



**NEWSLETTER**  
**December, 2015 Volume XX: No. 12**

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

**DECEMBER PROGRAM - CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Can you believe it is already Christmas Season? Our Christmas Party is next Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at the Valley Mills Vineyard Winery. We will start the festivities about 6:00 pm. The winery is located at 8532 N. State Hwy. 6. As you are driving out of Waco towards the town of Valley Mills on Hwy. 6 the VMV Winery is on your right, about a quarter of a mile past the intersection of Hwy. 6 and Hwy 185. That is the intersection where there is a new Stripes and an old CEFCO also on your right.

The VMV Winery is closed to the public on Tuesdays so we will have the entire facility to ourselves. I think you will find the winery comfortable and relaxing. There is ample room for us to move around and visit.

Our Christmas Party dinner will be a basic BBQ with sides from the Rusty Star. I know taste in BBQ is subjective, but I recommend the Rusty Star ribs and pulled turkey. Iced tea will be provided. If you wish to drink wine, licensing requires that you purchase it from the winery. Special arrangements have been made if you wish to have an adult beverage other than wine, contact me for the details. (Bob Hanley - 776-[nevilleandhanley@yahoo.com](mailto:nevilleandhanley@yahoo.com) or 776-5444)

Remember that we do a White Elephant Gift Exchange at our Christmas Party. To participate in the gift exchange, bring a fly fishing oriented gift with a value of about \$30.00. The gift exchange is that rare opportunity to receive a gift picked by another fly fisher. If you tie, feel free to "salt" your gift with a



few favorite patterns. Be sure and wrap your gift so that it cannot be identified prior to its first selection. Secrecy is important in a White Elephant Gift Exchange.

Of course, what would our Christmas party be without the raffle? Tickets are \$5.00 each and five for \$20.00. We'll have some great prizes starting with a fly rod, custom built by Bill Whitehead, a three piece, 7 foot true fiberglass rod in 3/4 weight. Most of us have admired Bill's work over the years and a lucky few have even had the pleasure of borrowing one to catch a fish or two at one of our outings. An even luckier few have won one. Here is your chance.

**We are having to pre-order the food so an RSVP would be very helpful - Bob Hanley**

### **NOVEMBER PROGRAM - DAKUS GEESLIN - GUADALUPE BASS**

The club officers have been racking our collective brains to find new ways to encourage participation in our club. Shortly into the Guadalupe Bass program at our November meeting I was reminded of a tried and true benefit of attending club meetings - enjoying and learning from the programs while learning a little something about what we do. As the program progressed I realized that I had also become inspired to seek Guads in waters I had not fished before. I am planning Colorado River and South Llano trips for this spring.

Dakus Geeslin presented an outstanding program on our state freshwater fish, the Guadalupe Bass. Guads are also called Texas Trout because of their preferred habit, clean flowing streams mostly located in the Texas Hill Country. Like Trout, Guadalupe Bass are found in beautiful places. They like hanging out in current and are strong fighters as a result. Having said that, the bigger Guads seem to prefer slower water.

Guadalupe Bass, like many Texas fish are threatened by alterations in water flow; taking too much water out of our rivers and streams for human consumption, industry and agriculture. Guads are also threatened by hybridization with Spotted Bass, which overlap their range, and with introduced Smallmouth Bass.

In fact, due to variability in markings, it can be difficult to tell a Guadalupe Bass from a Spotted Bass and from a hybrid. It was interesting to note that our area was historically Guadalupe Bass range. It is possible that some of the Bass we identify as Spotted Bass are really Guads or hybrids.

The current state record Guadalupe Bass was caught in the Colorado River and was 17.25 inches in length, weighing 3.71 pounds. Dakus gave us the address of a Guad that will bet that record. This fish has been electroshocked at the same location in several studies and measures a full inch longer than the current record. Those who were at the November meeting have the address of that fish. I am sure I am not the only wanting to pay it a visit.

As nice as it is to know the location of the record breaking fish, it was even better to hear that TPWD is focusing increasing attention on the conservation and protection of this unique species of Bass.

## **JANUARY PROGRAM - FLY FISHING THE BRAZOS**

I have been fly fishing the Brazos tailwater below Lake Whitney for over 20 years. Over those years, I've learned, mostly the hard way, by spending countless hours on the water, how to successfully find and catch the bass, sunfish, and others on this river. In addition to largemouth, spotted, and smallmouth bass, there are carp, channel cats, drum, and some really big redbreast sunfish in the Brazos. I will throw a fly at all of them.

My program in January will cover the stretch of the Brazos River from Lake Whitney Dam to the FM 2114 bridge. I'll cover the logistics of the full 8.4 mile all day float, short "down and back" floats, and wade fishing opportunities as well. We'll talk access points, fly gear, and fly patterns for the Brazos, but most importantly, what to look for on the river, where to cast, (and where to paddle or wade through without casting), and how to successfully fish this section of the river. I'll also be tying a Brazos fly pattern or two before the presentation.



Please come out and enjoy the meeting with your fellow fly fishing enthusiasts, and learn about this spectacular tailwater fishery in our backyard!!! Hope to see you there.

Pat Vanek

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

A year ago, in the December 2014 newsletter I was able to report on a Trout fishing trip to the Guadalupe. No such luck this year, but Trout season on the Guad is open - sort of. High water and high temperatures have delayed things some.

Reports are that wading is a bit tricky right now - think wading staff. More importantly, be careful of water temperatures. Remember to stop Trout fishing if water temps get to 70 degrees to avoid unduly stressing the Trout. These Trout really are too valuable to catch only once.

If you plan to fish the Guad anytime soon, I suggest checking in with Chris Johnson at Living Waters for advice on conditions. Chris can also help you with fly patterns, presentation

techniques or, better yet, book a trip for you. Floating the river with Chris is a great way to learn how to fish the Guad - think cheap tuition, you won't even need a student loan.



Guadalupe River Thanksgiving Rainbow - 2014

### **THINKING OF TROUT FISHING**

Blood Atonement is the only mystery novel written by Jim Tenuto, a fly fisherman. The lead character is a fly guide who even manages to teach you a thing or two as the mystery unfolds:

*"I had tied the fly myself. An Adams. The one fly to carry if you carry only one fly."*

### **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/>

### **CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2015**

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|--------------------------|---|
| • President & Newsletter | Bob Hanley 776-5444, <a href="mailto:nevilleandhanley@yahoo.com">nevilleandhanley@yahoo.com</a> |
| • Vice-President         | Allen Cross 744-2498  |
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| • Treasurer/Membership   | David Beyer   |
| • Education Chairman     | Bill "Coach" Menefee  |
| • Webmasters             | Loren Decker, Dale Connally   |
| • At Large               | Billy Whitehead   |

*"Teach a person to fly fish and you have just created a Conservationist"*

Lee Wulff