



NEWSLETTER
February 2017 Volume XXII: No. 2
www.wacoflyfishingclub.org

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

LOCATION:

Lake Waco Wetlands

PROGRAM:

Fly Tying and Tall Tales

About 6:00 p.m.

Pat Vanek - It's White Bass Time Again

About 7:00 p.m.

**FEBRUARY PROGRAM - PAT VANEK -
IT'S WHITE BASS TIME AGAIN**

Our very own Pat Vanek has become the go-to-guy for White Bass Programs in the State of Texas. In fact, Pat is traveling to Austin the day after our meeting to give his program to the Austin Fly Fishing Club. Pat knows when to start looking for White Bass (now), where to look, what to look for, and, most importantly what to do when you do find them. With all the warm weather we have been having, the timing for this program is perfect. White Bass might start running any day now.

In the Spring of 2013, Pat put Coach Meneffe and John Maddux (behind the camera) on a bunch of Whites with at least one Crappie on the North Bosque



JANUARY PROGRAM:

TPWD Biologist, John Tibbs, brought us up to date on our local fisheries. One highlight was the health of fish populations in Lake Waco. I was one of those who had worried that stocking Hybrids in Lake Waco would have a negative impact on the populations of other species. That does not seem to have happened, at least given favorable habitat conditions over the past few years. White Bass, Crappie, etc. are all doing fine. I am now a fan of stocking Hybrids. Of course having Pat Vanek put me on a nice North Bosque Hybrid last Spring may be a major factor behind my support for Hybrid stocking.

One reason local fish populations have been so healthy is the absence of golden algae particularly in the Brazos River drainage. Golden algae favor saline conditions which the Brazos River frequently provides. Good rains since 2010 have dramatically reduced salinity, golden algae is hard to find and fish are thriving. Lake Whitney is loaded with Stripers and is in overall better condition than it has been for decades.

John reported on the recent discovery of zebra mussels in Lake Waco. Fortunately the infestation was caught early. All visible mussels were physically removed and the infected area was covered by tarps for weeks. It was obviously a significant effort, but the result is that there is currently no evidence of zebra mussels in the lake.

By the way, state law now requires that all boats, including personal watercraft, kayaks and canoes, operating on public fresh water anywhere in Texas be completely drained after use. That means drain everything that might hold water, like bilges, live wells and motors. There are also regulations covering live bait and fishing tournaments. Details are provided in your TPWD *Outdoor Annual* of hunting and fishing regulations.

There are those who think the spread of zebra mussels, like most invasive species, is inevitable. Even if that is so, any ethical outdoor enthusiast does not want to be the one that causes the spread. In addition, there is ongoing research to find ways to control zebra mussels. Delaying the spread might give the researchers enough time to develop an effective control.

On the subject of law enforcement, Game Warden, Matthew Kiel was on hand to give us some pointers on how to help Lone Star Law. The bottom line is to speak up. Game Wardens can't be everywhere and need our help to protect the resource. Sometimes a seemingly minor tip leads to the discovery of a significant game law violation.

If you do find yourself making a report, obtain as much detail as you can. Obviously license plate or TX numbers can help the wardens locate violators. Physical features of individuals and distinguishing marks also help.

Our local wardens are available 24/7 on their cell phones. Have this contact information with you when you are afield.

Good news on the law enforcement front is an emphasis on citing litterers. Litter is always an issue when those who govern us are looking for excuses to limit public access.

Finally, spread the word that following safety regulations is the best way to avoid a citation. Or, better put, not having a personal floatation device - life jacket - is the best way to receive a citation which is better than drowning, but still a costly hassle. Take a minute to make sure you are in compliance with all safety regs. For example, to operate a kayak after sunset you need to have a visible 360 degree light in addition to a life jacket and safety whistle. Also, don't forget to drain any water your kayak may have picked up before and after launching - that zebra mussel thing.

A special thanks to John Tibbs and Matthew Kiel for excellent presentations.

Game Warden Contact Information:

Matthew Kiel
254-715-6544
matt.kiel@tpwd.texas.gov

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Dale Connally has supported the Baylor University Texas Outdoor Leadership Conference for years now and members of our club have been there with him to lend a hand. Kenley Crowe was smart enough to take a few pictures of the action at the last Conference on February 4, 2017.

This year fly tying was taught by Billy Whitehead, Cal Deal, Lloyd Fason and Eddie Morrison.



Others, Pat Vanek, Kenley Crowe, Bob Hanley, Billy Whitehead (he covered a lot of ground) and Dale Connally braved the Spring-like conditions to teach fly casting basics.



FLY TYING NIGHT - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2017

Remember, fly tying night is now at Uncle Dan's BBQ so you can tie on a full stomach. The tying crowd continues to grow, but there is plenty of room and plenty of BBQ. 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.

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

WHITE BASS

Rumor has it that Johnny Elkins is already out there prospecting and catching White Bass and a few Crappie on the Navasota River. The catch has been male fish, but with the warm weather the bigger female fish can't be far behind.

John Maddux scouts the Middle Bosque from the golf course on a weekly basis. So far he hasn't sighted any whites, but if the warm weather holds that could change soon.

WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE

For information concerning fly fishing events in and near Texas, consult the Texas Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF) website. texasCounciliff.com

Troutfest starts with a banquet on Friday, February 17, 2017 at the Lazy L&L Campground near Satler, Texas. If you don't have tickets to the banquet, it's too late, the banquet is sold out, but the exposition is free and worth the drive. Some big names in the fly fishing industry will have booths set up and other big names in fly fishing will present programs and demonstrate fly tying. Pat Vanek will be tying Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Proceeds from Troutfest support the Guadalupe Chapter of Trout Unlimited - a good cause. www.grtu.org.

A new event is the Texas Fly Fishing & Brew Festival scheduled for the Plano Centre on March 11-12, 2017. The Festival is sponsored by TFO and offering well known speakers like Bob Clouser, Lefty Kreh and Frank Smethurst to name only a few. www.txflyfishingfestival.org.

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. No surprise, the lead prize is a fly rod selected by Billy Whitehead. You will automatically be in the drawing if your dues are received at or before the March meeting.

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, John Maddux.

By the way, we never purged our membership list last year, but will do so this Spring. Interests change over time and we have a number of people on our membership list who have not paid dues for several years. The assumption is these folks have moved on or maybe just took a break from the club and will be purged from the list. Of course, former members are always welcome back.

OFFICERS FOR 2017

President & Newsletter	Bob Hanley 776-5444, nevilleandhanley@yahoo.com
Vice President	Pat Vanek
Treasurer & IFFF Liaison	John Maddux 666-9009
Webmasters	Loren Decker, Dale Connally
Social Media	Kris Kahler
At Large	Billy Whitehead, Robert Cervenka



*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