



JUNE NEWSLETTER
June 2017 Volume XXII: No. 6
www.wacoflyfishingclub.org

PROGRAM:
Tuesday, June 13, 2017

LOCATION:
Lake Waco Wetlands

PROGRAM:
Fly Tying and Tall Tales
About 6:00 p.m.
Fly Fishing for Exotics in South Florida
Texas Council President Jim Gray
About 7:00 p.m.

MARCH PROGRAM - FLY FISHING FOR EXOTICS IN SOUTH FLORIDA
TEXAS COUNCIL PRESIDENT - JIM GRAY

Our speaker this month is Jim Gray, past president of the Austin Fly Fishers and current president of the International Fly Fishers Texas Council. Jim has been fly fishing, rod building and fly tying for 35 years. This will be the 4th presentation that Jim has given to the Waco Fly Fishers. Previously, Jim spoke to us about Finding Your Own Secret Spot, Fly Fishing the Texas Hill Country for Carp and Fly Fishing the Llano River. His job has given him the opportunity to fly fish all over the world, but his favorite places to fish are the Texas Hill Country and his native South Florida.

It's this South Florida connection that Jim will talk about at this month's meeting. For the past 20 years, Jim has been hunting for exotics in the canals that crisscross Florida. Everyone knows about peacock bass, but there are over 40 species of exotic fish that have a breeding population, and many of these are viable fly fishing targets. Jim's presentation will cover the tactics, flies and techniques for 10 exotic species. He will even give you directions to local hot spots. According to Jim, "there aren't many places where you can hit a local canal and catch fish from

North America, South America, Asia and Africa, and the list is constantly growing. Just this month, three new species were caught on fly - arowana, red-tailed catfish and flower-head cichlid. South Florida really does offer something special for anglers looking for a new challenge."

Before the meeting, Jim will be tying his favorite fly for exotics, a reverse craft fur bait fish in peacock colors.



MAY PROGRAM - LATHAM SPRINGS -

Unfortunately I couldn't attend our Latham Springs outing and cookout. I did drive up about 3:00 pm to deliver my grill. It's the kind of sacrifice I'm willing to make for the club. Oh, and I did catch about a dozen Perch and two Bass in the half hour or so that I was able to fish before leaving for my appointment in Waco. Pat Vanek reported that the fish stayed active for the rest of the day. Sounds like a typical outing at Latham Springs and that's a good thing.

Bob Hanley

FLY TYING NIGHT - THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2017

Don't forget our 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 if you have a few good fish stories to tell or need a BBQ fix. Everybody is invited.

SPEAKING OF FLY TYING

Fly Fishers International (FFI) has a Fly Tying Group that recently established a fly tying skills program. I am planning to start at the Bronze level. You tie five required patterns and three

patterns of your choice, submit them to the tying group for grading and hopefully pass, receiving a pin and certificate. It looks like a good way to improve your tying skills particularly as you work up through Silver and Gold. Details of the program are available on the FFI website:

www.flyfishersinternational.org

I thought doing this as part of our tying night might be the way to go. We can throw a few bucks in the kitty to get the less common materials and work together to tie good examples of each fly. If you are interested let me know. You do have to be an FFI member to participate.

Bob Hanley



WACO FLY FISHING 102 - SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2017

It has been written about Christ's disciples all being fly fishermen, and "that all first-class fishermen on the Sea of Galilee were fly fishermen and that John, the favorite was a dry-fly fishermen." There must be truth in the belief that fly fishers are held in special regard by the Almighty as we discovered at our latest Waco Fly Fishing 102 class. It was a miracle that we were even able to hold the class.

The weather forecast was abysmal. The numbers varied some, but rain chances for the morning of the class averaged 70 %. The question was not if it was going to be bad. The question was how bad; where exactly the front would stall and make a rainy mess of things. With fragile faith I held off canceling the class on Friday choosing to make that decision at 7:00 am Saturday morning. During the night I didn't quite wake up during a noisy thunderstorm, but it did register that the forecast heavy rains had started.

I got up early assuming I would have to cancel the class and realized it wasn't raining - probably just a gap in the storm. When I checked weather radar I could not believe my eyes. Not only had the front not stalled it was already through the area. We could fish.

And fish we did.



Club member Joanna Crowe figured it out with a little help from Pat Vanek

Notice that Kenley Crowe's Perch is smaller than Joanna's.





New fly fisher and club member Ken Perkins - Check out the classic tackle.

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

MIDDLE BOSQUE AT 3047



The Middle Bosque is really a treasure and I had the stretch at FM 3047 all to myself several times in May. Nothing that big, but lots of pretty water and feisty fish. They liked Llano bugs and I liked catching them on the surface.



MIDDLE BOSQUE AT BARRETT ROAD

As a bachelor one May weekend the timing was ideal for some fishing. I hadn't paddled up the Middle Bosque from the Barrett Road access since the White Bass run so it was time to look things over. I have come to expect the parking area to be free of litter and other than a scrap or two it was still in good shape. What did surprise me was the number of cars and the number of people fishing in the immediate area. What surprised me even more was the number of kayaks all the way upstream to the upper bluffs section. I have seen fewer people on the water during the White Bass run.

On the water myself I was slightly disappointed by the water quality, a touch off like it gets when flows are down. The fishing was a bit slow. I didn't see or catch the numbers I expected. But, as they say, a bad day fishing is better than a good day at the office, mowing the grass, on the couch ***** It did feel good paddling my yak and I even pushed it some to "feel the burn."

Back at the take out I took a moment to chat with a family group I had encountered way up the river. The young boy of the group really enjoined the desiccated Gar I showed him. They had gotten back just before me and politely cleared the "ramp" so I could get out. They weren't out fishing, but expressed interest so I talked up fly fishing and gave them one of our club business cards. My read was that these were good people. The young ones were polite and all wearing PFD's while on the water. I managed to diplomatically mention the whistle and light regulations that apply to kayaking. There weren't aware of these regs so hopefully I saved them from a hassle in the future. Our local game wardens would probably just give them a verbal warning on the whistle thing, but no lights after sunset is a bigger deal.



Like I said, the fishing was slow, but the fishing is only one reason we go out - an important reason, but you know what I mean. And that Perch in picture was big. It would have been big at Latham Springs.

Bob Hanley

GO FISHING, CATCH FISH AND PREPARE A TRIP REPORT

Someday I'll go back and read those Middle Bosque trip reports again. It is something I enjoy doing to relive past fishing trips. You should try it. I mean write up a trip report of your own for the newsletter. You will then have a record of the highlights your trip. It doesn't take that long, but you will find yourself taking a few extra minutes to make the report easy to read, informative and entertaining for your fellow club members, which in turn will help you enjoy the report months or even years later when you read it again.

You will also help diversify our newsletter. It has been many months with only my trip reports.

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 a 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"

Ted Dickie

SULKING

All fish do it, but .day time White Bass do it better than most - sulking. As John Gierach put it in his latest book - *A Fly Rod of Your Own*:

"Fish like these are said to be 'sulking,' as if they're not just uninterested in your fly but are punishing you for some perceived insult and refuse to bite out of sheer peevishness."

WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE

On Saturday, June 17, 2017, the good folks at Living Waters Fly Fishing in Round Rock, Texas celebrate their ninth anniversary with BBQ, door prizes and more. Then on Saturday, June 24, 2017, Pat Vanek will be at Living Waters to present a program on fly fishing the Brazos River. Pat will get started at 10:00 am. After lunch, Pat and Chris Johnson will demonstrate tying flies designed for BIG BASS. For more information on this and other events see - livingwatersflyfishing.com.



The Texas Council website maintains a comprehensive list of fly fishing events in the State of Texas - texascounciliff.com.

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