



AUGUST NEWSLETTER
August 2017 Volume XXII: No. 8

www.wacoflyfishingclub.org

PROGRAM:
Tuesday, August 8, 2017

LOCATION:
Lake Waco Wetlands

PROGRAM:
Fly Tying and Tall Tales
About 6:00 p.m.

AUGUST PROGRAM - STAY TUNED

Lots of vacations again this month. Getting quality speakers to make the trek to Waco can be a bit of a challenge. We are still working on it for August. If any of you have any program ideas or any general ideas to make our club stronger, please contact one of the officers.

We will continue looking for an August speaker and will keep you posted through email notices so stay tuned.

JULY PROGRAM - FLY FISHING FROM A STAND UP PADDLEBOARD

Our July program highlighted what makes our club tick - informal programs providing a wealth of information to make our fly fishing better. Our crowd, as usual, pitched in with questions and comments that made the program even more informative.

Hunter Harlow told us what we needed to know about fly fishing from a stand up paddleboat. The first consideration is the board itself. What you need is a board designed for fishing not for

other forms of recreation like surfing or just paddling around. The fishing boards are wider and more stable making for a better casting platform.

Paddle boards can be inflatable or made of rigid fiberglass. The inflatable versions can be easily back packed to the water, inflated with a pump and rigged for fishing. Rigging includes things like coolers, seats, grab bars, motors and rod holders.

Hunter has done his best to damage his inflatable BOTE paddle board in places like the Devil's river and has yet to succeed. BOTE inflatables are made of the same durable material used by the US Coast Guard. Hunter did damage the valve on his board when he backed over it with his car, but that is not likely to occur while fly fishing.

Fly fishing off of a paddle board gives you the opportunity to stand up, providing much better sight fishing opportunities than sitting in a kayak. Line management is also much easier. Wind and current are still impairments, but using a push pole to steady the board is a decent solution.

The highlight of the presentation was the demonstration of pumping up an inflatable paddle board. Our own Kris Kahlor did the honors with his own inflatable. Kris is pretty fit and made it look fairly easy - he didn't even break a sweat. For the rest of us there are mechanized options unless you happen to be fishing with Kris.

It is easy to see why paddle boards are growing in popularity. They provide a viable means of covering the water and stalking fish. A paddle board seems ideal for fishing the flats at the Texas coast.

If you are interested in giving paddle boarding a try contact Hunter Harlow. He is an ambassador for BOTE Boards. He also has a line of hats, stickers, etc. at his company, Sendero Provisions Co.

CLUB T-SHIRTS

You can still order club logo T-shirts using the order forms previously emailed or you can place an order at the August meeting.



FLY TYING NIGHT ON VACATION

Attendance at fly tying night dropped off for the summer so we decided to take a vacation in August. We'll get started again in September.

BOSQUE VALLEY FLY FISHING - A NEW GUIDE SERVICE

If you know of anyone looking for a local fly fishing guide suggest Pat Vanek's new guide service, Bosque Valley Fly Fishing. One of Pat's recent outings is featured on the Living Waters Fly Fishing facebook page. There is photographic evidence of some very nice Bass that were participated in that outing.

Rates for the Brazos are \$450.00 for a full day and \$350.00 for a half day, one or two people (jet boat trips). White bass trips in the spring are half day only, \$325.00 for one or two people. Full day canoe floats on the Brazos or Middle Bosque are \$450.00 (one person only). For club members only, if you book a trip (to include next year's spring white bass run) by October 31, 2017, Pat will take \$25.00 of the rate.



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

PEDERNALES FALLS STATE PARK - ALMOST

Forced to endure a visit to the People's Municipality of Austin for a wedding, I planned an escape to Pedernales Falls State Park for some Sunday morning fishing. After fishing at the Falls, I could travel back to Valley Mills without getting anywhere near I-35, a definite collateral benefit.

My plan included stopping somewhere for breakfast and a big fountain diet coke or two on the way to the park. Surprisingly, leaving South Austin put me into rural Texas fairly quickly. I passed up a DQ hoping for a Whataburger and never found one. The next thing I knew I was at

the turnoff for the park. It wasn't that big a deal, I carry emergency energy reserves around my mid-section and could stand to deplete those reserves some. I was a little thirsty so I downed a can of diet coke from a vending machine at the park entrance.

I was excited to get fishing and to try out a new Fishpond warm water fishing vest. I parked at the Falls' lot, grabbed the vest, a fly rod and the other usual stuff - I thought. When I got down to the river and tied on a fly I realized I didn't have nippers. While trying to figure out how I was going to trim the tag off the knot I realized I also didn't have hemostats. I obviously had not fully rigged that new vest. That was a problem. Perch were on the agenda and you know how they can inhale a fly to the point where you really need hemostats to remove the fly without putting a serious hurt on the fish.



I took a quick picture on my first hike down to the river - scenic, but HOT.

I climbed out of the canyon, caught my breath at the top and hiked back to the car to get the needed gear. I was sweating from all the activity, but still hurried to get back to the water. At least going downhill was easier, but I had worked up a pretty good sweat by the time I actually started fishing.

The fish at the Falls are spooky. They must see a fair share of fishing. I had a lightning fast strike or two and a lot of followers before I finally caught a little Perch. The fish took the fly deep and I was glad I had the hemostats. As I moved up the rock slab to find some fresh water I started feeling kind of funky, hot and a bit light headed. I stopped, caught my breath and got back to fishing. I caught a nice Catfish and the hemostats came in handy again.

Another move and I started feeling funky again, even a little worse than before. I was hot and sweating. I sat down for a minute to recover enough to get back to fishing when I realized I might be getting dehydrated even though I really didn't feel thirsty. Even so, it then dawned on me that climbing out of that canyon would take some effort and that I needed to do it while I still could.

The climb out was a struggle, but I was rewarded with a vending machine in the parking lot which held bottled water. Even after downing a bottle of water I felt bad enough to call it a day. Even with a steady intake of fluids on the drive home I didn't feel right for about two hours.

It seems like every summer weather report carries on and on about hot weather hazards and the need to keep hydrated. The forecasters really do beat the subject to death. I tune them out. But, most of us in the club are years beyond two a day football practices in August and should be paying a little attention to things like hydrating yourself before a morning of fishing in July. If I had taken more water on that Pedernales Falls trip I could have done more fishing.

MIDDLE BOSQUE AT 3047 - FISHING AND TESTIMONIAL

When Matt Bennett (FlyGeek Custom Flies) came to our June meeting and threw some of his flies into our fly raffle I realized they were not like anything I tie. It wasn't my lucky night so the next day I got online and ordered a few of his Brunch \$ pattern. I'm not sure if Umpqua has picked up this pattern, but the larger version of this pattern, Lunch \$ is carried by Umpqua

That was back in June and I didn't wet those flies until the last Saturday of July. The Brunch \$ pattern is available in size 6 or 8. I ordered the smaller size 8 version, a perfect size for small stream fishing. My plan was to invite a few Middle Bosque Bass to brunch (weak pun intended) so I made sure I had those flies when I made way downstream from the 3047 Crossing.

I started the morning with a small Llano bug because the limited holding water downstream of the bridge doesn't hold many Bass. For a while, even the Perch were too small to effectively take my little bug, but I caught a few. Pretty soon I reached that long precarious stretch of shelf rock which I carefully navigated downstream. Very carefully, Puppy Scout was with me, but she wouldn't be much help if I broke an ankle.

When I arrived at the first nice pool below the shelf rock I stuck with the Llano bug and caught many Perch which averaged bigger than upstream, but were still relatively small. There was evidence of four wheeler activity and I wonder if some bait seining might be going on.

I continued downstream and arrived at a run that has held some nice Bass in past years so I decided to invite a few to brunch (pretty lame, sorry). The water was relatively clear so I was making casts beyond what I could see in the water to avoid spooking any Bass. Very quickly I hooked something and got ready to fight a Bass, but it was a little Perch. Even a size 8 Brunch \$ seems too big for a Perch (see the photograph), but Perch have attitude - Bless Them.

It didn't take too many casts to catch a



little Bass and then a few more. By the way, I caught the Bass as I was moving back upstream so this was water I had already worked over with a Llano bug which had generated exactly zero interest from any Bass. This is strong evidence that the Brunch \$ pattern is very tempting to our big mouthed friends. I know it's only one experience with this pattern, but I plan on keeping a few Brunch \$'s on hand from now on. I'm sure Matt is willing to sell me or you a few - www.flygeek.net. I think I'll get a few in size 6 and maybe a few different colors. All I now have are from my first order of the muted Blue Gill color.



Second Bass hooked and first to hand on a Brunch Money. Not big, but fought well. His twin was hooked first and came off with one of those head shaking jumps Bass do.

None of Bass I saw or caught were very big, but the ones that I caught really did not want to be landed. Using a four weight gave them something to work with. By the way, I had no trouble casting a Brunch money with that four weight. It's a fairly stiff four and there was little wind, but the fly cast so well that I think a stronger wind wouldn't have been a problem.



It was a typical summer morning of fly fishing on the Middle Bosque. I never saw another person on the water. From Scouts perspective a hatch of cricket frogs was the highlight(s) of the morning. They are very difficult to catch, unfortunately.

Bob Hanley



Which way did it jump ????

QUOTE OF THE MONTH - FROM DAVID CHERRY - WHY I FISH

Here's a quote by Robert Traver that has always described it perfectly for me:

"I fish because I love to . . . because I love the environs where trout are found . . . because I suspect that men are going along this way for the last time, and I for one don't want to waste the trip . . . and, finally, not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important but because I suspect that so many of the other concerns of men are equally unimportant—and not nearly so much fun."

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