



**NEWSLETTER**  
*January 2017 Volume XXII: No. 1*  
[www.wacoflyfishingclub.org](http://www.wacoflyfishingclub.org)

**NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

**LOCATION:**

Lake Waco Wetlands

**JANUARY PROGRAM:**

We'll provide program details in a meeting notice later this week. As always fly tying and tall tale telling will begin about 6:00 pm.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY:**

What a great Christmas Party!! The growth in membership showed - we had one of the largest crowds ever. I hope everybody enjoyed the party as much as I did.

A special THANKS to Pat and Sharon Vanek for cooking an outstanding fajita dinner. Others, like Dee Whitehead and Kira Quam contributed dips, deserts and such. Maybe the most significant contribution was the deer that gave its life for Loren Decker's venison sausage. Things got pretty busy so I didn't see everybody that pitched in, but everything was tasty and greatly appreciated. All in all, an outstanding spread.

Nobody was injured in the gift exchange although several gifts were stolen often enough to be frozen. John Maddux (who has stepped up to serve as Treasurer for 2017) won a fly rod in the raffle and the attendance prize. Karma.

We may have to change the club name to the "Waco Fly Fishing and Wine Appreciation Club" because we combined to down so much wine that the VMV winery again waived a facility

charge. If you want to show your appreciation to the Valley Mills Winery, they are open Thursday & Friday 2:00-8:00 pm, Saturday 12:00-11:00 pm, and Sunday 12:00-5:00 pm. I know from personal experience that VMV wines go well with grilled Redfish, Speck and Striper.

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

Remember, fly tying night is now at Uncle Dan's BBQ so you can tie on a full stomach. We'll get started about 5:30 pm.

Do you have enough flies tied for the White Bass run? Whites will be running soon.

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

### **SPEAKING OF TYING FLIES**

Fifty years ago Christmas Day I tied my first fly using my brand new Herter's Fly Tying Kit. That fly wasn't much, just some chenille and hackle, but it was the start.

To celebrate my tying anniversary I tied a few Christmas morning. I needed some mink zonkers so that is what I tied. Mink has a very effective breathing action in the water. The pattern is also easy to tie. You tie the zonker strip at the bend and wrap the body. This one is olive and was tragically lost at the Guad. without ever hooking a fish.



Bob Hanley |

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

#### **Guadalupe River**

The water was ripping at 400 CFS and what is normally like walking down a wet sidewalk was a bit challenging, but I finally got to the holding water. Of course, with the high flows the Trout were likely spread out and in different places.

Anyway, it was time to find out so I sat down to rig for some dead drifting only to discover I still had a sink-tip reel on from the night before. The reel with my floating line was back at the car and I wasn't in the mood to go back. That turned out to be a good thing because I caught more than a half dozen in about two hours of casting and retrieving a woolly bugger. Nothing that big to net, but every fish put up quite a fight. My arm would actually start to burn before I could get the fish into the net. I plan to fish more in 2017 to improve my fish fighting stamina.

I did manage to re-learn an old lesson on that morning. After an hour or so I lost my fly and decided to add some tippet before tying on the replacement. I was using 3X and tying about a foot at the end of my leader. I put a split shot above the knot which kept the shot from sliding down to the fly. When I retied, I added too much tippet making my overall leader longer than my fly rod. I got lazy and left it that way.

You probably guessed that I then managed to hook a big fish. I didn't want to risk pulling my line/leader loop connection through the top guide. I was afraid the connection would get caught in the guide either allowing the fish to break off or, worse yet, break my fly rod. That big fish was definitely ready for the net, but while I was at full extension, wishing my right arm was just a little longer, the hook slipped out.

It was the week before Christmas and the Guad was getting a lot of pressure. It seemed like a decent number of college kids were out - a good thing. I think the pressure hurt the fishing some as the day wore on. I only caught two that afternoon.



About average for the Trout that made it to the net.

I only had about an hour to fish the next morning so I decided to fish the same way in the same places. After snagging and losing a few flies I realized that the flow was down. Later research confirmed a reduction to 300 CFS. The fish did not seem as cooperative, but I did manage one blow-up and one lost at the net. When I changed to a white mink zonker I did get one to the net and lost the fly about two casts later. I had continued to snag all morning and it didn't occur to me until the drive home that I needed to go with a smaller split shot.



Last Rainbow of the morning on a mink zonker.

Rather than re-rig I left. It had been a decent hour of fishing, that was my last white mink zonker and it was time to head for home.

### **ANNIVERSARY AT THE GUAD**

That first trip to the Guad was to take the edge off before a wedding anniversary trip the Gruene between Christmas and New Years. An anniversary in Gruene only allows for limited fishing opportunities, not a good first trip of the year.

On the first morning I confidently fished the same way in the same places as I had the week before and netted only two small Trout in a little over an hour. And, those were the only strikes I had.

Not really a problem, I had proved the week before that I was an able angler on Trout and even gave some thought to challenging Dale Connally for the Trout Whisperer title. I would just change technique and catch them on nymphs. After two more trips to the river my count remained two small Trout. I tried multiple fly patterns, including a gummy worm thing

recommended at Action Angler. I adjusted weight and depth. I moved around to fish fresh water. The only strike I know I had was to the strike indicator.

Somewhere during all of that frustrating fishing I remembered that my success the week before had more to do with not having a floating line that first morning than any angling skill I might have. Hubris has been replaced with humility, even self doubt.

By the way, Dale Connally and Pat Vanek had fished the Guad the day before I got there and did well. Maybe it's the classic comment I always get about how good the fishing was the day before I got there and how good it's sure to be the day after I leave.

Bob Hanley



My fishing buddy was also skunked

## **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.

Our local fly shop, Living Waters in Round Rock, hosts multiple events every month. While you are online, check out their website for "Events." Living Waters is also on that Facebook thing.

## **DUES ARE DUE - INCENTIVES TO PAY AND RECRUIT**

We are on a calendar year so dues are due for 2017. As an incentive to get your dues paid, all paid members as of the March meeting will have one chance in a prize drawing. You will automatically be in the drawing if your dues are received at or before the March meeting.

We grew some in 2016, but some more new members would be nice. Please recruit somebody. With more members we can do more things. If you recruit new members, you will receive another chance in the raffle for each recruit who is paid up by the time of the drawing. A new member is anyone who was not a paid member in 2016. It is the responsibility of the recruiter to confirm his or her new members with our Treasurer.

The lead prize is a fly rod selected by Billy Whitehead. We'll also have several other prizes like club logo caps, flies, tying materials, etc. The way the drawing will work is that the first name drawn will have his/her pick of the available prizes. Second name will have a pick from what is left, and so on until all prizes are gone.

### **COACH BILL MENEFEE**

It was a pleasant surprise when I saw John Maddux drive up with Coach Menefee at our May, 2016 club outing at Latham Springs. Everybody there had a chance to say hello to Coach. For most of us it was the last time.

Several years ago I had the opportunity to demonstrate fly tying with Coach at an outdoors event hosted by Legacy Outdoors. Inspirational is not too strong a word to use to describe Coach's patient and effective teaching abilities.

He will be missed.

Bob Hanley





### **CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2017**

**President & Newsletter**  
**Vice President**  
**Treasurer & IFFF Liaison**

**Bob Hanley 776-5444, [nevilleandhanley@yahoo.com](mailto:nevilleandhanley@yahoo.com)**  
**Pat Vanek**  
**John Maddux 666-9009**

**Education**  
**Webmasters**  
**Social Media**  
**At Large**

**COACH BILL 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 76714