



NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2016 Volume XXI: No. 6

www.wacoflyfishingclub.org

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

LOCATION:

Lake Waco Wetlands

PROGRAM:

Fly Tying and Tall Tales - About 6:00 p.m.
The Durango Area with Dale Connally - About 7:00 p.m.

JUNE PROGRAM- FLY FISHING THE DURANGO AREA WITH DALE CONNALLY

Well, not actually fishing with Dale, but the next best thing - having Dale tell you where to go and how best to fish when you get there. Club members have dubbed Dale the "Trout Whisperer". He can catch Trout like Johnny Elkins catches White Bass. Dale has presented several programs for us in the past and always delivers an entertaining and educational program. He has a knack for making you want to pack up and go fishing.

Dale will cover fly fishing the Durango area. Of course, there's the San Juan, but Dale will take a closer look at the other waters in Colorado around Durango. For San Juan fans this will give you the option of fishing some new water on your next San Juan trip.

MAY PROGRAM - OUTING AT LATHAM SPRINGS

Billy Whitehead was clearly frustrated when he called out, "That fish didn't even give me a chance to make a cast!" Billy's like that, he likes to work just a little bit to catch fish and, yeah, it was almost too easy at our Latham Springs outing. Billy's first Perch took the fly as soon as

Billy threw a little line on the water to get ready to make his first actual cast of the day. Billy did get over it and proceeded to properly cast and catch many Perch, and at least one Bass.



Ted Dickie came down from Granbury with his pontoon boat and covered a lot of water. He was witnessed by Jack Dunnam catching a very nice Bass. When Jack was describing the fish his hands were way apart. Sorry, no picture, but still a confirmed catch given the witness.

Pat Vanek snuck in with his kick boat and spent most of the evening with a bent rod. I did spot him with a Bass.



After wearing out the water near the picnic area, Billy worked around the lake to where Coach Menefee was set up catching fish off a floating dock. Fishing reports were exchanged and fly patterns were displayed before they resumed fishing.



With thunder starting to rumble in the distance, John Maddux, always looking for fishing advice, checked in with Coach.

Fishing continued as the thunder got closer. When the first bolts of lightning appeared in the distance it was interesting to see everybody leave the water with fly rods horizontal to the ground. No discussion or consultation was necessary, everybody independently realized it was time to go. We haven't gotten to be old fishermen by being stupid. The idea is to live to fish another day.

If only the fishing had been half as good for our Waco Fly Fishing 102 class last month.

Bob Hanley





**September 8-10, 2016
GRAPEVINE, TEXAS**

The Texas Council of the IFFF will host the third Texas Fly Fishing Expo beginning September 8, 2016 and ending September 10, 2016 at the Grapevine Recreation Center. For more information see - <http://txflyfishexpo.com>. If you enjoy fly fishing you will really enjoy the Expo and will leave inspired to hit the water as soon as possible.

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

MIDDLE BOSQUE RIVER

The weather forecast was wrong again and instead of widespread rain there were only isolated pockets of rain on radar, none of which was over the Middle Bosque watershed when I left the house. It was time to wet a line which is exactly what I did after stopping at the Crawford Store for an outstanding breakfast burrito.

My plan was to fish far downstream. As I worked my way under the bridge I heard some thunder so I began a process of checking the weather radar on my cell phone. It seemed that isolated rain storms were actually forming in the area. That got me to thinking of the graph on the USGS website that shows a rapid rise in Middle Bosque flow when a big storm hits the watershed. Wading way downstream covers a lot of that slick shelf rock and I didn't want to find myself hurrying back upstream in a rapidly rising flow so I stayed within a quarter of a mile or so of the bridge.

The flow was about 110 CFS and the water was just a little off color. The Perch were active, but it still seems like they are fewer in number than usual. They also seem to average a little smaller downstream, but are still prettier than they have to be. The one little Bass I hooked went nuts, throwing the hook when it was a solid foot out of the water. And, I found one really cool fossil. All in all a very nice Saturday morning with this section of the river all to myself.



HIGH WATER AT PORT ARANSAS

And the high water made for difficult fishing. And, after the first morning, high winds added to the degree of difficulty. I did take advantage of light winds that first morning to catch two Specs, one of which was a solid 15 inches, but not much more. I had to add a few store bought shrimp, but it made the main component of a seafood dinner for two.



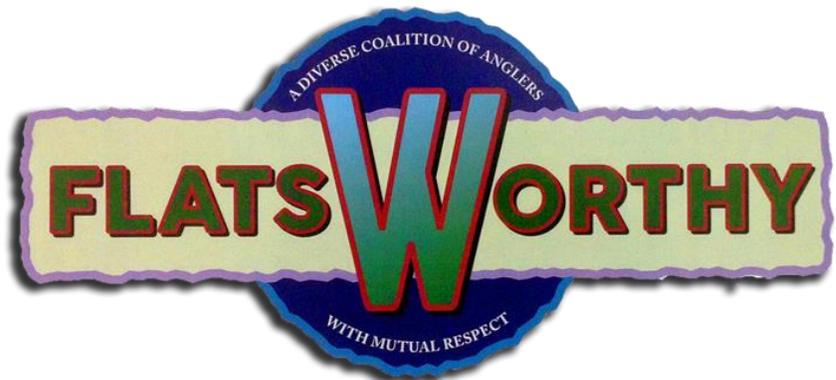
One morning I added a Pinfish that may have been smaller than fly. That was all. My only solace was that my fishing partner, James Jeffery did no better. James is probably the best fly fisherman I know, particularly in salt water so I figured it wasn't poor fishing on part, just a very high degree of difficulty. I attribute my meager success to dumb luck.

Still a good trip. It was nice to be on the island for the first time in over a year. Rather than battle the adverse conditions one afternoon, James and I checked out Roy's Bait and Tackle which had a fairly impressive fly fishing/fly tying department which included Loon's new UV line. If you remember, Matt Bennett uses this stuff so he doesn't have to wait for his flies to dry. I took the opportunity to get outfitted. I have only tied a fly or two with the UV stuff, but so far so good.

There was frustration dealing with ferry. Since we were staying on the island we had to take the ferry to fish the Lighthouse Lakes. Leaving the island early in the morning wasn't a problem, but returning later in the morning was awful. With only light traffic it still took an hour to get across the channel. Those who govern the ferries most have decided resting half the fleet or more had priority over people trying to get onto the island. James was frustrated enough to paraphrase Chief Joseph, "I will fight the ferry line no more forever."

FLATSWORTHY

Since it was only mid-morning and we were leaving the island, my wife and I braved the ferry and left through Rockport. That gave us an opportunity to shop a little before lunch at Charlotte Plummers. After



dropping Barbara at the quilt store I stopped at the Swan Point Landing Fly Shop. It's always pleasant to check in at the local fly shop. Swan Point has a nice selection of Chance Yarbrough's wildlife art in addition to salt water fly tackle and that new sinktip line I had to have.

While I was looking around, and the manager told me about a relatively new group in the area - FLATSWORTHY. Apparently fishing the coast has gotten a little "social", along the lines of the Middle Bosque during the White Bass run. You know, crowds with a handful of idiots combined with a few good folks that just don't know what they are doing and together manage to mess things up.

FLATSWORTHY is an effort to bring possible combatants together peacefully. The airboat guys have talked to the yakkers who have talked to the waders who have talked to guides, etc. They have found that they can get along and actually sort of like each other.

"The next best thing to having a flat to yourself is sharing it with kindred spirits; informed, aware anglers who all understand and respect the space and efforts of others." Change out the word "flat" to wherever you are fishing and FLATSWORTHY's basic guiding principle has universal application.

I'm not sure why things are getting more and more crowded on the coast. The number of fishing licenses continues to decline according to TPWD. Inland, loss of public access has concentrated fishers. For example the effective loss of land access to Hog Creek is certainly a factor in the heavy usage of the Middle Bosque during the White Bass run and good luck finding public access to the North Bosque in McLennan County.

FLATSWORTHY's basic message is worth sharing and putting into practice. For more information - <http://flatsworthy.com>.

Bob Hanley

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