

At least I laid aside yard work the first Sunday afternoon of February and made my way to the Middle Bosque at the FM 3047 Crossing. Club old timers will remember when TXDOT closed this public access. Fortunately we were successful in persuading TXDOT to abide by state law and reopen the right of way. Since then the public has kept the area mostly free of trash and it has remained open, although there had been a beer drinking party recently. I couldn't carry all of the Budweiser cans out, but I will soon unless somebody beats me to it. I'll bet the Budweiser yellow lab puppy is ashamed of her customers - Labs are like that.

This is not big fish water, but it is perfect if you like small streams with clear water that holds many hungry Perch and River Bass. The riverbed is dotted with fossils and fossil casts, some of which are more than a foot in diameter. Depending upon the season there are all kinds of wildflowers and it is common to see all kinds of wildlife. If you run into another person it is almost always at the bridge. It is the perfect place to spend an unseasonably warm afternoon in February particularly if you carry a light fly rod along.

There is one small problem with this section of the Middle Bosque River, however. In many places the riverbed is shelf rock. That is good because that is where the fossils are, but the shelf rock can be slick. I always bring a wading staff when I fish here. Except on that Sunday afternoon. I was a few miles down the road when I remembered that I did not have a wading staff with me. I decided it wouldn't be a problem because it was still winter so the algae should be down and the river had flowed pretty heavily a few weeks earlier which would have scoured the shelf rock clean of slippery stuff. And I was wrong. The bottom was covered in thick bright green algae. Not enough to hurt the fishing, but plenty to make it slick.

I cautiously made my way downstream and was disappointed by the lack of cooperative fish. I was able to keep count and only caught five Perch in an about an hour. The flow was ideal, right at 40 CFS, but maybe the water was still too cold.

I decided to go upstream of the bridge and just look around. While I was up there I gave a small pool a try. I am glad I did. This little pool is easy to miss. I know I walked right past it a number of times before I first tried it years ago. Anyway, I lost count of the fish I caught, mostly River Bass. Nothing big, but I was using a very limber 6'6" Orvis Flea, a perfect small stream rod. Those River Bass do put a bend in that little rod. They didn't seem to think the water was cold at all.



About average in size, but River Bass are always above average in fight.

On back to back Perch catches I noticed a Bass following the Perch and getting excited by the Perch's distress. I nipped off the Perch bug and replaced it with a Clouser. After a few casts and very excited retrieves I hooked a monster Bass, maybe a foot long. I still have an image in my mind of that big guy coming halfway out of the water, shaking his head and spitting out the

Clouser which was immediately grabbed by his hard charging baby brother. I managed to land the little one.

ADDENDUM

Somebody had to go back to the 3047 Crossing and pick up the remaining Budweiser cans. I waited for a warm afternoon and did just that. This time I remembered my wading staff and made my way upstream to the best holding water in the area. When I got there, I saw a nice Perch, made my first cast of the day and caught it. It was big for this stretch of the Middle Bosque, approaching Latham Springs size.



Years ago the host of some fishing show on TV caught a fish on his first cast and said it was bad luck. I try not to believe in superstitions, but fishing was slow. I lost count around five or so, but there weren't too many more than that. I saw some nice Bass, but could not get them to eat, spooking them after a few casts. Superstition aside, I think my limited success had more to do with extremely clear water and a drop in flows, down to 30 CFS. With these conditions I should have been stealthier. By the time I realized this the Bass were gone.

No complaints, the Perch I did catch were all above average in size and I saw more Mallards on my wade upstream than I saw then entire duck season. The last of the Budweiser cans have been recycled.

Bob Hanley

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF STEALTH

"Big fish are not smart, big fish are cowards." Gary Borger

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 Texas Council website will also link you to information about the its second annual Texas Fly Fishing Expo scheduled for New Braunfels for Friday, May 29, 2015 through Sunday, May 31, 2015



WHY GO?

Fly fishing groups like the Texas Council and GRTU host quality events that just put you in that laid back fly fishing frame of mind, not to mention being educational, sometimes very educational. Troutfest recently proved this point. That's me in the blue shirt in the back of the room listening to Frank Smethhurst's talk about the six things Trout don't want you to know. You may recognize Frank, he hosted the Trout Unlimited TV show for several years. And does he know fly fishing for Trout. I just thought I had it



semi-figured out until I attended this program. Talk about educational. When we finished the on-the-water session one guy was walking back up the hill muttering about not being about to fit all the information into his head. I told him my head hurt from trying, but I bet my Trout fishing and fly fishing in general had just improved. If you haven't made it to one of these events you owe it to yourself to go. Remember the Texas Council annual expo is right around the corner.

Bob Hanley

WACO FLY FISHING 101

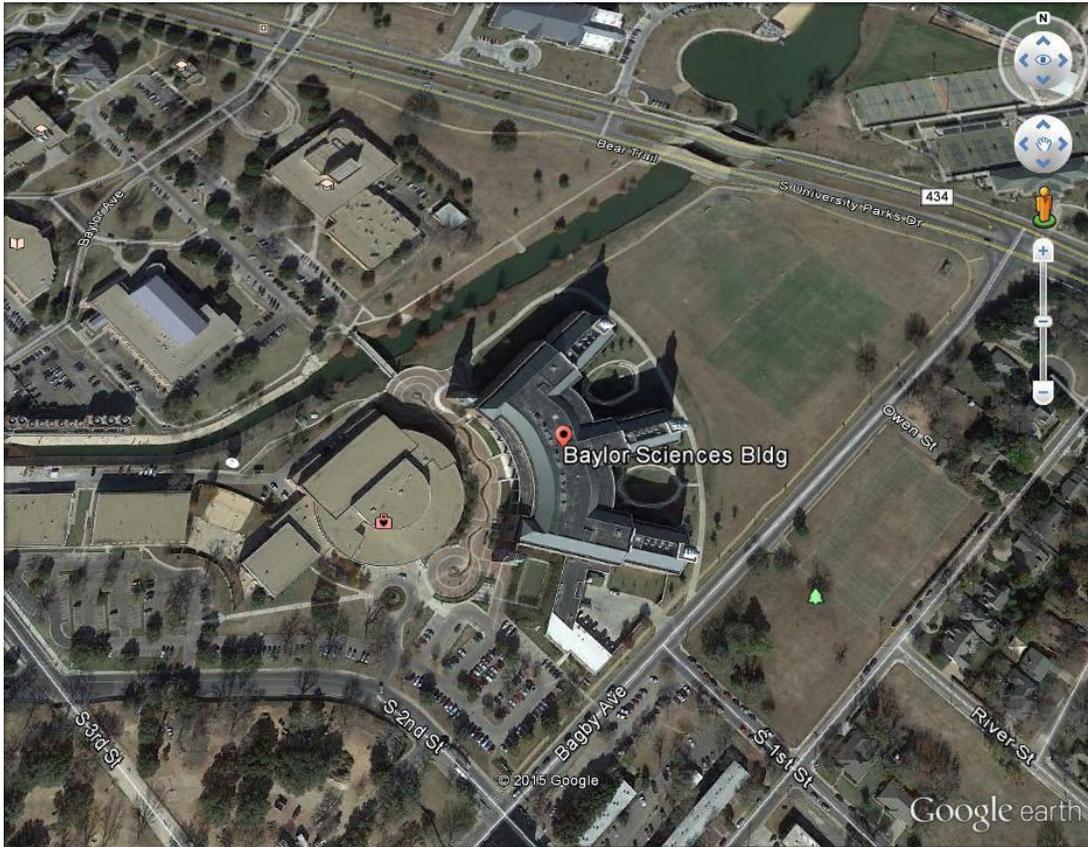
There has just been too much going on to get Waco Fly Fishing 101 promoted and organized for March. We will try to get our act together for an April class.

NEW LOCATION

The feedback on our first meeting at Baylor was mostly positive. Parking was a bit of an issue, but nobody seemed to mind taking a minute or two to find a spot or a short walk to meeting.

There is a consensus that a more traditional room without stairs and with tables would be better. A traditional room will make it easier to tie, socialize and conduct a fly raffle. Hearing was difficult for some, a problem that might also be cured in a more traditional room. We are looking into getting a more traditional room, but will not have things worked out until after this newsletter is delivered. We will send out a follow-up email with the room number and somebody will be posted at the main entrance to the building to give specific directions to the room. Look for somebody slightly older than college age.

The actual location on campus is the Baylor Science Building. 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.



LOGO CAPS

We should have caps with our new logo available for sale at our March meeting. The logo looks great and wearing one of these caps while on the water will help promote our club. There are three different styles and colors to choose from. The caps are \$20.00 each which is just a little over production cost for caps of this quality.

Everyone who has paid dues or pays dues at the March meeting will also receive one of our new window stickers, another way to show off our new logo and promote the club. Additional stickers are \$2.50 which is right at production cost.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2015

- **President & Newsletter** **Bob Hanley 776-5444,**
www.nevilleandhanley@yahoo.com
- **Vice-President** **Allen Cross 744-2498**
- **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