



NEWSLETTER
September, 2015 Volume XX: No. 9

www.wacoflyfishingclub.org

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM - FISHING AT LATHAM SPRINGS

It's time to get together and do some fishing. As you can see in the picture of former club president, John Maddux, Latham Springs' Perch are big. The Perch in the picture is one of sixty that John caught one Saturday morning using a very slow retrieve (hint, hint). The lake also holds Bass and Crappie.

The Outing is on our regular meeting night, Tuesday, September 8, 2015. We will start fishing about 4:00 pm and fish until sunset. You might not catch sixty fish, but even a slow evening at Latham Springs is good fishing. If you have not fished at Latham Springs before, this is your chance to give it a try.

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. Remember, alcoholic beverages are not permitted.

Directions from Waco: IH 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.



AUGUST PROGRAM - FISHING THE SAN JUAN - DALE CONNALLY (THE TROUT WHISPERER)

Fortunately my old Blazer and my newer Equinox were not highway worthy the morning after Dale Connally's program on the San Juan River or I would have hit the road. Dale's talk was that good.

The San Juan River flows out of the bottom of Navajo Lake. The water is cold; cold enough to produce one of the top Trout fisheries in the country. The Trout in the quality water below Navajo Dam average 15-18 inches, but consistently fight like fish that are 20 inches plus. Some anglers get fooled into thinking that eighteen inchers was 20 plus.



One of Dale's San Juan Rainbows

The river holds Rainbows, a few Browns and an occasional Cutt or Cutt/Bow. The number of Browns has increased in recent years, a fact Dale proved with pictures of some of the prettiest and a few of the biggest Browns you have ever seen. All right, that is a bit of an exaggeration, all Browns are pretty fish, but Dale's were as pretty as you have ever seen and a few were really big. Several were bigger than my best Brown.

Dale started at the Texas Hole, taking us upstream and then downstream. The flies to use on the San Juan are universally tiny. A size twenty is considered a big fly. Dale had an interesting picture of a San Juan midge on a rock, not a fly, but a real insect. The rope next to the bug was actually a fly line. The line was noticeably thicker than the bug's body.

As to fly selection there are many choices listed on various San Juan River websites. Dale recommended several, including Duranglers, Float 'N Fly and Ifly4trout.com.

As a general rule use a midge larva in the morning and switch to an emerger after lunch. As to color, red is for mornings and darker colors like brown, black and olive work in the afternoon. Every so often the San Juan offers dry fly opportunities so be prepared with some small dry flies and a few midge clusters.

Dale covered many other details of fishing the San Juan, much more than can fit in the newsletter. Also, I confess to taking poor notes. I found myself just enjoying an excellent program enhanced with outstanding photography.

By the way, taking your wife to the San Juan is not a bad idea unless it bothers you to be out fished.

Bob Hanley



NOVEMBER PROGRAM - DAKUS GEESLIN - GUADALUPE BASS

Dakus Geeslin will highlight the areas anglers should target to catch our state freshwater fish, the Guadalupe Bass, including spring fed streams of the Hill Country to the Lower Colorado River east of Austin. He will also describe angling gear, techniques, strategies, and flies to use in targeting Guadalupe Bass. Lastly, Dakus will showcase several of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department conservation efforts aimed at protecting and enhancing Guadalupe Bass and their habitats and how you can help.

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

ISHUA CREEK - WESTERN NEW YORK

The last time I fished Ishua Creek in Western New York was in 1968. I had never caught a Trout there but had seen several big Browns, at least they looked big to a 14 year old. One of those Browns set up his feeding station under a barbed wire fence that stretched across the creek making him impossible to catch. I saw others when I spooked them from under cut banks.

A family reunion gave me an opportunity to fish the Ishua again in late August. I think I am a better fly fisherman now, but, unfortunately, I had zero luck. I think this is a spring time put and take fishery that gets a decent amount of fishing pressure. I saw the desiccated remains of one Trout that had been filleted.

I did see one live fish, but I don't know if it was even a Trout. Also, there were few bait fish present. My conclusion was that the creek probably still holds Brown Trout, but that they are smart and nocturnal. At least all of that is my excuse.

It was still an enjoyable outing. As a blue state, there has not been much economic growth in the area so this part of the state remains rural and picturesque. And, as they say, I said I was going fishing and I did.

MIDDLE BOSQUE AT FM 3047

The weekend before leaving for New York, I fished the Middle Bosque on a Saturday morning. I had the river all to myself, as usual, and caught many fish. The Middle Bosque is every bit as rural and picturesque as the Ishua with the advantage of being loaded with many Perch and River Bass. I don't even try to keep count of the number I catch. On this August morning the Bass I caught were all about average for River Bass, but I did see some of the biggest Bass I have ever seen in the Middle Bosque, all in one long run. Unfortunately, I saw them as they spooked away.



I carefully noted the location of those big Bass and returned on Sunday evening. I worked quickly down to that run catching a few Perch and small Bass along the way. When I got to that run I noted the end of the gravel bar that was the beginning of the big Bass water. The plan was to get very stealthy when I stepped off that gravel bar into the water.

But, before I even reached the end of the gravel bar I saw the big Bass spooking downstream. They had positioned themselves about twenty yards further upstream than on Saturday morning. How clever of them. I caught a number of slightly above average Bass, but the big ones had vanished, an amazing feat in that clear skinny water.

I'll be back. These Bass are record breaking fish for the Middle Bosque. Of course, so is every Bass caught. Nobody has submitted a fly fishing record for the stream.

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.

BRUSHY CREEK GUADALUPE BASS CONSERVATION TOURNAMENT **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2015**

Living Waters Fly Fishing will be hosting a special fly fishing tournament in the name of conservation. Here's how it works: We are going to collect fin clippings from Guadalupe Bass in Brushy Creek for Texas Parks and Wildlife to analyze. In order to collect them in a large quantity, we wanted to get everyone involved in this project. Texas Parks and Wildlife will be supplying us with fin clip kits and collection instruction and Living Waters will host the tournament. Prizes will be awarded for the greatest number of fin clips collected by a single angler. There will be a fly division and a tenkara division. All we need to see is a picture of each Guadalupe bass that a clipping was collected from so that we can confirm ID to match the number of fin clips turned in at the close of the tournament. You must sign in at the fly shop the morning of the tournament in order to compete. Due to the fact that you will be handling the fish for fin clipping, use of a landing net is highly encouraged to reduce fish stress. Call the shop at (512) 828-FISH if you have any questions or need additional info.



WACO FLY FISHING 102 - OCTOBER 3, 2015 - 9:00am until noon

This is going to be our second Waco Fly Fishing 102 class and we hope it will be as successful as the first. 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. This is the first announcement for the class so friends of club members can sign up first.

Our goal is to show people that fly fishing is not nearly as difficult as most non-fly fishers seem to think. We 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 expect the class to fill up quickly, so if you know somebody who

wants to give fly fishing a try have him or her contact Bob Hanley immediately (contact information is at the end of this newsletter).

Also, if you would like to help with this event, give me a call. It is a rewarding experience to introduce somebody to fly fishing, you would enjoy doing it.

Bob Hanley

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2015

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| • President & Newsletter | Bob Hanley 776-5444, nevilleandhanley@yahoo.com |
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| • Treasurer/Membership | David Beyer |
| • Education Chairman | Bill "Coach" Menefee |
| • Webmasters | Loren Decker, Dale Connally |
| • At Large | Billy Whitehead |



Fossil and Fossil Cast from the Middle Bosque. When this layer of shelf rock is under water it gets very slippery. A wading staff is mandatory and cheaper than the medical bills if you try to wade without one.