



NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2016 Volume XXI: No. 12
www.wacoflyfishingclub.org

NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, December 13, 2016

LOCATION:
Valley Mills Vineyard Winery

DECEMBER PROGRAM:

**CHRISTMAS CHEER AND
WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT
EXCHANGE**

It's that time of year again. Our Christmas Party is Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at the Valley Mills Vineyard Winery located at 8532 N. State Hwy. 6. As you drive out of Waco towards the town of Valley Mills on Hwy. 6, the VMV Winery is on your right, about a quarter of a mile past the intersection of Hwy. 6 and Hwy 185. That is the intersection where most of you turn right on the way to the Waco Wetlands.

Last year everybody agreed that the VMV Winery provided an ideal setting for our Christmas Party. The size is right for our club and the winery is closed on Tuesdays, perfect for a private party.

This year Pat Vanek has volunteered to cook up fajita's with all the trimmings. Iced tea will also be provided by the club. If you wish to drink wine, licensing requires that you purchase it from the winery. Special arrangements have been made if you wish to have an adult beverage other than wine. Contact me for the details. (Bob Hanley - nevilleandhanley@yahoo.com or 776-5444).

Last year most of us drank VMV wines and, as a result we were not charged a facility fee. If you want to check out the VMV wines before the day of the Christmas Party, they are open Thursday

& Friday 2:00-8:00pm, Saturday 12:00-11:00pm, and Sunday 12:00-5:00pm. If you do a tasting, remember to mention you are part of our club.

One of the highlights of the Christmas Party is a White Elephant Gift Exchange. To participate in the gift exchange, bring a fly fishing oriented gift with a value of about \$30.00. The gift exchange is that rare opportunity to receive a gift picked by another fly fisher. If you tie, feel free to "salt" your gift with a few favorite patterns. Be sure and wrap your gift so that it cannot be identified prior to its first selection. Secrecy is important in a White Elephant Gift Exchange.

Of course, what would our Christmas party be without the raffle? Tickets are \$5.00 each and five for \$20.00. We'll have some great prizes starting with a sweet little 2 wt. fly rod.

FLY TYING NIGHTS - THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2017 AND FEBRUARY 23, 2017

Fly tying night is here to stay and will be even better in 2017 because we are now meeting at Uncle Dan's BBQ. About the only thing better than fly tying while enjoying Dan's BBQ is actually putting a fly in front of a fish. If you Trout fish you will probably have some big gaps in your fly boxes by January so join your fellow club members at Dan's and replenish those tiny little Trout patterns. Tying night is also a great opportunity to stock up for the White Bass run.



If you don't tie and would like to learn there is no better way than to join us.

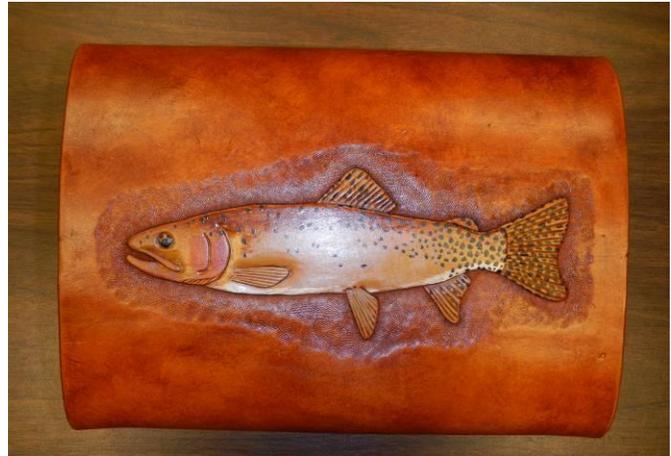
SOME HAVE "LAID ASIDE BUSINESS AND GONE A'FISHING"

Living Waters Fly Fishing and Brushy Creek

There is something just wrong about toll roads in Texas. Those who govern us seem to think we are too stupid to realize that tolls are just taxes. We pay plenty of taxes without adding tolls to the mix. I have been known to complain about tolls. To maintain domestic tranquility my wife set up our toll tag and actually pays the bill. I never even see it.

This system allows me to forget about taxation when I take the Tollway around Austin to avoid the usual traffic catastrophe on I-35. Unfortunately there is a major drawback to avoiding the

interstate. Going to the Living Waters Fly Shop is no longer a quick side trip while traveling through Round Rock. As a result I had not been to the visit in a while, a situation I fixed in mid-November. I wanted to drop off a journal I made as a donation to Chris's fund raising efforts on behalf of Rio Grande Cutthroat conservation. I'm not as devoted to Rios as Chris, nobody is, but I really like those innocent little fish and wanted to help. Chris has already been in contact with the right people in Colorado and a tentative project has been selected. All of the details should be released in the near future.



After some pleasant conversation with Emily and Chris I did some shopping for needed fly tying materials and left to fish Brushy Creek at Memorial Park in Round Rock. I caught a bunch of Perch and one little Bass. Nothing big or fancy, just a relaxed way to spend an hour or two.

I think the impoundment at Memorial Park has been filled in some by heavy water flows produced by big rainstorms over the past few years. It seems more shallow now which means fewer fish. I also did not see any Rio Grande Cichlids, another favorite of mine. Fortunately there are many public access points on Brushy Creek and fishing advice readily available at Living Waters. There is also the San Gabriel River just to the North in Georgetown. It's just a matter of staying off the Tollway and braving a little traffic. Something for 2017.

Bob Hanley

Guadalupe River

Unfortunately, no Guadalupe trip report yet. That is because Trout stocking has been delayed due to warm water conditions. That same warm water has probably put a major hurt on any



holdovers from last season. The result is that the Texas Trout season has been delayed, at least at the Guadalupe River. GRTU should stock soon, certainly by 2017.

As far as I know Texas Parks and Wildlife is sticking with their published schedule, but when it comes to Trout Fishing on the Guad, the reason to make the trip is to target those big GRTU Trout.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Speaking of 2017 - Why not plan to make a few New Year's Resolutions?

FISH MORE - Have you ever looked back on a year and thought, "I got in enough fishing?"

MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE NEWSLETTER - The newsletter is one way of communicating with your fellow club members. If you have a particularly enjoyable fishing trip tell us about it. In fact, even an ordinary fishing trip (if there is such a thing as an ordinary fishing trip) will have something to talk about. I learn or re-learn something on every trip and try to pass on the lesson(s) in my trip reports.

As an added benefit you will have a detailed record of your trip. I frequently look to back newsletters for information pertinent to club business and have learned to allocate extra time because I always find myself reading one of my old trip reports.

ATTEND MORE CLUB EVENTS - I know, sometimes it's hard to break away from the couch to make a club meeting or other event. But, have you ever been disappointed when you do? Our programs are fun and informative. Tying night is a new opportunity that offers a great opportunity tie and learn new techniques. The company isn't too bad either.

YOUR IDEAS TO IMPROVE OUR CLUB - If you have some ideas to make our club better let us know. Fly Tying Night is a great example. Pat Vanek thought we should give it try and we have. Pat has taken the lead by demonstrating a few of his proven warm water patterns and handing out materials so others can tie along as he demonstrates. Ray Emerson has made things even better by setting up Uncle Dan's BBQ as our new location.

RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS - We have experienced some growth in membership over the past few years, but the more the merrier.

In Todd Nafe's Outdoor Column in the last Sunday Waco Tribune, Todd noted the steep decline in traditional outdoor sports including fishing, noting that "the average age of participants is high, meaning younger generations are either not being introduced or aren't interested." Our club is one way we can



help change that. It's also rewarding to help somebody learn to fly fish, just ask one of our Waco Fly Fishing 102 Instructors. We will hold at least one class this spring and you can help.

We can also teach the basics of fly casting at our meetings. We did that a few times in the past and called it Waco Fly Fishing 101. Of course it doesn't have to be anything that formal. If we know somebody would like a casting lesson before one of our meetings all we have to do is have some tackle available and a few of us can teach the basics in a surprisingly short time. When it comes to fly fishing all we really need to do is convince people that it just isn't that hard.

GET YOUR DUES PAID - It's that time. Help us fund our programs, events and this newsletter by paying your dues. Our club is very frugal, but many of our speakers are in the fly fishing business, are hours away and have to be paid for their services. There are also expenses associated with our outings and IFFF affiliation.

There will be a dues incentive raffle again this year. The officers just haven't worked out the details yet. If you pay your dues now you will be in the raffle and you can get additional raffle chances for every new member you recruit.

LOSS WEIGHT, EAT BETTER, ALL THOSE USUAL RESOLUTIONS - Yeah, right.

WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE 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.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2016

President & Newsletter
Vice President
IFFF Liaison
Treasurer
Education
Webmasters
Social Media
At Large

Bob Hanley 776-5444, nevilleandhanley@yahoo.com
Pat Vanek
John Maddux 666-9009
David Beyer
Bill "Coach" Menefee
Loren Decker, Dale Connally
Kris Kahler
Billy Whitehead



*Waco Fly Fishing Club
2017 Membership Application*

Dues: Individual \$ 24.00
 Family \$ 36.00
 Student \$ 16.00

Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Address (Street or P.O. Box and City/Zip Code):

Telephone: Home _____

Cell _____

Work _____

E-mail address: _____

How do you prefer your club newsletter to be delivered? Mail Email Mail and Email

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 767