



NEWSLETTER
MAY 2016 Volume XXI: No. 5

www.wacoflyfishingclub.org

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, May10, 2016

PROGRAM AND LOCATION:

Fly Fishing at Latham Springs Camp and Retreat Center - 4:00 pm until sunset

It's time to get together and do some fishing. Our Waco Fly Fishing 102 Class was at Latham Springs a few weeks ago and we found the lake as full as it gets, like in the picture of Billy Whitehead wade fishing the upper end of the lake. You will need to wade and you might consider bringing something like a kayak or water wagon. April was a wet month.



The Outing is on our regular meeting night, Tuesday, May 10, 2016. We will start fishing about 4:00 pm and fish until sunset. As club old-timers will tell you, Latham Springs is a great place to catch big Perch with a few Bass and even an occasional Crappie thrown in. If you have not fished at Latham Springs before, this is your chance to give it a try.

To our new, novice members - Latham Springs is a great place to improve your fly fishing. Any of us old-timers will be more than happy to help you out. We like pretending we are fly fishing guides - feel free to ask for help.

To all - Latham Springs is a productive little lake. The Perch do not like to work very hard to get a meal. A really slow retrieve is usually the best approach. In fact, the fish will often take a fly that is just sinking through the water column. Set the hook if your line starts moving to the side.

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.



About average at Latham Springs

APRIL PROGRAM - MATT BENNETT

Matt Bennett is an entertaining guy and Pat Vanek set up a high tech video system to project Matt's tying onto a movie screen. This program will soon be available on DVD. There is some proprietary stuff on the disc so access will be restricted to club members only. Details in the June newsletter.

Matt started with his innovative Llano Critter pattern. This pattern has been picked up by Umpqua which resulted in a name change to Bennett's Lunch \$ (Money). This pattern started as a baitfish imitation and the sample Matt tied for us was a Bluegill. Other color combinations work at the Coast.

Matt's presentation was replete with tying and fishing tips. If you missed the meeting or need a refresher, check out the DVD. A couple of tips stood out for me.

- When tying a fly you want to ride hook up, like a Clouser, tie a little hump of thread where you will put the bead chain or lead eyes. When you attach the eyes the hump will lift the eyes off the hook shank which enhances turnover and keeping the fly hook up in the water. Matt said he got this tip directly from Bob Clouser.
- In off-color water, consider using a larger fly, it will be easier to see.
- Largemouth Bass have large mouths and will take big flies.
- Use Lok-tight gel to attach eyes to hair or synthetics.
- Apply "Liquid Fusion" (available at Hobby Lobby) around the edges of eyes glued onto hair or synthetic materials to protect the edges of the eyes and reduce having the eyes snagged and pulled off.
- Loop knots allow much better action so your fly will produce more fish. And loop knots are only slightly weaker than improved clinch knots.

You can order stock flies or even make a custom order directly from Matt at www.flygeek.net



I made a wise investment in the fly raffle after Matt's presentation and went home with a Fly Geek fly box and the Lunch \$ Matt tied at the meeting. Then I forgot to buy a lottery ticket on the way home from the meeting.

Bob Hanley

UNSPOKEN: A PURSUIT OF RIO GRANDE CUTTHROAT

You absolutely must see the trailer for the film *Unspoken: A Pursuit of Rio Grande Cutthroat*. The film was produced by Living Waters Fly Fishing and the trailer was recently posted to their website. Film star, Chris Johnson is an admitted, unabashed Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout enthusiast and is willing to do what it takes to find them. The trailer will take you off the road and into a wilderness inhabited by Rio Grande Cutts. The scene of a Cutt happily feeding on mayflies will get you packing a fly rod. The scene of the big Cutt coming to the net will get you on the road to New Mexico. The film itself will be released in the Fall of 2016, free of charge on the Living Waters website. Until then we will just have to watch the trailer again and again and again ***

RELEASE THE TROUT WITH GREEN TAGS

If you are planning to fish in the Rock Port/Port Aransas area, release any Trout you catch that have green tags. There is an ongoing study to measure the success of the recent opening of Cedar Bayou in Aransas County that involves Speckled Trout. Twenty-four Specks were caught in the area and implanted with transmitters that will provide data concerning the fish's movement and habitat use. Each fish also received one of those string looking tags to identify it as a study fish. The tags are green in color. If you catch a fish with a green tag please carefully release it, then contact Harte Research Institute (HRI) to report the time and location of the catch.

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

NORTH BOSQUE RIVER

It was early on a Friday afternoon and I had been working from home, a mix of yard work and actual business on my lap top. My plan was to head to my office in Waco, work from there and then run some errands. Before leaving for Waco I checked my cell phone, not something I always remember to do. I found a message from Pat Vanek. The message was an invite to join him while he logged some hours on his new boat and motor. I think he needed ballast up front, sort of like holding the dumb end of a tape measure - well within my skill set.

Some of you may know that Pat is planning to start up a guide service. Pat has already guided a few times and is good at it. Just ask club members who have gone out on one of the guided White Bass packages that Pat has donated to our Christmas Party over the years. Or, read on.

Now, I was really looking forward to logging some hours at my office, but Pat obviously needed some help so I met him at the Flat Rock boat ramp at the appointed hour. It's the kind of sacrifice you make for a friend in need.

Pat's new boat is designed for very skinny water. Running up the North Bosque we went through several riffles that would have challenged my kayak. In fact, one spot was so shallow I am sure I could not have paddled my yak through it.

When we got just a few miles downstream from the former public road access at Cooper's Crossing, Pat went to paddle power so I could fish off the bow. The river was in prime condition and Pat kept me in ideal casting position, but all I could manage was one Perch. It was a nice Perch and even put a bit of a bend in the 7 wt. I was using.

I was starting to feel like I was letting Pat down when the time came to fish the section of the river where Pat had been catching White Bass and a few Hybrids. Yeah, Hybrids, that's why I was using a 7 wt.

This was wade fishing so we started fishing side by side which gave me an opportunity to watch Pat catch Whites. I began to wonder if I was fishing with Johnny Elkins in disguise. I managed one White to Pat's many.

I did that thing where I tried fishing exactly like Pat was fishing and still didn't come close to his catch rate. Later I noticed that the floating section of Pat's sink tip was not doing a very good job at actually floating. We were fishing fairly deep water and I was sticking my rod tip deep into the water to keep the fly as deep as possible, just like Pat, but the floating section of my line would only go so deep. Pat explained that his line was old and worn which was why the floating part didn't float any more. Well there you go. Of course Pat is a really good fisherman and I'm sure at least part of it was Pat just out fishing me.

As the light started to fade Pat gave me a big Clouser and took me to the fast water where the Hybrids had been hunting, but they seemed to have moved on. After we took turns working that run over we went back to where the Whites were holding. Things had slowed down some but I managed to add another White, maybe two. A few casts later I hooked a fish that started for Lake Waco - fast and hard. It didn't seem like there was anything I could do to change its mind. I did manage to hold on and follow the fish downstream as line peeled from my reel. I was too busy to notice, but if I didn't get into backing, I got damn close before that first run finally stopped.



Pat's Hybrid Clouser, a little beat up and posed in my vise

I really didn't know what I had hooked. That fish ran so hard I thought I might have foul hooked a Carp or a Catfish or a nuclear powered mini-sub. Pat was saying Hybrid all along, but I think he even started to wonder after a while. Finally, as my forearm started to burn, we got a look at one very nice Hybrid. Pat, still in guide mode, grabbed the fish and even got a hero shot for me.



I don't keep many fish, but that one fish is easily dinner for two so it is waiting in my freezer for the proper occasion. I'm thinking grilled with some hickory smoke involved, then covered with a shrimp/scallop wine sauce. Since the Valley Mills Winery did not charge us for the Christmas Party, it seems appropriate to pair the grilled Hybrid with one of their white wines.

They say a bad day of fishing beats a good day at the office. A good afternoon of fly fishing definitely beats any day anywhere. Thanks Pat.

Bob Hanley

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 |