



NEWSLETTER
January, 2016 Volume XXI: No. 1

www.wacoflyfishingclub.org

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

LOCATION:

Lake Waco Wetlands

PROGRAM:

Fly Tying and Tall Tales

About 6:00 p.m.

Pat Vanek - Fly Fishing the Brazos

About 7:00 p.m.

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

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Believe it or not, there is something better than winning Bill Whitehead's custom fly rod at our Christmas Raffle - witnessing our youngest member win it. Congratulations to Sheryl Loden.

I hope everyone who attended the Christmas Party enjoyed it as much as I did. The Rusty Star BBQ was outstanding and there are now many converts to pulled turkey. Consider stopping for dinner at the Rusty Star on your way to our January meeting at the Waco Wetlands - make sure they know you are headed for a fly club meeting.

The Valley Mills Vineyard Winery was everything I hoped it would be and the price was right. There are several new devotees to the winery and their wines. If you are looking for a relaxing place to sample some outstanding local wines give the VMV winery a try. They are open Thursday & Friday 2:00-8:00pm, Saturday 12:00-11:00pm, and Sunday 12:00-5:00pm.

The Christmas Party gives us a chance to wrap up our year and to recognize those members who have gone above and beyond the call to support our club. This year, the club presented two of our members with the Jack Sparks Distinguished Service Award for:

" Outstanding Contributions to Further the Sport of Fly Fishing, Inspire its Angling Literature, Advance its Fellowship and Broaden the Understanding of all Anglers in the Spirit of True Sportsmanship." [quoted from our By-Laws }

Congratulations to John Maddux and Pat Vanek. We literally would not have a club without their dedication to what we do.

An historical note - the club had previously presented Coach Bill Menefee (2012) and Billy Whitehead (2013) with "Distinguished Service Awards". Also well earned and richly deserved. Early in 2013 we changed the club name from the Jacks Sparks Central Texas FlyRodders Club to the Waco Fly Fishing Club. This change in name was done for various reasons none of which included diminishing our respect for Jack Sparks in any way. Without Jack Sparks our club would have never been founded in the first place. To keep Jack in our hearts and minds we recently added his name to our distinguished service award.

As to our gift exchange, we all wisely left anything off the wrappings that could be used for fly tying so there were no injuries to our tyers who, at previous Christmas Parties, got a little carried away fighting over things like Mylar ribbons on discarded wrappings - think of a fumble at the

goal line. Come to think of it, maybe we need to reinstate the "Decorating with Fly Tying Materials Contest". It was entertaining and nobody was ever injured, at least not seriously.

We ended the evening with the raffle. Witnessing a young person - Sheryl - win that fly rod was one of those special Christmas moments. She was a little excited.

Ray Emerson missed the party. He was called to duty at the Emergency Clinic, but he had previously donated a wooden fly box loaded with some of his very special flies - great raffle item. Thanks Ray.

Our third raffle item was Kevin Hutchison's book *Fly-Fishing the Texas Hill Country* donated by Living Waters Fly Fishing. Thanks Chris.

Bob Hanley

DUES ARE DUE - INCENTIVES TO PAY AND RECRUIT

We are on a calendar year so dues are due for 2016. We will send out a notice with more information on our payment/incentive program in the near future.

EDUCATION

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

Lee Wulff

Our members are always eager to teach newcomers to fly fishing, informally and in more structured settings like the Waco Fly Fishing 102 classes. Recently we have made our classes official through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department resulting in TPWD receiving \$16.00/hr. from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for our volunteer time. It goes up to \$24.00/hr in 2016.

At the present time, I think only Bill Whitehead and I are certified TPWD Instructors. We took a TPWD class at the Waco Wetlands several years ago to become certified. If anybody else is a certified instructor please let me know. If you are interested in becoming certified please let me know. If there is enough interest I will try to set up an instructor class. The instructor class only takes a weekend morning.

Bob Hanley

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AUSTIN FLY FISHERS AND TO MATT BENNETT

The Austin Fly Fishers were presented The McKenzie Cup at the 2015 IFFF International Fly Fishing Fair for outstanding contributions to fly fishing - things like working on a catch release project near Austin and a program to help the children of deployed soldiers at Fort Hood. The Austin Club also works with the Texas Expo, Troutfest and its members have paid our club a visit or two and helped with programs. On hand to receive the award were club President Jim Gray, Matt Bennett, Jeff Hoelter and Carroll Hall.

Matt Bennett received the Charles E. Brooks Memorial Award for being a fly fishing, fly tying "character." Also for being an innovative fly tyer and helping with a broad array of fly fishing events and programs. Congratulations Matt.

HAS ANYBODY "LAID ASIDE BUSINESS AND GONE A'FISHING" ?

With the heavy runoff from all the rainfall it has been hard to find a place to fish with much hope of catching anything. But as of this writing, the flows on the Guadalupe have been dropped to a manageable 325 CFS. Unfortunately, in-flows are on the rise and rain is in the forecast. Is it wrong for a Texan to hope the rain will go away for a while?

There are several public access points on the Guad and the Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited lease program to get you on the river. If you go, take a wading staff. The wading at the Guad can be tricky even at flows lower than you are likely to encounter this year.

The good news is that the flow agreement has been triggered and the Guad should be fishable this summer. There have already been two GRTU stockings of Rainbows in the river this season with a third planned. The third stocking will be Brown Trout, the first stocking of Browns in many years. With the flows guaranteed by the flow this summer most of those Trout should make through the summer.



A Palomino
Rainbow from the
Guadalupe River

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 201

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



Waco Fly Fishing Club
2016 Membership Application

Dues: Individual \$ 24.00
 Family \$ 36.00
 Student \$ 16.00

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

THE WACO FLY FISHING CLUB HAS MY PERMISSION TO SHARE MY CONTACT INFORMATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS.

Signature

Payments and this form can be turned in at regular club meetings or by mail to:

Bob Hanley
P.O. Box 8030
Waco, Texas 76714