



NEWSLETTER
May, 2015 Volume XX: No. 5

www.wacoflyfishingclub.org

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

PROGRAM:

Catching Fish

MAY PROGRAM - LET'S GO FISHING

It's time to get together and do some fishing. The hungry Perch, Bass and a few other species await us at Latham Springs, just ask Coach Menefee.

For the club members who have fished at Latham Springs before all you need to know is we will start about 4:00 pm and fish until sunset. If you have not fished at Latham Springs before, this is your chance to give it a try. Knock on wood, but we have not had a bad day of fishing (catching) at Latham Springs although some days have been better than others.

There are plenty of Bass and a few Crappie in the lake, but many of us target the big Perch. Think slow retrieves for those Perch. You can fish from the bank, but a watercraft will allow you to cover more water. This outing is strictly fishing so if you need snacks or fluids, bring them. Everything except alcoholic beverages that is, which are not permitted.



Directions from Waco: I 35 north to the FM 2114/Downtown West exit 353. Then turn west onto FM 2114. Proceed west for approximately 12 miles and turn onto the camp road by the Latham Springs Baptist Camp sign.

If you have a viable candidate for club membership, bring him or her along. This is a great place for a beginner to catch some fish.

COMING IN JUNE - BOB POOLE

At the Brushy Creek Cleanup hosted by Living Waters Fly Fishing there was much talk about a Bass fishing program that Bob Poole recently presented at several Texas fly club meetings. The program was unanimously described as very entertaining, definitely a program you do not want to miss. Just ask Texas Council President Russell Husted pictured here going the extra mile at the cleanup.

Bob Poole has agreed to present his program at our June meeting. See the June newsletter for details.



APRIL PROGRAM - ALASKA

Our goal is to provide quality programs for our monthly meetings, programs that are entertaining and informative. The club officers worry about that, but get a month off when our speaker is Chris Johnson. We know that Chris always comes through and our April program was no exception.

Chris and his wife, Emily, made a budget conscious trip to Alaska and proved it can be done. That means they didn't spend a small fortune, but caught plenty of fish and took in many amazing sights. Chris told us how they did it.

They cheated a little by staying with Chris' brother in Anchorage, but even adding in a Best Western caliber hotel this is a weeklong trip that can be done for a total of \$1,500 - \$2,000 per person. The place to start is cheaptickets.com. Be flexible with your search by using a search function on the website that allows you to look at ticket prices three days before and after the dates you plug in. With this kind of planning you should be able to find roundtrip tickets in the \$500 per person range, not the \$1,400 range we all think of as the cost of air travel to Alaska. Chris paid \$395 roundtrip.

Of course, Chris is a Texas fly fishing guide (and a good one), but he does not consider himself to be an Alaskan guide so he checked in with Mossy's Fly Shop in Anchorage for advice and flies. There was a pizza involved at nearby Moose's Tooth Pizza.

Chris and Emily never traveled more than two hours from Anchorage and caught everything from Grayling to Pink Salmon, with Emily maintaining her tradition of out fishing Chris. They had to do a little hiking to get the Grayling, but most of their fishing was easily accessed and

uncrowded. The pictures Chris showed during his talk often included signs of civilization, but not other fishermen. In one case they were almost under a bridge, Salmon in hand.

If you are not a fly fisher of Chris or Emily's caliber you might consider the extra expense of a day of guided fishing early in your trip to accelerate your learning curve. If you want to give this type of Alaskan fishing a try you should definitely contact Chris at Living Waters Fly Fishing for more information. The wealth of information that Chris provided in his talk is beyond the scope of this newsletter.

One thing that was notable was Chris's excitement over this Alaskan trip. Now Chris is passionate when it comes to all fly fishing, but you could tell that this was a special trip for him.

PROJECT HEALING WATERS - RIGHT HERE IN WACO

We all know that there is something special about all things fly fishing. Even when you can't actually wet a line, messing with your tackle or tying a few flies seems to knock a few points off your blood pressure. It can be therapeutic, healing even, taking your mind off whatever it is that is troubling you.

For more than a year now, Bill Adams has been helping our military veterans take advantage of the benefits of tying a few flies at the Waco VA's PTSD program on the first and third Mondays of the each month. Tying starts at noon and continues until 3:00 pm. In addition to just having an opportunity to share our sport, you get to share it with somebody who has given so much. In fact, some tyers regularly come from Georgetown and College Station to lend a hand.

This program just came to our attention and we will provide more details in the June newsletter. For now, if you would like help, call Bill Adams at 254-386-6170 or email him at:

badams@centex.net

In addition to working with the Waco VA to set up this program through Project Healing Waters, Bill is the Deputy Regional Director of the South Central Region of PHW and works on a number of other programs. He can find a way for you to help.

A TRICK THAT WORKS

John Gierach is one of my favorite authors. He is definitely my favorite outdoor writer. I read his books for enjoyment, but usually learn something without really even knowing it.

Years ago I read about the Woolly Bugger trick in one of Gierach's books. The trick is simple, on Trout water, cast and strip a Woolly Bugger beginning around sunset.

Sometime after reading that I was having a slow day on the San Juan River. A slow day there isn't all that bad, but you get a bit disappointed because slow days there are unusual and you can't help but wonder if you're just a crappy fisherman because you are, after all, on the San Juan. You can see lots of big Trout everywhere and there is that reputation of large body counts.

Somehow I remembered the Woolly Bugger trick and decided to give it a try as the sun set. After staring at a strike indicator all day, it was a relief to be able to enjoy the scenery for a change. The resident wildlife starts getting active about this time of day which adds to the pleasure of having the damn indicator in a pocket.



I admit that I was skeptical at first, but those highly educated, snobbish San Juan Trout that had been giving me the fin all day started hammering the Woolly Buggers. I use the plural, because Trout are aggressive when they attack Woolly Buggers. I broke off several at the strike before I seriously upgraded my tippet to something like 4X, maybe even heavier than that.

As Gierach puts it in his book *Standing in a River Waving a Stick*:

"Then at dark we'd go to one of the big, slow pools and cast size-4 Woolly Buggers to the trout that had spooked at tiny dries on 7X tippets in the daylight. It's a trick that works more often than not, and I always think, as I'm releasing one of those big trout, There, you're not so damned smart after all, are you?"

If you are headed for some Trout water this summer give the Woolly Bugger trick a try, you just might end the day with a few more fish. There is another benefit to the trick. The Trout you hook this way seem to put up a more aggressive fight. My theory is that the fish take Woolly Buggers in a predatory mode rather than the casually sipping little bugs mode. They are fired up before you even set the hook.

Bob Hanley

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

In the near future, we are going to update our membership records and remove the names of those people who have not paid dues for several years. We assume these people have moved on to other interests. If you haven't paid dues in a while and wish to continue with our club please pay now. A membership form is available on the website. If we do lose you, we appreciate your previous interest in our club and you are always welcome back.

WACO FLY FISHING 102 - MAY 23, 2015 - 9:00am until noon

This is going to be our first Waco Fly Fishing 102 class. The class is intended for people with little or no experience with fly fishing, you know, those people who tell you they would like to try fly fishing but don't know how to get started. The class will be limited to approximately twelve anglers.

We will talk about the basics for about thirty minutes and then turn everybody loose to actually fly fish with our club members acting as guides. There is a \$10.00 fee to cover location costs (a private lake). We only have a few spots left so if you know somebody that wants to give fly fishing a try have him or her contact Bob Hanley immediately (contact information is at the end of this newsletter).

TEXAS FLY FISHING EXPO - MAY 29-31, 2015

The Texas Council of the IFFF deserves our support. The Texas Council has only been around for a couple of years and has already taken big steps to support fly fishing in Texas. One example is the Texas Fly Fishing Expo which runs from Friday, May 29, 2015 through Sunday, May 31, 2015 at the Civic Community Center and Cypress Bend Park in New Braunfels, Texas. Activities include:



- Hank Patterson is coming!!! Friday and Saturday!!!
<http://hankpatterson.com/videos/wwhd-first-time/>
- Best casting instructions in the country <http://txflyfishexpo.com/casting/>
- IF4 Film which is not being shown anywhere in Texas except New Braunfels!!
<http://flyfilmfest.com/IF4/>
- Tying instructions
- An amazing kayak raffle. Kayak, paddle and life jacket. Native Kayak. Tickets \$20
- Photo contest. entries due in before May 11
- Over 35 vendors from across the state, most locally
- Banquet dinner and awards ceremony

There is something intangible that comes from attending events like the Texas Expo. It's hard to explain, but somehow you just get into that laid back zone that comes with being immersed in all things fly fishing. The tangibles include learning more about what we do through classes and demonstrations. You can even try your luck at open and silent auctions or really put your luck to the test in the kayak raffle. If you know you are going to the Expo, help the Council with logistics by preregistering. Details are at - www.txflyfishexpo.com

CENTEX CCA BANQUET - THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2015

The Centex Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association will hold its annual banquet on Thursday, 18th 2015 at the Waco Convention Center (Chisholm Hall) starting at 6:00 pm. Table tickets are available now. For more information see: ccatexas.org/centex.

ARTIST CHANCE YARBROUGH - ROCKPORT EXHIBIT - JULY 2 - AUG 1, 2015

Chance Yarbrough is the former Waco boy who designed our new logo. He is also the 2015 Rockport Art Festival Artist. Chance's work, including his Art Festival Poster will be on display

at the Rockport Center for the Arts beginning July 2, 2015 through August 1, 2015. That is a good time of year to fish the salt and a side trip to Chance's exhibition would make a nice break from the fishing. You can tell that Chance was mentored by renowned Texas outdoor artist Herb Booth. Chance may already be as good or even better than Booth. For more information and to see some of Chance's work go to: www.chanceyarbroughart.com.

WHY WONDER WHY

"I know there are a lot of people out there that are gonna give me a hard time for getting excited about Jacks. This goes back to that condition or sickness that I have. I've tried to explain it before, all fish excite me, from a half pound bluegill to a 200 pound Tarpon. They all get to me. I'm past the point of wondering why. It's simply who I am, period."

Kevin Townsend, *KT Dairies*, South Padre Snook Episode.

OUR CLUB WEBSITE

Remember, Webmaster Loren Smith is keeping our website current. If you have any questions about our meetings, outings or other events check the site.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2015

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| • President & Newsletter | Bob Hanley 776-5444, nevilleandhanley@yahoo.com |
| • Vice-President | Allen Cross 744-2498 |
| • IFFF Liaison | John Maddux 666-9009 |
| • Treasurer/Membership | David Beyer |
| • Education Chairman | Bill "Coach" Menefee |
| • Webmasters | Loren Decker, Dale Connally |
| • At Large | Billy Whitehead |



A typical Latham Springs Bass - See you there.