SAN MARCOS, TX – Getting through the semester can be rough with all the papers you have to write and projects to complete - not to mention the stress of finals. All students need to get away from it all at some point. Mike Schlimgen has provided an outlet for all veterans with the Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Program.

Mike was a United States Air Force Para-Rescue Jumper (PJs as we know them) for eight years. When he got out, he wanted to work with veterans. But Mike also loves the outdoors. With fly fishing, he found a way to combine the two. He went to the base Rec Center to meet and talk to other veterans and took them fishing. While fishing out at the lake, they told stories and relaxed. Mike then asked himself, “What can we do to help military veterans transition into civilian life and help them make that transition successful?” Mike became involved with Healing Waters after that to help veterans who feel stressed or overwhelmed with life.

Throughout the year, many veterans have gone out to Tips Turf on Friday mornings to get away from school, eat breakfast tacos, talk to other veterans, learn how to tie flies and proper casting techniques. It’s a great escape from schoolwork, and it’s very therapeutic. Mike and other coaches have been getting together with other veterans for years. He is deeply involved in the San Marcos community and also with disabled veterans. Healing Waters also organizes state and overnight fishing trips throughout the year at the Guadalupe River Park, Colorado, Arkansas and so on. For more information on Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Program, please visit their site at http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/