



**NEWSLETTER**  
**April 2017 Volume XXII: No. 4**

[www.wacoflyfishingclub.org](http://www.wacoflyfishingclub.org)

**NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

**LOCATION:**

Latham Springs Retreat

**PROGRAM:**

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

**APRIL 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.



## **MARCH PROGRAM - CHRIS JOHNSON - LIVING WATERS FLY FISHING**

Chris Johnson of Living Waters Fly Fishing in Round Rock, Texas showed us how it's done. First he tied a yet to be named fly that should be irresistible to Bass. This thing had it all, a detached tail that will move around in the slightest current, soft spey hackle and floating rubber legs.

When it came time to cast we went outside to watch an awesome demonstration. Everybody picked up something that will improve their cast and help us teach beginners. You really had to be there to benefit. One pointer that might help your teaching, specifically the tendency to drop the rod on the back cast, is to have the newcomer imagine he or she is standing in front of a wall that will break the rod if they let their back cast go too far.

The incentive raffle was won by one of our new members, Greg Fryer. We are planning a Latham Springs outing for May. Hopefully Greg will bring his new three weight so we can all see it in action.

## **FLY TYING NIGHT - THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017**

By now, everybody should know how we do Fly Tying Night. We start about 5:30 pm and leave when we get tired of tying or Uncle Dan's BBQ is about close. Being a fly tyer is not required. Everybody is invited.

## **SPEAKING OF FLY TYING**

While on the subject of fly tying I thought an Outhouse refresher is in order. There is a chance that some of our newer members do not even know that The Outhouse carries fly fishing and fly tying materials.

Due to aggressive White Bass and a few sloppy casts I recently felt the need to replenish my supply of Clouser's. There was a time when I generally used bead eye Clouser's, but recently I have been going with lead eyes. You know how your fly fishing theories evolve (or devolve) over time. Anyway, my current thinking is that it is hard to get too deep for White Bass.

Mostly I have been using a relatively small stainless streamer hook, a size 8 TMC 9394 and 5/32 Presentation Lead Eyes. When I went to tie a few more of those smallish Clouser's I discovered a distinct hook and lead eye shortage. It didn't take long to run out. I was even getting low on silver Flashabou.

Checking online sources was not much help because no single source carried everything I needed. Fortunately when I was on the way to Waco for our March Fly Tying Night I just happened to remember The Outhouse. I had definitely gotten out of the habit of going there. The last newsletter I put on the Outhouse bulletin board was 2015.

If your plan is to tie Trout flies, The Outhouse will not have much of what you need. For Clouser's it is the mother lode. I got the lead eyes and Flashabou. They didn't have the exact hook I preferred, but I did find a bronze substitute which will be fine for freshwater.

### **WACO FLY FISHING 102 - SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2017**

It is time to teach fly fishing again. At Waco Fly Fishing 102 we do a little talking, then a little showing and then a lot of fishing. I believe the best way to get somebody involved in fly fishing is to go fly fishing. Having the chance to actually catch a fish or two beats casting to grass burrs. I know I get bored very quickly when fly casting on a lawn. Last year more than a dozen attendees at our classes learned enough about fly fishing to catch their first fish on the fly and usually a few after that.

The class is intended for people with little or no experience with fly fishing and will be limited to roughly twelve students. There is a \$10.00 fee to cover location costs (a private lake). Registration is "first come, first served." We start about 9:00 am and tear ourselves off the water around lunchtime. If you know anybody who might be interested have them contact me as soon as possible. If there is enough interest we will schedule another class.

Bob Hanley

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

#### **MIDDLE BOSQUE**

Along with hundreds of other anglers, I plied the clear waters of the Middle Bosque for White Bass a few times in March.

The Barrett Road parking area has been surprisingly free of trash. I picked up a few pieces of litter here and there, but nowhere near a bag full. Rumor has it that a few littering tickets have been issued which seems to have gotten the attention of the crowd. Thanks to the police. Also, more and more of us are making it a habit to pick up litter at public access points. Thanks to policers. Remember, the first thing we hear from those who wish to close public access is the mess left behind by the crowd.

The run this year started early and never seemed to reach a peak at the Middle Bosque. By peak I mean catching a White on nearly every cast for about as long as you want to fish. There were moments of that kind of fishing but things would slow down all too soon. I still caught plenty of fish to make me happy, usually losing count right



away.

Of course most of my fish were on Clousers, but I did a little experimenting hoping that a change in fly would get the fish back to that hitting every cast thing. I didn't trigger too many returns to hot fishing, but I caught a fair number of fish on a small version of Redfish crack.

One Sunday morning I had a unique experience. I basically overslept and got up to that glory hole by the golf course way too late. Some guy had his kayak anchored right on top of the pool and several others were chunking weighted things with hooks at him. I continued upstream.

As I was approaching the upper bluffs I noticed heavy surface activity. There was a nice hatch of small light blue mayflies and fish were feeding heavily. I had been noticing this hatch all season. It was fun to watch Perch holding high in the water column sipping bugs. I wondered if the Perch were pretending to be Brown Trout. I would be thinking about changing to a dry fly when a White Bass would rudely interrupt my thought process. The Whites had been just rude enough to keep me from trying dries on those Perch.

On that Sunday morning the water was plenty clear and I hadn't seen many Whites on my way upstream so I beached my yak and rigged for dry flies. Not having planned to match a mayfly hatch I didn't have the proper flies with me so I tied on the smallest buggy looking fly I had, a Llano bug. It was much bigger than the mayflies and the wrong color, but the fish weren't really Trout, they were just ordinary Perch - right?

Well, much to my surprise the Perch wouldn't touch the Llano bug or the stimulator I tried next. The fish were completely committed to the small mayflies. They even did that Brown Trout thing where one would rise to my fly and then take a real mayfly an inch or two to the side. Others would give the fly a look and turn away. I wasn't overly disappointed. I was actually enjoying Perch acting like super sophisticated Trout, for a little while anyway. As fun as it was watching feeding fish not take my fly it didn't take too long for me to start pondering on how to actually catch one.

As I was thinking about abandoning efforts to match the hatch I noticed that the more aggressive surface takes were actually Bass. As I was getting my mind around Bass eating small mayflies I thought I saw a White Bass hit the surface. After a minute more I was sure that White Bass were hitting mayflies on the surface.

The Whites had to have been rejecting my "match the hatch" efforts just like Perch so I



found a small silver popper in my Perch box and decided to try a collateral attack. I quickly learned that the Perch were far too sophisticated to eat anything other than mayflies, but not the Whites. I caught three or four in quick succession along with one Bass before the hatch petered out in just a few minutes. When the mayflies were gone all of the fish vanished.

### ADDENDUM

Do you remember our program last year on the history of fly fishing presented by Mike Morphew? Well, after watching White Bass eating mayflies that morning I started channeling our old English predecessors in fly fishing and decided that the only truly sporting way to catch White Bass was on a dry fly cast upstream. One morning, after crudely catching a decent number of Whites on Clousers, I paddled upstream in search of mayflies and rising fish. When I found an active stretch of the river I deployed a four weight armed with a size 18 or so Adams. I confess, I cheated, casting downstream. But, I hooked and landed two Whites before the hatch ended and the fish went elsewhere.



Bob Hanley

### **18.5 MILES ON THE N. BOSQUE - OPEN INVITATION FROM KENLEY CROWE**

Bring your kayak, canoe, or whatever you paddle to camp, fish/fly fish, swim, sit around the campfire, and test yourself against what can be a rough stretch of river. The plan is to head out any time after 4pm **Friday April 14th** (Good Friday) at Hwy 56 near Valley Mills (31.668914,-97.469638) Go down about 2 miles or so, camp for the night and hit the water at about 8am and head to Baylor Camp Road(31.616049,-97.307794). I plan to have a gravel bar campsite picked out by 4:30 and all are welcome to my fire or find your own spot to enjoy the night. I'm bringing wood, and plan to have a cook fire for breakfast that everyone is welcome to use. So you can put in and paddle till you find the group all evening Friday or even Saturday morning before 8am if you can't make Friday. Depending on the height/flows there can be long stretches of very shallow water that needs pulling through, roaring white water, a 2 ft waterfall, log jams and miles and miles of flat water in between. Add the Texas weather and who knows what could happen. Paddle at your own risk. My 2 biggest tips are pack as **LIGHT** as possible and bring enough water. You're responsible for following state law as where to camp, vessel requirement and please don't litter on the awesome river we share. I'm hoping members of the Waco Fly Fishing Club and Waco Paddle Club will be in attendance to talk about doing their thing and

give us some tips. The White Bass should be pretty active and I'm going to try to get my first carp on the fly. Grab your tent, food and drinks and let's do this!

Please RSVP (let me know if your coming) and I'll try to bring enough hot dogs and fixings for Friday night. Bring your own roasting stick and drinks. Feed yourself Sat. and don't forget that life jacket. Info./Questions/Comments - [floatwaco@gmail.com](mailto:floatwaco@gmail.com) Kenley Crowe

## **COLORADO - OPEN INVITATION FROM TED DICKIE**

"I have purchased a R-Pod camper. This summer, about June and July, I plan to set up camp at South Fork for about 4 to 6 weeks. I believe this area offers the most and best fly fishing in Colorado. With my kick boat I have floated about 14 miles of the Rio Grande. This year I will continue to do more of the same. I have several stretches I have not floated. It is an unique experience and a bucket list item. Also I plan to redo a trip I wrote about several years ago. Below Rio Grande Reservoir is a seven mile box canyon. It is an incredible experience. Not for the faint of heart and not alone for sure..

Within a short drive, I think one could fish different water each day. If anyone would be interested in going up, let me know. We would be very flexible in time or area. Stop off for a day or two or more. Mail me at [tedmac65@att.net](mailto:tedmac65@att.net)"

Ted Dickie

## **IN THE NEWS**

Dakus Geeslin has presented several programs at our meetings and we are planning to have him return this year. Dakus is also involved with the Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, coordinating the GRTU Youth Camp. Dakus was recognized for his work with the youth camp in a letter published in the Spring 2017 edition of *Trout* magazine.

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE**

The Texas Council website provides a comprehensive list of fly fishing events in the State of Texas - [texascounciliff.com](http://texascounciliff.com)

Our home fly shop, Living Waters Fly Fishing in Round Rock, Texas has a lot going on this Spring including a film tour, Rio Grande Cutt program, Wednesday night fly tying and more - [livingwatersflyfishing.com](http://livingwatersflyfishing.com)

## **OFFICERS FOR 2017**

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