



NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2016 Volume XXI: No. 11

www.wacoflyfishingclub.org

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, November 8, 2016

LOCATION:

Lake Waco Wetlands

PROGRAM:

Fly Tying and Tall Tales - Starting About 6:00 p.m.
and Continuing

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

What good luck, instead of enduring election night news coverage you can come to the Waco Wetlands, tie flies and talk fly fishing with others who might actually be interested in your fish stories. Also, it has been years since we have had a swap meet so if you have something to trade or sell, bring it to this meeting.

Thanks to our vice president, Pat Vanek, we have had some outstanding programs this year with topics ranging from Tenkara to White Bass to Durango to fly fishing history. The Devil's River Program last month might have set an attendance record for an October meeting. Having said that, every so often it's nice to just get together without an agenda and the November meeting is our chance.

We'll keep whatever "formal" business meeting we have short, but feel free to bring up any ideas you have to improve our club. Our basic goal is to promote fly fishing and all that goes with it, which is good for us and for the resource.

"Teach a person to fly fish and you have just created a Conservationist"

Lee Wulff

DECEMBER PROGRAM - THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

If you are like me, you don't like to start the Christmas Season too early. I try to wait until Thanksgiving is over before seeking the Christmas Spirit. Even so, Christmas will be here before you know it and some plans have to be put in place.

As always, our Christmas party will be on our regular meeting night, Tuesday, December 13, 2016. We will get started about 6:00 pm. The feedback from last year was all positive so we have reserved the Valley Mills Winery again this year. The winery is not open to the public on Tuesdays so we will have the entire facility to ourselves and it is the perfect size for our club.

As to personal planning, remember our gift exchange. Fly fishing gear is a bit hard to come by locally so you might want to give some thought to your gift now. We suggest gifts with a value of about \$30.00, but we don't count flies so feel free to tie a few or a bunch of your favorites as gift sweeteners.

There will be more Christmas Party details in the December newsletter.

OCTOBER PROGRAM - GUIDE MARCUS RODRIGUEZ - THE DEVIL'S RIVER

The good news, actually great news first - Marcus is now working out of Living Waters Fly Fishing and together they will provide a Devil's River fishing package. Most of us are familiar with Living Waters and know what a class act those folks are. Adding Marcus as a guide, a class act himself, can only make things better.

Marcus has been fishing the Devil's River from an early age. He has guided *Fly Fishing the World* host Conway Bowman on a televised float on the Devil's as well as Dave and Emily Whitlock. In addition to the Devil's, Marcus is probably the most experienced guide on the San Marcos River. Ask Pat Vanek who has fished the San Marcos with Marcus. Marcus - Marcos, maybe it's a name thing.

Typically, fishing the Devil's required a long overnight float due to extremely limited public access. The first night was spent on several large flat rocks in the riverbed. Picturesque, but not exactly comfortable.

The usual put-in was a place called Baker's Crossing. For a few miles downstream of the crossing the water is usually somewhat stained, but the fishing is good. Then there are miles of unproductive water that have to be covered before starting to fish again.

Marcus still likes the overnight float, but he and Living Waters will be offering an alternative beginning in the Spring of 2017. Instead of the long float you will be able to book a room with real beds, real meals, air conditioning, even Wi-Fi and, most importantly, real bathrooms. Fishing can be at the Lodge or by a short float of about two hours, followed by lunch back at the ranch house, a bit of a nap for you older club members and more fishing later in the day.

The Ranch hosting the Living Waters package is located close to some of the most productive water on the Devil's. Water that is not pressured because the overnight floater's generally have to push through this water to make it to the public take-out downstream before dark. As a rule they don't leave much time to fish this part of the river.

The Living Waters fishing package can take advantage of several activities to supplement the fishing, like swimming and hiking. There are thirteen caves and rock overhangs with walls covered with Indian pictographs that can be toured.

The Devil's River Fishing Package is still in development, the administration that is. Marcus could take you on a float tomorrow. But, information on the package will soon be available on the Living Waters website.

As an incentive to check the website, go to the Facebook link and find the trailer for Chris Johnson's film, *UNSPOKEN, A Pursuit of Rio Grande Cutthroat*, produced by Living Waters Fly Fishing. Another project that we are jumping the gun on or is it that our Club is on the cutting edge? Anyway, proceeds from airing this film will go towards Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout conservation. Details of this program will be published in future newsletters.

I'm happy to say that this program drew a good crowd, particularly for the Fall. Attendees were each given a poster for *UNSPOKEN* and got another chance at the attendance raffle.

Bob Hanley

OUR NEXT FLY TYING NIGHT - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016

It looks like tying night is catching on. At our October Fly Tying Night Pat Vanek demonstrated tying his version of Bob Clouser's Foxee Red Clouser. Bill Whitehead passed out Llanolopes that only needed haircuts which kept everybody busy for a while. Trimming all that deer hair takes a while

The next fly tying night will be the Thursday before Thanksgiving, November 17, 2016. The location is 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.



Keira Quam and Calvin Walter filling their fly boxes

We all have somewhat different interests under the broad umbrella of fly fishing. If anybody is really into fly tying and would like to ramrod our Fly Tying Night let a club officer know.

There is plenty of room to grow this event and possibly have our club take on other fly tying related activities.

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

Middle Bosque River at FM 3047

A cold front was forecast for early the next morning so I decided to fish the Middle Bosque on what I hoped would be the last ninety degree afternoon of 2016. A wise decision, the Perch were in a cooperative frame of mind. The Bass, at least the bigger ones, wherever they were, less so.

The water was extremely clear which made the fish extremely spooky. Relatively long casts were needed. I was using my Orvis Flea, a 6 1/2 foot four weight. This is a soft light rod I like on small streams. For a short little thing, the Flea casts a fairly long line with very little effort. I call it Flea flicking.

I started with a small store-bought popper near the bridge where the Perch tend to be on the small side. I caught a few and switched to a larger Llano Bug before moving upstream. There is a fairly shallow pool with a shelf rock bottom just upstream from the bridge. I usually just wade through this pool, but last time through I spooked a few decent Bass, the reason for the bigger fly. And a stealthy approach. The result was one of the biggest Perch I have caught on the Middle Bosque.

While I played this fish it really wanted to get under a large rock in the deepest part of the pool. As I was pulling the fish away from the rock it occurred to me that the fish must have come out from under that rock to attack the fly. It seemed like the fish had come from nowhere. In the future I think I'll spend a little more time casting to those big rocks whether I can see fish around them or not. I think the big ones monopolize these prime hiding areas and tend to stay hidden.



To me a Perch is a Perch is a Perch, but for some reason I decided to compare this fish to the identification drawings on the TPWD website. I'm pretty sure this a Green Sunfish. Even

though it is a solid eight inches, I can't submit it as a stream record because it has to be at least ten inches. Still a good fish and heavy. It has obviously been eating well.

Other Perch remained cooperative as I worked upstream. When I saw a Small Bass here and there I made my retrieve very aggressive and they couldn't resist, most of them anyway.

Mother Nature added a nice extra touch - many butterflies of all kinds. I think Monarchs were migrating through the area. It was one of those days when you can feel the change of season on the horizon, a contented, but nostalgic feeling.



The next morning that contented feeling left over from my stroll up the Middle Bosque lingered, but things almost changed dramatically for the worse due to my laziness after the fishing trip.

My old Blazer, the one with the fly rod rack on the roof, is currently on the disabled list so I drove to the FM 3047 Crossing in my Equinox. When I returned to the Equinox I did not break down the Flea. Instead I just laid it over the back seat. The next morning I drove into Valley Mills to pick up some breakfast and lowered my windows to air things out a little.. Not thinking, I rolled the windows up when I got back to the house catching the very tip of the Flea between the window and the housing. At first I thought I had broken one of my favorite fly rods. I am pretty sure the 25 year Orvis guarantee has expired and they don't make Fleas anymore. I've been using the Flea that long. When I rescued the Flea it appeared to be intact. It looks like I'll be able to continue Flea Flicking. I just hope there isn't hidden damage that will cause a break on my next big fish.

Remember what your Father taught you - Take care of your equipment before you do anything else.

Bob Hanley

CLUB BUSINESS

Our new smaller club logo stickers have arrived. The new size is perfect for smaller applications like fly boxes and smaller items.

Small stickers and the larger original size stickers will be available for sale at the November meeting. The cost is \$3.00 for either size which is just a few pennies over our cost.

This is a correction to the \$2.50 cost for the larger size sticker that was published in the October newsletter. That was a mistake, the correct cost for the larger is also \$3.00, which is also just a few pennies over cost.

We also have a few logo caps available for \$15.00, again pennies over cost.

There are many people in the our area who have an interest in fly fishing but do not know the Waco Fly Fishing Club exists. Wear a logo cap while fishing locally and display a sticker or two to help promote our club.



WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE

The Texas Council of the IFFF (International Federation of Fly Fishers) website does an excellent job of listing upcoming activities and events in Texas and elsewhere. About a year ago I stopped trying to keep up in our newsletter and referred anybody having a need to take a road trip to a fly fishing event to check the IFFF website. Of course, I have continued to talk-up select events including what our club are doing.

There are two activities that I wanted to spotlight. The first is the GRTU (Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited) lease program. This program stocks large Trout into the Guadalupe River and provides multiple access points so you can go catch them. The cost for the entire "Trout Season" is about a \$130.00 which is less than a one person share of a guided float. Not that there is anything wrong with hiring a guide. A guide will show you where the fish are and help you learn the techniques you need to catch them. No guarantees, it's fishing after all, but if fish can be caught that day, your guide will put you on them. Think of the cost as tuition.

I have floated the Guadalupe with Chris Johnson of Living Waters Fly Fishing twice so far and ended both days a better fly fisherman. And I have been Trout fishing for decades. For details check out the Living Waters' website which also lists other events hosted by Living Waters.

The second GRTU event I wanted to bring to your attention is the Third Annual GRTU Trout Camp. Trout Camp is scheduled for the weekend of January 14-15, 2017 at Rio Raft (or whatever the name is now) in Satler. The camp is for ages 12 thru 17 and tuition is \$150.00. Dakus Geeslin is running this event. Most of your will remember Dakus, he has presented several programs at our meetings. He is the laid back kind of guy that you want hosting a Trout camp for youths. I wish there had been something like GRTU Trout camp when I was a kid.