



**NEWSLETTER**  
**FEBRUARY, 2016 Volume XXI: No. 2**

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

**NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

**LOCATION:**

Lake Waco Wetlands

**PROGRAM:**

Fly Tying and Tall Tales

About 6:00 p.m.

Tenkara Fly Fishing - Chris Johnson

About 7:00 p.m.

**FEBRUARY PROGRAM - TENKARA FLY FISHING - CHRIS JOHNSON -  
LIVING WATERS FLY SHOP**

This month, we have a topic for our monthly meeting program that we have never had before - Tenkara fly fishing! Several club members have asked me about this "new" (at least to folks in the U.S) form of fly fishing, and to be honest, I am just as in the dark about it as most are, and just as excited to learn about it.

Tenkara is actually not new at all. It's been practiced in Japan for over 200 years, perfected by commercial fishermen, fishing for highly selective trout in some of Japan's toughest trout streams. When you fish for a living and fish = money, efficiency and effectiveness must be the name of the game. And Tenkara is all of that.

Without going into too much detail, mainly because I don't know that much, and mostly because I want ya'll to come out and learn it from a great guide and instructor in Chris, Tenkara involves only a long telescoping fly rod from 8 to 15 feet long, a short furled tapered or level fly line, a short length of leader, (no double hauls here), and NO reel. Tenkara is stripped down to basics, the learning curve is short, and it looks really fun. That's why it's been noted to be a really good

way to introduce young folks to our sport. According to Tenkara USA, you can learn to cast in under 5 minutes.



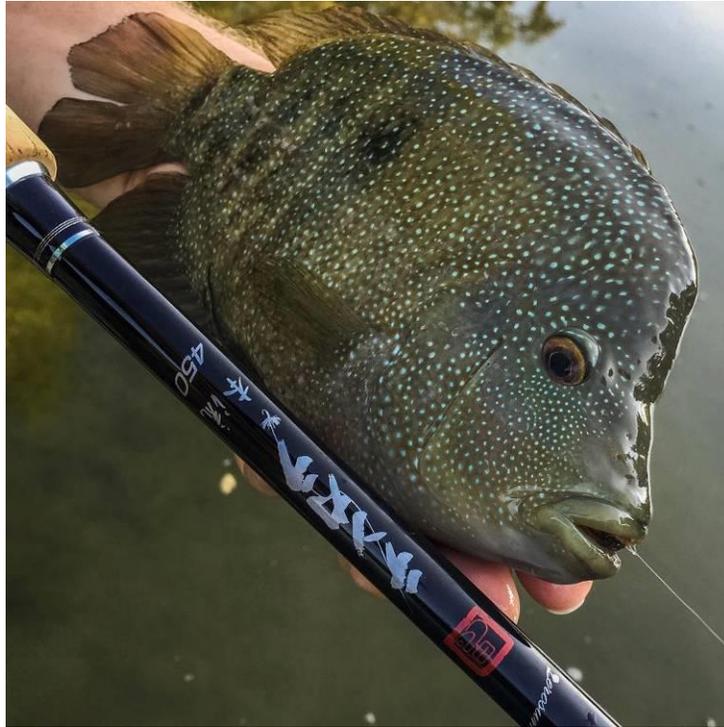
A Guadalupe rainbow on Tenkara

So why Tenkara in Texas??? I'll let Chris cover that, but the two pictures here show it all. If you like to fish the Guadalupe for trout, it works there, and Chris has all the know how to get you going. But you don't fly fish for trout? No problem, because Tenkara is a great method for catching warm water species such as bass and sunfish, and apparently Rio's as well. I know of a spot or two on the North and Middle Bosques that this method would really smack the white bass in a month or so.

Chris wrote a featured article in the current issue of Tenkara USA's magazine covering this method in the Texas Hill Country, so Chris knows the game. Chris has spoken here several times before and ALWAYS delivers a great program, plus the guy's photography is not all that bad either! Chris also said that he would be bringing a selection of Tenkara gear for sale from his shop if you want to pick up a rod, line, or flies during the meeting. Or, he can ship from Round Rock if you want to get set up later on, or just want anything fly fishing related. And oh yeah, Living Waters Fly Shop won IFFF's 2014 Lee Wulff Award for business of the year! So please come out and hear Chris talk about this exciting new / old way of fly fishing.

For a preview of what Tenkara is all about, visit [www.tenkarausa.com](http://www.tenkarausa.com). Hope to see you at the meeting!

Pat Vanek  
Vice President



Texas Tenkara - Rio's like it!

### **JANUARY PROGRAM - FLY FISHING THE BRAZOS WITH PAT VANEK**

We had a good turnout for Pat Vanek's program on fishing the Brazos River, an excellent opportunity to swap fish tales, some new, some not so new. As usual the best featured John Maddux. High quality banter, but Pat's program was even better particularly if you have any desire to fish the Brazos.

Pat covered the Brazos from the Whitney Dam to Dick's Place and a little downstream. It is 8.4 miles from the dam to Dick's. There are basically two ways to fish this stretch of the river. The only problem is limited public access.

One way is to float in a canoe or kayak from the public access at the dam to Dick's. This is a hard trip, but worth it. The best time to do this is when there is no release from the lake. If water is being released the float is about four hours due to the current and the fishing is difficult, again due to the current. As a general rule, releases in the summer do not start until noon or so. This gives you the opportunity to basically beat the high water and fish your way to the paid take out at Dick's. It will take all day so be prepared with water, sun block, water, food, water, everything else you might need and more water. There are no convenience stores along the way.

On the full day float, it is a good idea to plan ahead and know where you are on the river. Otherwise, you might find yourself with miles still to go as the day is ending. Pick only productive water to fish and keep moving. Also, keep in mind that the wide shallow stretches hold very few fish, if any - move on.

The other option is to put in at the dam or at Dick's and do an out and back trip. If you float out and back, be aware of water releases. It is extremely difficult to impossible to paddle against a water release. Of course at Dick's you can paddle upstream and ride the release water back down to Dick's.

This report covers just the basics. Pat provided detail on fishing locations and techniques which are beyond the scope of this newsletter. That's why you need to attend the meetings.

Bob Hanley

### **A WORD OF THANKS -**

Just wanted to drop a short note and say "thank you" to all who came out to the January club meeting. We had about 25 folks there and the fellowship before and after the program was really outstanding.....it's what our club is all about!

It was great to see folks I have not seen, well, in years, and to see new faces as well. Hopefully ya'll learned a little something about fly fishing the Brazos, I know I sure enjoyed presenting the program and answering questions.

But....our club is only as good as our members make the club, that is why I am inviting each of you to make a special effort this year to get a little more active with the club. Please come to the monthly meetings to visit with friends, tell some fishing stories, give some fishing reports, show off your new or old fly rods, or tie some flies. Also come out and hear a great program and learn something new about fly fishing from our speakers. Please come support these folks. Some drive a long way, and to speak to a room full of fellow fly fishermen makes their day (it does mine).

Do you have a knack for writing? The newsletter is always willing to include your fishing reports of trips to far off places or maybe just a local stream. Have tips that you want to share? Maybe a favorite fly pattern? Write 'em up please!

Maybe you have thought about being an officer in the club? If I can do it with triplets, so can you! It does not take much time and we could really use your help. Just ask Bob or myself if you are interested. Also, every year our club puts on clinics to teach our sport, and you don't have to be an expert to help out, you just have to be willing to give a hand. The folks learning appreciate it more than you know.

So, again, "thank you" to all of our members for making this a great fly fishing club. We don't have a club without YOU! I always look forward to seeing ya'll each month!

Pat Vanek  
Vice President

## **HELP NEEDED**

It is official, Troutfest 2016 has been canceled. The reason - lack of volunteers. That is a shame. Troutfest was one of those events that allowed veterans and newcomers alike to become immersed in fishing for Trout, which usually translates into fly fishing for Trout.

I'm not suggesting that there was much we could have done to help Troutfest from the Waco area, at least not on an organizational level. The distances involved are just too great unless you have the flexibility to regularly travel to the organizational meetings.

I will suggest that volunteers seem to be getting harder and harder to come by. All of the Texas fly fishing clubs, including our club, are having difficulty filling officer positions.

Minutes before learning of the Troutfest cancelation in the GRTU newsletter I heard our local talk show guy, James Parker, refer to email as old fashioned. Here I have been priding myself at having a certain level of skill using email, which I thought was cutting edge stuff, only to learn that technology seems to have left me in the dust yet again.

Has anybody out there mastered social media? It would help keep our club in the public eye, particularly the eyes of younger folks if we could develop and maintain a social media presence. If this is something you could set up and maintain and if you are willing to volunteer to do so, please contact me.

If you have any other ideas to improve what we do and/or are willing to pitch in to get it done please contact me. We all share the belief that fly fishing is by far the best way to catch fish. Those who fly fish are frequently the ones who step up and support causes like GCCA, GRTU and others. Not to denigrate the efforts of outdoor sports enthusiasts in general, but fly fishers are always in the fight to protect outdoor resources and public access to those resources.

Bob Hanley

## **DUES ARE DUE - INCENTIVES TO PAY AND RECRUIT**

We are on a calendar year so dues are due for 2016. As an incentive to get your dues paid, all paid members as of the meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2015 will have one chance in a prize drawing. You will automatically be in the drawing if your dues are received at or before the March meeting.

We need new members. Please recruit somebody. With more members we can do more things. If you recruit new members, you will receive another chance in the raffle for each recruit who is paid up by the time of the drawing. A new member is anyone who was not a paid member in 2015. It is the responsibility of the recruiter to confirm his or her new members with Treasurer/Membership Guy, David Beyer before the drawing.

We are still working on the prizes for the drawing, but there will be a nice lead prize and several lesser, but still worthwhile prizes like club logo caps, flies, tying materials, etc. The way the

drawing will work is that the first name drawn will have his/her pick of the available prizes. Second name will have a pick from what is left, and so on until all prizes are gone.

### **MORE PUBLIC ACCESS - GONE**

It looks like we have lost more public access and there is probably nothing we can do about it. This time below Whitney Dam. From news reports all access is currently closed while the Corps of Engineers does something with signs. Eventually boat launching will be allowed, but not wade fishing.

The problem is some sort of new technology or usage that allegedly makes it impossible for a warning to be sounded before the gates are being opened. In addition, the gates will now release 3000 CFS instead of 2,200 as previously. The 3000 CFS release will be immediate so waders would not have time to get out of the water.

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

I did wade the Middle Bosque at the FM 3047 Crossing one warm afternoon this year. Does anybody know where the fish go during the winter? I fished the only deep water for about a mile. I didn't have a single strike and didn't even see a fish. Well, I said I was going fishing and I did.

Hopefully things will be looking up soon. I got a fantastic Christmas present from my daughter Michelle - a float on the Guadalupe with Chris Johnson. We are scheduled for February 8, 2016, the day before our February meeting and Chris's Tenkara program. At the meeting, Chris and I will be able to regale you with glowing descriptions of my fly fishing prowess and large numbers of big Rainbows brought to the net.

Okay, it's more likely to include stories like the last time I floated with Chris. As I mentioned in a trip report in the March, 2014 Newsletter, one Trout on that 2014 float hooked itself with little or no help from me and then basically swam into the net.

Fortunately Michelle will be along for the fly fishing prowess part of the trip.

Bob Hanley



## **FEBRUARY EVENTS AT LIVING WATERS FLY SHOP**

One goal we all share is encouraging newcomers to fly fishing. Our club has hosted several fly fishing classes in recent years and plans for 2016 classes are underway. Another option for anybody that is new to our sport or interested in trying fly fishing for the first time is the Introduction to Fly Fishing Class at Living Waters Fly Shop on Saturday, February 6, 2016. Chris Johnson and his faculty will cover everything from casting to rigging to local hot spots. Classes begin at 9:30 am.

The next Saturday, February 13, 2016 is gear repair day. At 10:00 am fly line, rod and reel care will be discussed. At 1:00 pm the topic is wader and wading jacket repair.

Saturday, February 20, 2016, is White Bass Day at Living Waters. We all know that fly fishing is the most productive way to catch White Bass. Beginning at 9:00 am, Chris Johnson and his faculty (including our own Pat Vanek) will cover the subject just in time for the annual White Bass run.

Saturday, February 27, 2016 is At the vise with Chris Johnson. Throughout the day Chris will be demonstrating a wide range of patterns including his special CDC patterns.

All of this and Wednesday night fly tying. All free of charge and no registration required. All just down the road in Round Rock. For more information - [www.livingwatersflyfishing.com](http://www.livingwatersflyfishing.com)

## **COMING SOON TO A STREAM NEAR YOU -**



### **CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2016**

- |                        |                                                                                                 |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President & Newsletter | Bob Hanley 776-5444, <a href="mailto:nevilleandhanley@yahoo.com">nevilleandhanley@yahoo.com</a> |
| • 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