



NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2016 Volume XXI: No. 9

www.wacoflyfishingclub.org

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

LOCATION:

Lake Waco Wetlands

PROGRAM:

Catching Fish at Latham Springs - About 4:00 p.m. until Sunset

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM - LATHAM SPRINGS

Let's get together beginning about 4:00 pm and catch some fish at Latham Springs. Most of our members know how good the fishing is at Latham Springs. For the few who have not made it to a Latham Springs outing and for our new members, this is your chance to catch those big Latham Springs Perch with a few Bass and even an occasional Crappie thrown in.

You can wade fish or bring a personal watercraft to cover water not reachable by wading. The Latham Springs Perch usually prefer a very slow presentation. Sometimes they will even take a fly that is just slowly sinking. Just to keep you guessing, every so often they seem to want a floating fly or popper. By the way, the Perch in the picture is only average for Latham Springs.



We are going to cook up a few dogs and links as the sun is setting so feel free to work up an appetite. We'll have some water and soft drinks on hand or you can bring your own. Just remember that alcoholic beverages are not allowed at Latham Springs.



Billy Whitehead and Coach Menefee discussing strategy at our last Latham Springs outing

OCTOBER PROGRAM - MARCUS RODRIGUEZ - THE DEVIL'S RIVER

Most of you have heard about the Devil's River and the outstanding fishing opportunities it offers. If so, you have also heard how hard it is to access the Devil's River necessitating a long overnight float. To avoid confrontation with landowners the float includes the joys of sleeping on rocks in the river channel and, well, you know what in bag.

Marcus Rodriguez has been guiding on the Devil's for many years and has recently put together Devil's River trips that allow you to fish all day and then enjoy the comforts of a lodge for the evening. Marcus has presented programs for us in the past and is always entertaining. The Devil's River is remote and pristine so you can bet that the slide show alone is worth the trip to the wetlands for our October meeting.

AUGUST PROGRAM - THE HISTORY OF FLY FISHING BY MIKE MORPHEW

What a fascinating program. Our August speaker, Mike Morphey, started off by showing us how to tie several traditional fly patterns like the Partridge & Orange and the March Brown.

The Partridge & Orange required a traditional wet fly wing made from the secondary feathers of a hen pheasant. If you have ever tried to attach this style wing you know it is tricky at best. You might have even considered it impossible. Well, Mike showed us how to pinch the tying thread, make a complete loop around the wing and the hook shank and then pull the thread up on the near side of the hook shank. This method properly creases the wing material to the hook without rotating it around the hook shank.

Mike also demonstrated the proper way to add dubbing to your tying thread. Basically, spread the dubbing along the index finger of your non-dominant hand, bring it to the tying thread and rotate the dubbing around in the thread in only one direction under a tight pinch between your index finger and thumb. It's hard to describe, but we can demonstrate this technique at our September tying night.

After about an hour of tying, Mike moved on to his talk about fly fishing history. Mike had several antique reels made of brass and wood. One was a tiny "Poacher's Reel." Back in the 1800's, fishing by the general public was frowned upon in England. "Poachers" dealt with this problem by miniaturizing fishing tackle so it could be easily hidden in pockets. The little poacher's reel that Mike showed us was about an inch in diameter.

Even today, fishing in England can be costly. There are something like two free public fishing locations in the country. The famous waters, like the River Test, cost hundreds of dollars a day to fish.

Mike also had a greenheart rod. Greenheart rods were made of cane and mahogany and were used in the 1800's. The one Mike brought was from the 1880's or 1890's. It was heavy and stiff so it is no surprise that somebody figured out how to make fly rods from split bamboo.

Fly Fishing controversy and debate started early. Englishman John Halford strongly opined that the only sporting way to fly fish was casting a dry fly, upstream to a rising fish. During the late 1800's, Halford published several fly fishing books and was so influential that a fan club formed known as the Halford School which held wet fly fishing in very low esteem. Fortunately others persevered and wet fly fishing developed.

If you ever visit England, Mike highly recommended the fly fishing museum in Manchester.

SPEAKING OF NEW IDEAS - LET'S TRY FLY TYING NIGHT - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

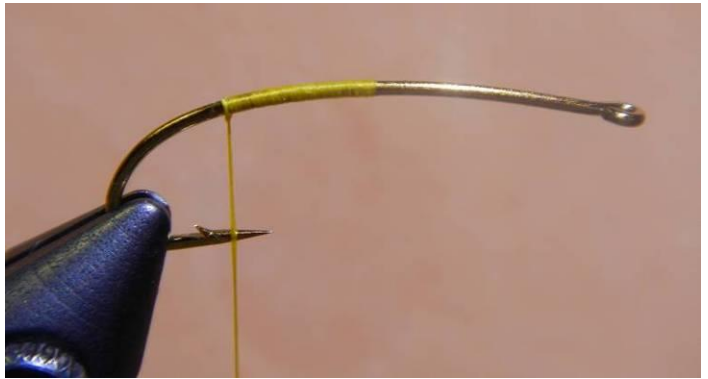
Our first fly tying night is set for Thursday, September 29, 2016 at my office located at 6011 Bosque Blvd (between Extraco Bank and the funeral home). We'll get started about 5:30 pm and tie until about 8:00 pm.

Like most everything we do this will be informal so feel free to come late or leave early. The lighting may not be strong enough for some of us, ahem, more experienced tyers, but electricity will be available so you can bring a lamp.

If you don't tie, but would like to get started let me know and we will have equipment and materials available so you can give fly tying a try. WARNING - Fly Tying is Addictive.

We hope this evolves into a monthly event and we are open to ideas to make Fly Tying Night better as time goes on. If there is enough interest, we might move to another location, have featured tyers, etc.

Bob Hanley



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

The TEXAS FLY FISHING EXPO is THIS weekend. You will not regret making the short drive to Grapevine. The EXPO offers everything related to our sport with an emphasis on doing it in Texas.

For more information see- <http://txflyfishexpo.com>.

WACO FLY FISHING 102 - SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

We are hosting a Waco Fly Fishing 102 Class on Saturday, September 24, 2016 starting at 9:00 am and running until about noon. The best way to learn fly fishing is to fly fish. After a talk and demonstration period that takes a little over thirty minutes we break into groups of two or three per club member/instructor/guide and go fishing. This way we can tailor instruction to individual needs. It is surprising how quickly most people pick it up and start catching fish. At this point they themselves are hooked.

If you know anyone who would like to try fly fishing this is a perfect opportunity. We can even supply fly tackle. Space is limited so encourage anybody interested in the class to register right away by contacting Bob Hanley at 776-5444 or nevilleandhanley@yahoo.com. There is a \$10.00 fee that is given to the venue.

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

I tried a Friday morning venture upstream from the 3047 Crossing. Things started with a pleasant surprise, a trash free parking area. I dug around and found a few plastic bottles, but it really did look good. Again, thanks to everyone who is helping to keep our access points picked up. It will make it harder for those who govern us to close them.



The night before I saw a big grasshopper on a gas pump in McGregor so I started off with a fairly large Llano Bug, a size 6 or so . The plan was to target the bigger Bass and a few really big Perch. As I waded upstream I caught a few here and there, but nothing much above average.

I was hopeful that the last pool before that tilted limestone slab would produce something bigger. I caught a few that were about average when I noticed the clear water wasn't so clear anymore. I considered several explanations. There is a cool water spring that feeds into this pool through the streambed. Maybe the spring had strengthened with recent rainfall and was stirring things up. Maybe an upstream ATV was in the channel sending a plume of dirtied water downstream. Then it occurred to me that the current felt a little stronger. A glance upstream confirmed that the water was rising.

Rain was in the forecast, but for the afternoon. The weather report had shown rain early that morning, but it looked to me like it was downstream of the Middle Bosque watershed. I was wrong. Flows were definitely coming up and the only explanation was rain somewhere. I started back to the Crossing. Fortunately the rise wasn't too bad and I got back without incident,

but I think I'll pay a little more attention in the future. When I got home, the USGS website discharge chart showed a vertical jump from about 30 CFS to slightly over 200 CFS.



The plan was to catch this one again, but sometimes it is smarter to make sure you live to fish another day.

Bob Hanley

CABELA'S FALL OUTDOOR DAYS

A special thanks to Dale Connally, Pat Vanek, Jim Moore and Billy Whitehead for helping to promote fly fishing and our club at Cabela's Fall Outdoor Days. And, of course a big thanks to Cabela's for having us. We picked up a few new members and had a great time talking up fly fishing.

Remember, Cabela's does have a selection of basic fly fishing gear. The more we buy, the more they are likely to stock. Reports are that their introductory fly rod and reel kits provide all you need to get started. Well you might want to pick up a few flies.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2016

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