



NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2016 Volume XXI: No. 3

www.wacoflyfishingclub.org

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

LOCATION:

Lake Waco Wetlands

PROGRAM:

Fly Tying and Tall Tales

About 6:00 p.m.

White Bassfest - Headmaster Pat Vanek

About 7:00 p.m.

**MARCH PROGRAM - FLY FISHING THE
CENTRAL TEXAS WHITE BASS RUN - PAT
VANEK**

It's that time of year again.....and this year, we have water, which = current, which = the makings for an excellent run of white bass up our local rivers and creeks.

The March program will tell you what you need to know to have a successful Spring chasing our local white bass with a fly rod. From where to go, where to launch or wade, what to look for on the river and where to cast, to rods, lines and flies, weather and water, I'll try to cover it all!

So whether you are seasoned pro at this game or just starting out, come out and share what you know, give a report, or learn something new.



Our club's "logo" fish

It's almost Spring, the weather is warming, and the white bass are running.....it's that time again!

Pat Vanek

INVITE A GUEST

The March White Bassfest is an excellent time to invite a guest(s). We will have a few fly rods strung up and plenty of basic instruction for any guest who would like to give fly casting a try before investing in a fly rod rig. Coupled with Pat's program a newcomer to fly fishing will be ready for the White Bass run.

MAY PROGRAM - TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2016 - CATCHING FISH AT LATHAM SPRINGS

Our May program is going to be an outing at Latham Springs. Most of you know that means catching many of those big, hard fighting Latham Springs Perch with a few Bass thrown in along with a possible Crappie or two. We have had more than a few Latham Springs outings in the past and the fishing has ranged from good to outstanding. If you haven't made it to Latham Springs yet, don't miss this chance. If you are one of our newer novice members, this is an excellent opportunity to sharpen your fly fishing skills.

WACO FLY FISHING 102 - SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2016

It is time to teach fly fishing again. At Waco Fly Fishing 102 we do a little talking, then a little showing and then a lot of fishing. Last year more than dozen attendees learned enough about fly fishing to catch their first fish on the fly and usually a few after that.

The class is intended for people with little or no experience with fly fishing and will be limited to twelve students. There is a \$10.00 fee to cover location costs (a private lake). Registration is "first come, first served." If you know somebody that is interested have them contact Bob Hanley as soon as possible. If there is enough interest we will schedule another class.

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

I'll admit it, when I first heard that our February program was about Tenkara fly fishing I was decidedly lukewarm on the idea. Then Ray Emerson emailed everybody with his comparison of Tenkara to cane pole fishing and I got to thinking.

Ray stirred up some old memories. When I was thirteen I received a Herter's fly tying kit for Christmas. I don't remember if it was before or after that when I got my first fly rod, but I do remember my first fish on the fly, an early spring Trout from my uncle's stocked dairy farm pond. Those were catch and kill days - that first Trout and several others I caught that day tasted like a mud/manure mixture.

That summer my cousin and I would go down to the creek when we finished chores. Upon arrival we would each cut a willow switch, tie some monofilament to the switch and attach one of my hand-tied beauties. We proceeded to catch countless little creek fish while joking about the size of the monsters which would have measured well below twelve inches. Great memories. I now contend that this was a juvenile form of Tenkara.

While listening to Chris's program I decided I just might have to give Tenkara a try. Tenkara is Japan's version of willow switch/cane pole fishing which was started about 200 years ago by commercial fishermen. They designed a simple and very effective method of catching enough fish to take to market.

One part of Tenkara is a philosophy of changing presentation before changing flies, a philosophy that has application to our English inspired form of fly fishing. That is, if a dead drift isn't working, try swinging the flies. If that doesn't work try stripping and then other variances of presentation until you catch fish. Change flies as a last resort.

Tenkara rods are long (ten foot or more) and very limber, providing excellent tippet protection. Even so, Tenkara is not really for fish like big Carp. Big fish can be landed, but the odds are not in your favor. Tenkara is ideal for fish like Perch, River Bass and White Bass. Chris has used Tenkara on Guadalupe River Trout, but be prepared to lose a few more than on traditional fly tackle.

One thing compelling about Tenkara is simplicity. Tenkara rods telescope and can be collapsed into the grip. There is no reel and lines are far less expensive than traditional fly lines. While there are special Tenkara flies there are not required, you can use flies you already have. Living Waters can get you started in Tenkara for around \$150.00.

For more information, contact the Living Waters Fly Shop - www.livingwatersflyfishing.com or tenkarausa.com. The Tenkara USA website has something like 100 instructional videos.

DUES

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 always need new members. Please recruit somebody. With more members we can do more. 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.

The lead prize is a Billy Whitehead custom 2 wt. and there are 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.

SPEAKING OF DRAWINGS - MEETING ATTENDANCE

Meeting attendance this year has been pretty good. It is so nice having a bit of a crowd that we came up with an attendance incentive drawing. You get one chance in the drawing for every meeting you attend. Prizes will be drawn at the 2016 Christmas party. You do not have to be present at the Christmas party to win the lead prize, but you do have to be there to win one of the backup prizes.



The lead prize is actually a work of art - a Bugger Beast, Jr. fly box with our logo painted by Chance Yarbrough, who, a little over a year ago, designed and painted our logo. Chance is originally from the China Spring area. When he relocated to Rockport he met renowned wildlife artist Herb Booth who mentored Chance and it shows in the quality of Chance's art.

If you want better odds (100%) and/or don't want to wait, you can buy a logo box for about \$100.00 through the club at the March meeting. And don't worry, if you win the attendance raffle and don't want two boxes, we will either refund the purchase price or you can choose one of the other prizes. To check out Chance's work see: www.chanceyarbroughart.com

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

Finally caught some fish this year on an early February trip to the Guadalupe River. Before that the last time I caught a fish was our Latham Springs outing on October 11, 2015. High river flows have been an issue. In addition, I wanted Retriever Scout (formerly known as Puppy Scout) to get in as many duck hunts as I could manage for her. Scout is all Lab and has all the things that you can't train. (I know this is a fly fishing newsletter, but I'm really proud of her and I don't have any grandkids to brag on.)



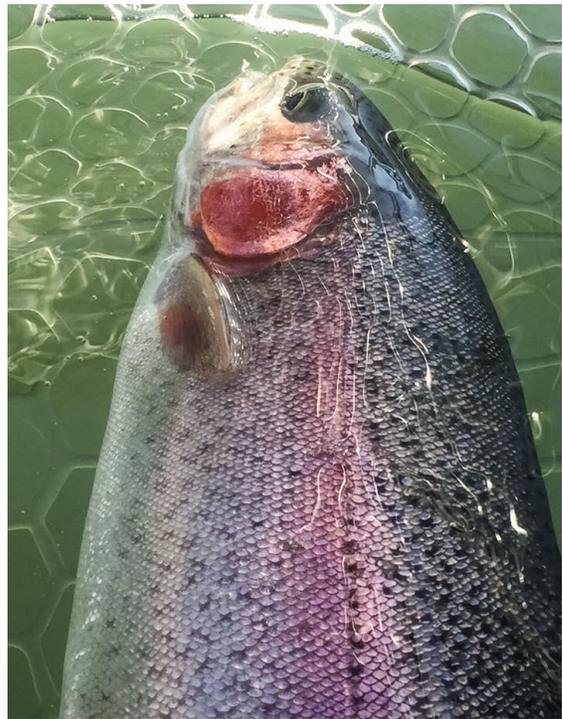
Back to the Guad. My daughter, Michelle set this trip up for us as my Christmas present. No brag, just fact.

We started on a Sunday afternoon at a GRTU lease at Dr. DeLoach's home. A very nice home right on the river. After

several hours I managed only one to the net, but missed a strike or two and had one break off. I blame old tippet for the break off. Unfortunately Michelle was skunked.

The next day was our float with Chris Johnson. I'm pretty sure I caught more Trout on that float than any other day I have fished the Guad, even my previous float with Chris. There were a few Perch and one nice Bass thrown in for variety. In addition to some outstanding guiding, the fish were in a cooperative mood at least when Chris rigged you at the proper depth with flies the fish had been hitting.

Michelle and I quickly realized that we had fished too shallow the day before, which brings up a point. I have been fishing the Guad for decades, but still benefited, greatly, from being guided. I had not fished a 150+ CFS flow in years. I would have eventually figured out that we needed to fish deeper but I don't know how long that would have taken. Chris already knew how deep to fish which resulted in three or four fish in the net almost immediately - no learning curve needed. Michelle added a few more before we moved to the second spot of the morning. I quickly lost count of our total.



A Good Way to Start the Float

Unfortunately, I continue to suffer from SIDD's. That's Strike Indicator Deficit Disorder, in my case compounded by CHS - Can't Hear Sh--. Chris did his best to alert me to strikes while I was admiring the scenery, bird watching, taking a quick nap, etc. But I missed fish when I couldn't hear him. Chris would then patiently explain that I had just missed a fish or laugh when one hooked itself. In all fairness to me, I did manage a few hook-ups all by myself when the indicator was pulled all the way under and maybe even a time or two when the indicator twitched a little.

On one fish Chris got it wrong however. Somehow I just knew I was dealing with a large Bass even though the fish was too deep to see. We were using the usual two nymph rig. The attractor fly was fairly large for Trout fishing, maybe a size twelve or so. The dropper was a size twenty midge. Now with that rig I knew the Bass was going after the big fly but would inadvertently shallow the dropper as well. If I had set as soon as the indicator went under or if I had heard Chris telling me to set, set, set", I would have hooked the Bass on that big fly. Nothing wrong with that, but I decided to try and get that Bass on the midge which required an extraordinarily disciplined approach. I had to wait for the Bass to spit out the big fly and then set the midge while it was still in that big mouth. Obviously this required precise timing, but I was up to the challenge. When Chris stopped laughing I explained my disciplined approach to hooking that Bass on the midge. At that point my CHS kicked back in, but I'm sure Chris complimented me on my great fly fishing prowess although it did sound something like "dumb luck."



Chris also does a great job with the photographs, particularly given what he had to work with (I don't mean the Bass).

As usual, Michelle did well, but might not have out fished me for a change. Chris rigged my fly rod first - after all the trip was my Christmas present. I proceeded to get a quick lead catching three or four fish while Chris was rigging Michelle's fly rod. Michelle came on strong at the end however, but after we had long since caught too many fish to count.



Michelle with one of her many Rainbows

We celebrated the day with dinner at the Gristmill in Gruene. The tortilla soup and beef tenderloin sandwich were as good as ever.

The Guadalupe River is a unique Trout stream that deserves your attention if you haven't tried it already. In my experience the Guad can be fickle, but then I don't have Chris's knowledge of the river. As a guide, I can't recommend Chris highly enough. As I said earlier he can move you well along the learning curve.

Bob Hanley

HAPPENINGS IN THE WORLD OF FLY FISHING

Spring is here, at least almost here. Texas fly fishers are getting busy fishing and hosting events. 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/>

ONE LAST CAST

As most of you know, the White Bass run draws many, many people to the water including a handful of idiots. Some are just momentarily thoughtless, but too many are complete, full time idiots. Either way, their impact leads to complaints to governing authorities who all too often "Come and Take" our public access away. For example, some of the residents along the road to the Barrett Road access to the Middle Bosque have justifiably complained about speeding down McLennan Crossing Road, littering, etc.

I know I am preaching to the choir here, but let's make an extra effort to pick up a bag of trash at public access points and drive in and out sensibly - lead by example. During some White Bass socialization you might also have a chance to mention, diplomatically, a thing or two about the threats to our access from imbecilic behavior.

A few years ago I complimented a group fishing the North Bosque during the White Bass run because they were piling up their trash. I assumed they were doing this so they could take their trash out when they were done fishing and told them how important that was to protecting our public access to the river. Later I wondered if that was really their plan, but on my next visit to the river all of that trash was gone. Unfortunately, we lost that access a few years later. We need to focus on taking care of what is left.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2016

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 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