



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER
November 2017 Volume XXII: No. 11
www.wacoflyfishingclub.org

NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, November 14, 2017

LOCATION:
Lake Waco Wetlands

PROGRAM:
Fly Tying and Tall Tales
About 6:00 p.m.
Speaker to be Announced

THE CLUB NEEDS YOUR HELP

Does it seem like we are in a bit of a slump?

Our Waco Fly Fishing Club does many good and enjoyable things. Our regular meetings give us the opportunity to socialize with fellow fly fishers, tie a fly or two, and learn from some of the top fly fishers in the state. Fly tying night is another opportunity to get together with the focus on tying flies. We teach newcomers the basics of fly fishing through our Waco Fly Fishing 102 classes and other events like the Cabela's clinics we help to host. We take to the water together at our outings to actually fish and often enjoy a cookout while we are at it.

Even so, it seems to me like we are in a bit of a slump. Maybe it's just a time of year thing. Fly fishing seems to be a hotter topic in the Spring than in the Fall. Even so, please take a minute or two to give our club some thought and send me any suggestions you have to make our club even better.

One of my thoughts is to have more outings including some on weekends and some that involve a bit of travel like the Guadalupe trip I hope to help host. I am also trying to set up some Spring fishing at a local private lake that I helped to stock with Bass transplants a few years back.. See Trip Report for details on the fishing.

Maybe we can do something together during the White Bass run. Let me know if you have any ideas for places we can go fish. New water is always is fun.

Also, fresh programs always liven things up. If you have something you would like to present or know somebody that has a fly fishing related presentation help us set it up.

Consider volunteering as an officer. It only takes a few hours of your time and would add some energy to what we do.

Bob Hanley

SOMETHING SPECIFIC YOU CAN DO NOW - CABELA'S THIS SATURDAY & SUNDAY

The folks at Cabela's have asked us to come by and talk about fly fishing with any customers that are interested in giving it a try. We are scheduled for a couple of hours at 3:00 pm this Saturday and Sunday. We have participated in these events in the past and sometimes there is a high level of interest in fly fishing and sometimes not so much. Either way we have an opportunity to promote our club and fly fishing in general. Contact Bob Hanley if you can help either day or both days.

CHRISTMAS PARTY - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017

It's hard to believe, but the holiday season is here. Our Christmas Party is set for Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at the Valley Mills Vineyard Winery. We will have our traditional gift exchange so you can start shopping now for a fly fishing related gift with a value of about \$30.00. We'll publish all of the details in the December newsletter.

FLY TYING NIGHT - JANUARY, 2018

With the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays late in the month we will all have plenty to do so Fly Tying night will take a rest until January, 2018. By then the White Bass run will be right around the corner - a good time to tie flies.

Bob Hanley

GUADALUPE RIVER FISHING

There is some uncertainty as to when the Guadalupe River will be stocked by Gaudalupe River Trout Unlimited so setting up a club outing has been postponed until January or February, 2018. Conditions should be ideal for Trout fishing during that time frame and club members who participate in the GRTU lease program should have put in some time on the water and have a better idea on how to fish the river this season.

If you want to learn how to fish the Guad from a true expert, Guide Chris Johnson is presenting a program on Guadalupe River Trout Fishing this Saturday, November 11, 2017 at his fly shop, Living Waters Fly Fishing, in Round Rock - livingwatersflyfishing.com.

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

SAN JUAN RIVER, NEW MEXICO

The trip had actually been planned two years ago. My wife, daughter Michelle and I were going to meet up with three of my cousins from Western New York and go to the Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, New Mexico. None of us had ever been. Of course I was going to be in New Mexico anyway so I scheduled some fishing at the San Juan for the week before the Fiesta.

Well, the good dog Kate got sick and I canceled the fishing portion of the trip so I could nurse her through some surgery and then drive her out to New Mexico to convalesce. The Balloon Fiesta thing really couldn't be canceled because other people, plane tickets, etc. were involved, but we were staying in a private house in Albuquerque so having Kate along wouldn't be much of a problem.

Sadly, after two lengthy consultations with an extremely patient young veterinarian, Dr. Katie Jung, I realized that the best outcome would only be a few weeks of relative comfort after recovering from a painful operation. The other scenarios left out the few weeks of relative comfort part. It was time to give Kate one final kindness, the last of many I hope I gave.

The whole thing left me numb, but after a day or so my wife suggested I go fishing. I was going to New Mexico anyway, there was still time to fish and the dog sitter was all set up for my other Lab, Scout so why not go fishing.

I was solo on the fishing part and it was a long solemn drive, but my spirits rose some when I got to Northwestern New Mexico - pretty country. I licensed up at Abe's, headed for the Texas Hole, waded up and hiked to the upper flats hoping for dry fly action. I didn't discover I had forgotten my polarized sun glasses until I was about to make my first cast. I should have hiked back to the car, but decided to fish to the rising fish. I got skunked. My excuse was visibility problems caused by a light wind and no sunglasses.

After fishing for too long I left to rest up a little and to make camp at Navajo State Park. Later that first day, with a few hours left to fish, I nymphed the Texas Hole and quickly caught a little Trout followed by a true tackle buster, not huge, but big enough. For the first time ever I broke a fly rod on a fish. It was a bit of a challenge to land that fish on three-fourths of a fly rod, but I managed with luck if not skill. Note the size 24 midges on the rock in the photograph to the right.





I caught fish, but not in the size or numbers I am accustomed to at the San Juan. I think the population of big fish was down, at least in the places I fished. The river had just been stocked and there was a healthy population of active small fish about the size of the Trout stocked during the winter by Texas Parks and Wildlife. In retrospect I feel guilty about allowing the little ones to be disappointing. It was still a good trip. The San Juan is one of my favorite places and I enjoyed wandering through the fly shops - Abes and Float 'N Fish. The New Mexico style huevos were excellent and I had a nice peaceful camp. Being solo allowed the time for my memories of the good dog Kate to begin transitioning from painful to fond.

MIDDLE BOSQUE AT FM 3047 - WAIT UNTIL NEXT YEAR

One warm November afternoon Puppy Scout and I took a stroll down the Middle Bosque from the FM 3047 Crossing armed with a soft little four weight. The USGS website reported zero flow at the Crossing, but downstream there seemed to be a light flow, about two garden hoses worth.

A pleasant walk/wade, but fishing was slow. It had been cold and the fish were warming in full sunlight in very skinny water. Being in harm's way from above made them very spooky. Even the Perch would bolt for cover when I cast and pretty much stay there. There wasn't enough current to cast upstream and let the current present your fly. I did catch a few small Perch, but no Bass.

Fish size has been down all year at this location. I do not know why, but I wonder if there has been an increase in catch and kill fishing. Four wheelers have been up and down the river all year and maybe the larger fish are getting caught for the freezer and maybe Perch are being kept

for bait. I intend to investigate next year. For now, the Middle Bosque is done until the Spring when we hopefully get some rain

SUPER SECRET LOCAL NEAR WACO

A few years back one of my duck hunting friends reported too many Bass in his father's private lake. Their biologist recommended thinning the smaller fish so those left behind could get really big, which was their goal. I was willing to help catch and transplant some of those culls. It's the kind of sacrifice you make for a friend. We put the fish we caught into another private lake where we both have access.

I would occasionally wonder how that stocking went, but never got around to fishing the lake. Well, I recently took a morning to give it a try discovering that our stocking was quite a success. The smallest Bass I caught was my biggest of the year (the biggest was a fish Kris Kaylor put me on in the Spring) and was probably the result of a successful spawn in the lake. The fish we had stocked into the lake back when were all at least the size of the "little ones" I caught and would be much larger by now.

The best part of the fishing was the number of fish I caught, all on top. I quickly stopped counting at about six. The best way I can describe the fishing is to compare it to the White Bass run. I have had quicker action during the run, but only rarely. And the smallest Bass I caught was as big as the biggest Waco White Bass I have caught.

ADDENDUM



On the eve of the first November cold front, I returned to this lake with James Jeffery and did at least as well. This time I managed one of the largest Bass I have ever caught. Fortunately I had upgraded to a seven weight.

My plan is to set up a Saturday morning outing at this lake for some time during the spring of 2018 - stay tuned.

Bob Hanley

WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE

One of the reasons that Living Waters Fly fishing in Round Rock, Texas is so successful is the number of activities they host. There is something going on every week ranging from Wednesday night fly tying to weekend classes. For more information - livingwatersflyfishing.com.



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

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING - DON'T MESS WITH TEXAS

From our efforts to protect and, maybe someday expand, public access to public waters we all know that litter at access points provides ammunition to those who oppose us. Plus, it is far better to launch and fish where it doesn't feel like you are at the McLennan County dump. Our local game wardens get it and are ready, willing and able to write tickets for littering.

Good news on this front is HB 1884, authored by our representative, "Doc" Anderson. Those convicted of littering are now required to perform up to 60 hours of community service picking up litter.

OFFICERS FOR 2017

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