



## **NEWSLETTER July, 2015 Volume XX: No. 7**

[www.wacoflyfishingclub.org](http://www.wacoflyfishingclub.org)

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Tuesday, July 14, 2015**

**PROGRAM:**

**TO BE ANNOUNCED**

**MEETING LOCATION - BACK TO THE WETLANDS**

Over the years many of us wondered if our Waco Wetlands meeting location was too far from town, resulting in a lowering of meeting attendance. This year we have had the opportunity to hold several of our meetings at Baylor. The idea was to see if Baylor is a better place for us to meet than the Wetlands.

We also have an opportunity to have our meetings at the Waco Skeet and Trap Club located adjacent to the Waco Airport. Meeting at this facility would require us to change our meeting night to either Wednesday or Thursday when the club is open for business.

Well, it is time to make a decision. After the July meeting we will poll the membership to see if we want to change our meeting night and give the Waco Skeet and Trap Club a try. If not, do we prefer the Wetlands or Baylor.

**COMING IN AUGUST, FISHING THE SAN JUAN - DALE CONNALLY (THE TROUT WHISPERER)**

The Trout fishers in our club all know that Dale Connally can catch Trout. Cal Deal dubbed Dale the Trout Whisperer after a New Mexico trip with Dale. Dale also presents quality programs, but has never tutored us on the San Juan before, an omission we have asked him to correct at our August meeting.

Dale had the good sense to get out of Texas during all that rain in May and catch Trout, many large Trout, at the San Juan River in northwest New Mexico. In August, Dale will tell us how he did it.

Many club members fish the San Juan on a fairly regular basis. Others wish they fished the San Juan on a very regular basis. This is not a difficult or expensive trip to check off your bucket list. With Dale's tips you can consider saving the expense of a guide. If you camp, you can even do this trip as a Trout Bum.



A Visit to the San Juan River in late October offers more than just those big pretty Trout.

### **CATCHING BIG BASS - BOB POOL**

Those who fly fish, like all who fish, have a tendency towards exaggeration (some would say outright lying) when it comes to telling the story of their fishing. Fortunately, this tendency does not extend to recommendations of fly fishing programs. We were told by several fellow fly fishers that Bob Pool was an entertaining speaker and at our June meeting Bob proved them truthayers. In addition to being entertaining, Bob proved that he knows how to catch big Bass and passed that knowledge on to us.

Bob is such a fan of fly fishing for Bass that he actually looks down on Trout fishing. He wants to pursue manly fish, the top predator, the African Lion of the water that will eat anything that will fit in its mouth. Not girly Trout that shy away from anything bigger than a gnat.

Fortunately us girly Trout fishers were not overly offended. It is a free country after all and Bob really knows Bass fishing so the Trout fishers put their hurt feelings aside and learned.

Bob started with the story of a big Bass that set up to feed. The first meal was a large leopard frog that happened by, a potential meal that would scare off most Trout. Next was a palm sized Blue Gill that swam too close. Still feeding, the Bass next ate a red wing blackbird that perched too close to the water. The last meal of record was a large Bass popper which allowed the lucky angler to see the evidence of the fish's gluttony and document it with a picture of the blackbird taken from the Bass's gullet. Pictures down the gullet of other Bass showed the protruding head of a duck and, in another Bass, the head of a large snake. The point - think big flies and poppers when you are targeting Bass. Even smaller Bass will take on the biggest flies.

Throwing big flies comfortably requires specialized Bass tackle. Rods still in production that Bob recommends are the Sage Bass series and the Redington Predator series. Bob also recommends that you give your fly action using the rod, not just by stripping the line in. Bob demonstrated, something that does not lend itself to inclusion in this newsletter.

Bob does occasionally fish streamers in the water column, but usually either bottom bumps or fishes a topwater. He strongly recommends presenting the fly in the manner expected by the Bass. For example, fishing towards holding water along the bank and retrieving the fly back out to deeper water is not what a Bass expects. Instead, fish your fly along the bank the way a baitfish normally travels. Also, Bass like to hide in shady areas looking out into brighter water for prey.

Bob's recipe for big Bass is to:

- Fish water that holds big Bass
- Locate those special Bass spots in that water
- Use the right equipment
- Go with big flies (does anybody have a blackbird pattern?)
- Work the fly correctly

There was much to learn from this program and, as usual only a summary will fit in the newsletter. Bob was cordial as well as entertaining and very informative. There were several Trout flies in the fly raffle and Bob did not even make fun of the girly trout fishers who picked the stimulators and royal coachmen. A good meeting, thanks Bob.

### **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.

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

### **MIDDLE BOSQUE AT FM 3047**

By June 12, 2015, the Middle Bosque at FM 3047 was down to about 70 CFS and running clear. Everything else nearby was high and muddy. The Brazos was still running over 20,000 CFS. You've got to love how the Middle cleans up and gets fishable so quickly.

With all of the heavy rains in May I wondered if all of our fish were trying to adapt to salt water, but found plenty of willing fish as I worked upstream. The first fish, a Perch, was caught right under the bridge. The Bass I managed to catch were not big, but fought well including more aerobatics than usual. I saw several big bass, but could not get a big one to take. I really couldn't put Bob Pool's advice to use because the soft little 4 weight I like to use on this section of the Middle Bosque can only throw so much of a fly.



The Perch averaged bigger than usual, up to Latham Springs Perch in size, but think athlete from training in all that flow instead of the couch potatoes from the still waters of Latham Springs. Nothing wrong with Latham Springs Perch, but the Middle Bosque really is the big leagues for Perch. Well maybe Perch can only go as far as the Minors, but you get the point. Those big Perch really put up a fight. One took a Bass popper (one of those beauties that John Maddux ties) under a rock ledge and sawed me off.



## **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://texascouncilffff.com/>

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



### **LIVING WATERS FLY FISHING IN ROUND ROCK, TEXAS:**

#### **SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2015 - 11:00 am, LIVE SNAKE ID**

A big part of fly fishing is enjoying nature, which fortunately or unfortunately includes snakes. This program will focus on water snakes including venomous cottonmouth snakes. It will help you be able to tell the difference, something that can come in handy.

#### **SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2015 starting at 9:30 am, INTRO TO FLY FISHING AND MORE**

The folks at Living Waters Fly Fishing are also doing their part to dispel the myth that fly fishing is really hard and very expensive. The shop will host a series of classes for beginners, including Introduction to Fly Casting, Basic Rigging, Fly Tying for Beginners and Local Hot Spots.

Our Club is planning another Waco Fly Fishing 102 Class, but it will not happen until fall. In the meantime, if you hear of someone wanting to try fly fishing send them to Living Waters.

#### **EVERY WEDNESDAY IN JULY**

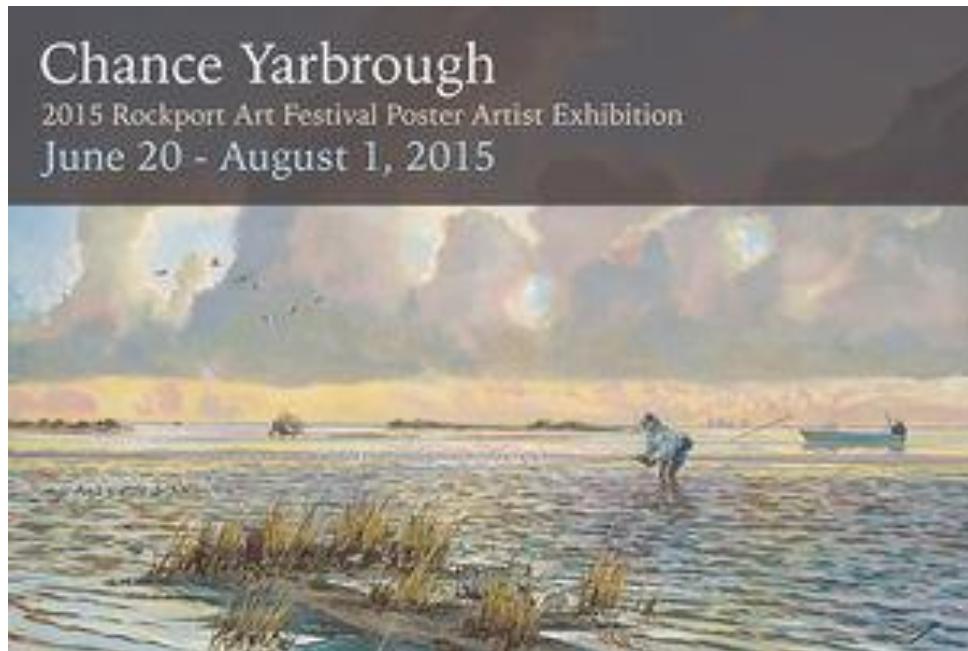
Living Waters also hosts Fly Tying Night every Wednesday night beginning around 7:00 pm. If you get there early enough many of the tyers meet for BBQ at Pok-E-Jo's staring around 6:00 pm.

[www.livingwatersflyfishing.com](http://www.livingwatersflyfishing.com)

### **ARTIST CHANCE YARBROUGH - ROCKPORT EXHIBIT - JUNE 20 - AUG 1, 2015**

Reports are that coastal fishing is improving after some slow fishing in June. All that rain we had in May followed by the tropical depression that followed made conditions difficult for many, but the coastal waters are getting back to normal.

If you get anywhere near Rockport before August 1, 2015 you owe it to yourself to stop at the Rockport Center for the Arts and check out Chance Yarbrough's exhibit. Chance is the former Waco boy who designed our new logo. He is also the 2015 Rockport Art Festival Artist. And he is good. To see some of Chance's work go to: [www.chanceyarbroughart.com](http://www.chanceyarbroughart.com).



### **SWAN POINT LANDING - ROCKPORT, TEXAS**

While in or near Rockport, be sure to stop at the Swan Point Landing Fly Shop for all the usual salt water fly fishing stuff plus a selection of Chance Yarbrough T-shirts. Swan Point is definitely one of those nuts & bolts fly shops that has what you need for fly fishing the gulf coast and to tie the flies you need for salt water. Swan Point also carries a selection of the collateral fly fishing stuff we are like to have like Fish Pond products, belts, and shirts in addition to the Chance Yarbrough display. Most importantly, they are good folks ready with fishing recommendations and will even help you figure out how to get your kayak off the roof of your vehicle when the key hole to your adjustable shackle lock is blocked because you brilliantly put it on upside down.

### **CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2015**

- President & Newsletter
- Vice-President
- IFFF Liaison
- Treasurer/Membership
- Education Chairman
- Webmasters
- At Large

- Bob Hanley 776-5444, nevilleandhanley@yahoo.com**  
**Allen Cross 744-2498**  
**John Maddux 666-9009**  
**David Beyer**  
**Bill "Coach" Menefee**  
**Loren Decker, Dale Connally**  
**Billy Whitehead**