

TEXAS ANGLER
EDUCATION PROGRAM**Reel Lines**

Issue Number 34

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August 2013

**New &
Noteworthy**

Reflecting back on the past few months, I'm reminded that April 21-27 was National Volunteer Week. With all the many different organizations in need of volunteers, especially during times of tragic or natural disasters like those we have recently experienced in Texas, I am continually amazed by the generosity of our Angler Ed volunteers who choose to commit their time with our program to teach others to fish. You inspire us!

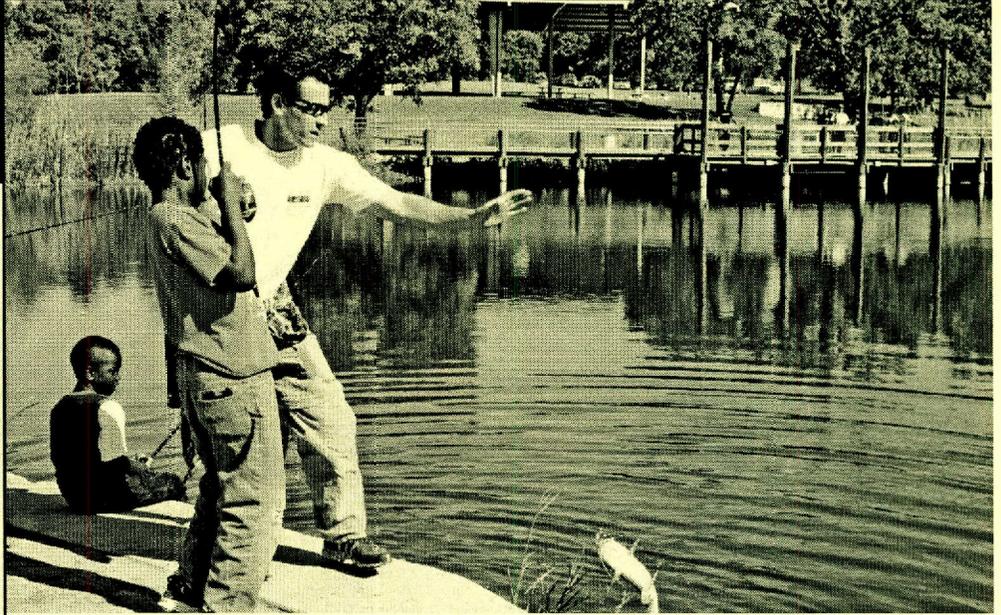
We've had some busy months in 2013! Staff and Area Chiefs trained 253 new instructors so far. Congratulations to all and please take a moment to welcome the new instructors near you.

Some of these new instructors include a small group of Purtis Creek State Park hosts and staff who subsequently conducted a youth fishing event for several hundred kids.

New instructors also include several members of the Texas Master Naturalist – Central Texas Chapter. This dynamic group has taught fishing to over 2,600 youth and adults at senior centers, local nature festivals, and the TPWD Go Fish programs at Bastrop State Park. They also reach out to local partners like Scott and White Pediatrics, 4-H clubs, and church and military groups.

In January, The International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF) sanctioned a new Texas Council. Previously, Texas was split between two multi-state councils. The

(Continued on page 2)

**Making Time for “Reel” Good
Fun with the Neighborhood
Fishin’ Program**

MIKE HOMER, JR. – Assistant District Fisheries Biologist,
TPWD Inland Fisheries Division

In today's busy world, many Americans are spending more hours working, driving in traffic, and while at home – still working, therefore spending less time outdoors. Sadly, that's meant less time fishing.

Since the late 1980s, the ratio of anglers to the overall American population has fluctuated, and the same holds true for Texas. Federal aid funding from the Sport Fish Restoration Act has been affected by the decline in fishing license sales. Fishing is a \$3.2 billion industry in Texas and has been a way of life for over 2.6 million of its citizens. Texas also boasts some of the best bass, catfish, and red drum fisheries in the world.

So, if fishing is so great in Texas, why aren't more people doing it? A recent report, *On The Fence About Fishing*, published by the American Sportfishing Association, indicates that “not enough time” is the most common reason. Competition for time includes work and family obligations. The report suggests that by emphasizing fun and increasing convenience perhaps angling participation would increase.

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New & Noteworthy

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Texas council looks forward to providing a more centralized leadership for its members. For more information about the new council visit <http://texasCounciliff.com>

Fredericksburg Fly Fishers and the **Hill Country Fly Fishers**, and **Fishing's Future** volunteered at Troutfest held on the Guadalupe River near New Braunfels in February to help teach fly tying and casting. Angler Ed staff assisted Inland Fisheries staff at an information booth in the exhibit tent.

In March, the **Red River Fly Fishers (RRFF) Club** and Eisenhower State Park began piloting a new Fly Rod Loaner program. Visitors are able to borrow a fly rod/reel and box of flies to try out the sport at Eisenhower State Park. The RRFF club will insure that borrowers have plenty of flies to cast. We're excited about this new opportunity!

Keith Miller celebrated his two-year anniversary of catching a fish a day in April with an event for youth on the banks of the Brazos River. He continues his odyssey of catching a fish a day using both conventional tackle and fly fishing, and teaching kids the joy of fishing. You can keep up with him on his Facebook page as he casts towards day 1,000.

In April, 20 Angler Education Area Chiefs gathered for our annual meeting at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, TX. Staff and volunteers were able to "recharge" at this fun, advanced training.

In May, **Area Chief Rey Ramirez**, TPWD staff, and Instructor **Junior Munoz** and many others coordinated the "Hooked for Life" event in Brownsville, TX – over 2,000 kids attended and got hooked on fishing! (Photo to the right.)

Be sure to take advantage of beautiful illustrations of fishing rigs provided by TPWD's artist, Clemente Guzman, in the February digital issue of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine. These illustrations are now available on our Instructor Resource page for you to print and use in your classes and events. Check them out at www.tpwd.texas.gov/learning/angler_education/instructor/

Our Go Fish! Learn-to-fish at Texas State Parks events kicked off this spring and will continue throughout the year. New sites

include Cedar Hill and Lake Whitney state parks. Sign up to help at these and other events using our online volunteer system. Look for "Volunteer" on the TPWD website, www.tpwd.texas.gov. Remember that all current Angler Education instructors are registered in this new system – so there is no need for you to create a new profile. If you need help to log in for the first time please call your regional Angler Ed Training Specialist who will be happy to assist you with the process of logging in and updating your user ID and password.

As we begin winding down our fiscal year in August, don't forget to send us your reports that document your time and efforts. Currently, you can view your service record online by logging into your volunteer profile and selecting "My Service History" from the right-side menu. The system has your service records from Sept. 1, 2012 to the present. With limited staff, it does take us awhile to get all of the reports logged – please allow six to eight weeks after your report submission to get them posted. All service history prior to this date is archived in our old system and is not available online.

By September 1, 2013 we anticipate that you will be able to report all of your events yourself using this new online system. Information and instructions on how to report your service using the new system will soon be available on the TPWD Aquatic Education Instructors resource web page. Stay tuned for future email announcements.



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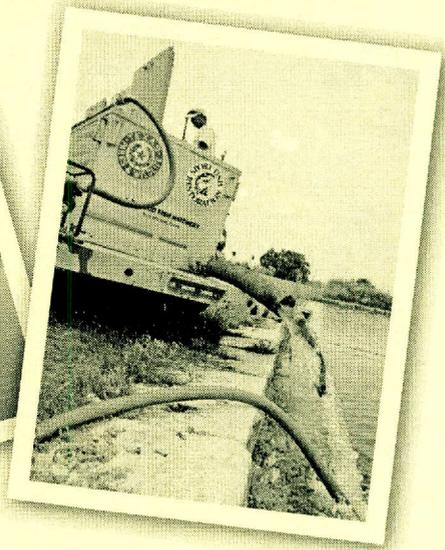
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Making Time for “Reel” Good Fun, continued



In the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation indicated that of the 33.1 million Americans that participated in fishing, roughly only four percent were minors. Children and their families are the most important group to recruit to the tradition and sport of angling to ensure that fisheries and the natural heritage of fishing persist in the future.

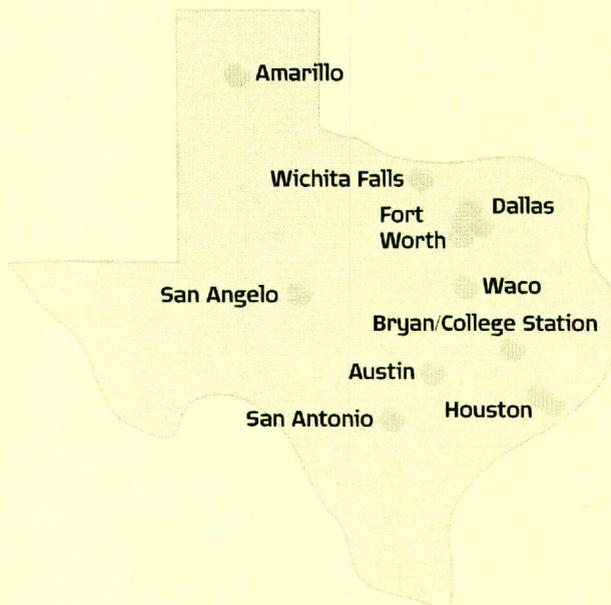
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has risen to the challenge by developing fishing opportunities close to home. One such opportunity is the Neighborhood Fishin' Program (NFP), developed with the assistance of the Toyota Corporation and numerous local partners.

The NFP is an urban/suburban community fishing lake stocking program that provides biweekly stockings. From the late spring to late fall, 12-inch (or larger) channel catfish are stocked at each NFP site. In the late fall to early spring, 10-inch (or larger) rainbow trout are stocked. The two species are intended to diversify the fishing experience for all anglers as well as provide them with an edible catch. Anglers (age 17 and older) fishing at a NFP site must have a fishing license and obey a daily bag limit of five fish for each of these stocked species.

Currently 15 NFP community fishing lakes are supported by funding generated by the Toyota Texas Bass Classic (TTBC), an annual professional largemouth bass fishing tournament, vendor exposition, and an A-list musician concert series, is held at a major reservoir in the state. With generous support from the Toyota Corporation and numerous local partners, the tournament has produced hundreds of thousands of dollars for the NFP operations. This year's event will be held at Lake Conroe Lone Star Expo Center October 4-6, 2013. Next year the event will move to Lake Fork.

To improve the success of the NFP, local TPWD-Inland Fisheries district offices and the Angler Education Program have teamed with local partners and non-profit organizations to hold free educational fishing clinics for children and their families. These clinics consist of casting, knot-tying, fish identification, stewardship, regulations, and fishing. At some of the NFP sites, free tackle loaner programs are available.

The increased success of the NFP has also allowed for the expansion of the program for an additional potential site in the Houston metro region. In time, TPWD hopes that the program will attract new anglers, encourage them to purchase a fishing license, improve the retention of licensed anglers, and promote fisheries conservation.



For more information about the Neighborhood Fishin' Program, please visit www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/management/stocking/urban_catfish.phtml or contact your local district biologist. Volunteers are always welcome and needed to assist with aquatic education activities at the TTBC and NFP events.



**NEIGHBORHOOD
FISHIN'**
REEL FUN
CLOSE TO HOME

Stay Healthy in the Heat

Adapted and reprinted from www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/heat_index/index.html

Hot weather is here. Extreme heat can be dangerous, especially when both air temperature and humidity are high. This is why it's so important to pay attention to the day's heat index.

In addition to the temperature, the heat index is included in most summer-time weather reports. The "heat index" is a single value that takes both temperature and humidity into account. The higher the heat index, the hotter the weather feels since sweat does not readily evaporate and cool the skin. The heat index is a better measure than air temperature alone for estimating the risk to people from environmental heat sources.

Water. Rest. Shade.

Take action to protect yourself and others in hot weather. Prior to the event remind volunteers and participants to wear a hat and light-colored cotton clothing, bring a water bottle, and wear sunscreen. Sunburn reduces the skin's ability to release excess heat, making the body more susceptible to heat-related illness.

At the event, provide water for both your volunteers and participants. Designate someone to refill the water container as needed during the event. Make sure the event has some shade or a place with air conditioning available for rest breaks if volunteers or participants need to recover.

During your event's welcome or orientation, take the time to insure that all volunteers and participants know:

- the importance of drinking small amounts of water frequently (even when they are not thirsty)
- the common signs and symptoms of heat-related illness and steps to take if someone is having symptoms
- to watch out for each other and report symptoms of heat illness right away

Heat Index	Risk Level	Protective Measures
Less than 91°F	Low (Caution)	Provide adequate amounts of drinking water
91°F to 103°F	Moderate	Alert people about the heat index; remind people to drink water often
103°F to 115°F	High	Actively encourage people to drink water and rest in the shade; remind everyone to watch for signs of heat stress
Greater than 115°F	Very High to Extreme	Provide cooling measure (wet bandanas; mist stations, etc.); consider rescheduling

HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS: KNOW THE SIGNS AND HOW TO RESPOND

It's important to know the signs of heat-related illness—acting quickly can save lives. Heat stroke is a medical emergency. Call 911 immediately if someone shows any signs of heat stroke.

The TPWD volunteer insurance policy provides secondary coverage to any primary insurance held by the volunteer. If medical services are provided to a volunteer during the event, remember to complete a TPWD Injury Report form. The form should be submitted within 24 hours to the Aquatic Education Manager or the State Park Manager if applicable.

Illness	Symptoms	First Aid*
Heat stroke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confusion • Fainting • Seizures • Excessive sweating or red, hot, dry skin • Very high body temperature 	<p>Call 911 — While waiting for help:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place person in shady, cool area • Loosen clothing, remove outer clothing • Fan air on person • Wet person with cool water; apply ice packs, cool compresses, or ice if available • Provide fluids (preferably water) as soon as possible • Stay with person until help arrives
Heat exhaustion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cool, moist skin • Heavy sweating • Headache • Nausea or vomiting • Dizziness • Light headedness • Weakness • Thirst • Irritability • Fast heart beat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have person sit or lie down in a cool, shady area • Give person plenty of water or other cool beverages to drink • Cool person with cold compresses/ice packs • Take to clinic or emergency room for medical evaluation or treatment if signs or symptoms worsen or do not improve within 60 minutes.
Heat cramps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muscle spasms • Pain • Usually in abdomen, arms, or legs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have person rest in shady, cool area • Person should drink water or other cool beverages • Wait a few hours before allowing person to return to strenuous outdoor activities • Have person seek medical attention if cramps don't go away
Heat rash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clusters of red bumps on skin • Often appears on neck, upper chest, folds of skin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move to a cooler, less humid environment when possible • Keep the affected area dry

* Remember, if you are not a medical professional, use this information as a guide only to help people in need.

Volunteers Improve Fish Habitat

CAPPY SMITH – Aquatic Resource Specialist

Angler Ed Instructor Beverly Funderburg believes that even small efforts can make a big impact. So on April 29, Beverly and her teenaged son, Cutter, set out to do just that. It was only fitting that it was the birthday of Beverly's recently deceased father, a man who loved fishing and the outdoors. Beverly continues her family's legacy by keeping Cutter engaged in fishing and outdoor activities.



Volunteers and TPWD staff assembled these Ashe juniper bundles that were later submerged to make "fish attractors" in Canyon Lake near New Braunfels, TX.

Along with Angler Ed Instructor Joseph Olague, Beverly and Cutter joined volunteers from Canyon Bass Club, the Boy Scouts, and staff from the Water Oriented Recreation District of Comal County (WORD), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and TPWD in placing fish-attracting structures into Canyon Lake.

Many fish species including the largemouth bass like to congregate around underwater structures such as brush and rock piles. "Fish attractors" create structural habitat in the lake when natural areas are lacking. The low catch rates for the popular largemouth bass have been attributed to the lack of natural structures in Canyon Lake. By creating these structures, it makes it easier to find and catch fish.

Volunteers and staff made bundles of Ashe juniper tied to cinder blocks and placed on the boat ramp. Barbara commented, "You could not tell we were on a boat ramp because it was covered with tree bundles!" The bundles were transported by boat and placed throughout the reservoir. A total of 120 tree bundles were placed at 10 sites on the workday. The fish attractor project at Canyon Lake was started in January 2005 and there are currently 42 attractor locations. Over time, the brush degrades so new brush bundles must be installed to keep the site effective in attracting fish. The efforts on this workday were to refurbish the 10 sites.

Other lake habitat restoration projects exist throughout the state and Angler Ed volunteers are always welcome to join and help with the projects. Many of these opportunities can be found on the Friends of the Reservoirs website. The Friends of Reservoirs is a non-profit foundation dedicated to protecting and/or restoring fisheries habitat in reservoir systems nationwide. The Canyon Bass Club is the local Friends of Reservoirs chapter. For more information or to become a member of Friends of Reservoirs, see www.waterhabitatlife.org

An updated map and coordinates of the attractor locations on Canyon Lake is posted on the TPWD website: www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/lakes/canyon/.

Despite the hard work Beverly said they had a great time. And, the day held some awe-inspiring discoveries: watching a fish spawn and hearing a young coyote howl. Beverly expressed that the day was "a personal joy that cannot be described. The people we spent that day with were a great group of individuals. We look forward to working with them again. The group made a positive impact by providing the habitats for great fishing opportunities for young and old to experience together."

I think Beverly's dad would be proud.

Meet Our Houston Regional Summer Interns



Callie Herrington

I was born and raised in Hallettsville, TX, and grew up loving the outdoors. Growing up in a small community, I was able to experience many aspects of the great outdoors. I enjoy fishing in both salt and freshwater with my family. One of my favorite activities to do outdoors is dove hunt. I am currently studying Biology and Education at Houston Baptist University where I also played softball. I am getting married on August 3 and will graduate May 2014. I hope to influence many children throughout the summer with the events that TPWD is a part of.



Christy Flatt

Howdy! My name is Christy Flatt, and I am a senior Bioenvironmental Sciences major at Texas A&M University in College Station. I am from Friendswood, TX, so when I'm home, I enjoy going to the beach and surf fishing in Galveston. I hope to go to graduate school and eventually work on coastal wetland restoration. I have been involved in several service and leadership based organizations on campus, such as the Memorial Student Center Freshmen in Service and Hosting (MSC FISH), MSC LEAD, and Aggies Reaching Out. I love country music, Pitch Perfect, and Aggie football. Put me on a beach with a Dr Pepper, and I'm the happiest girl in the world. Thanks and gig 'em!



Using a rope outline of the state of Texas, Area Chiefs network together to learn who lives where, and everyone's favorite place to fish.

Area Chief Meeting 2013: The Four F's of Fishing

KEIRA QUAM – TPWD Angler Education Training Specialist for North Texas

A recent Fisheries Journal publication *The Four F's of Fishing: Communicating the Public Value of Fish and Fisheries* talked about how fish provide food, fun, function and finances. Well, at our Area Chief Meeting we did just that. We learned about the function of our aquatic habitats, program reporting and finance; and we ate food and had lots of fun!

Area Chiefs are a small group of dedicated instructors who have volunteered to help the TPWD Aquatic Education staff recruit and train other Angler Education Instructors. To become an Area Chief one must have a record of demonstrated leadership, exemplary ethics, and a desire to train other adults and to support angler education in their area or community. Each spring we gather new and experienced Area Chiefs from across the state to provide additional training that prepares them to hold instructor-training workshops.

This year's gathering took place at the beautiful Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) in Athens, TX. After registering and picking out a "fun" name tag ribbon, there was time for fishing and catching up with friends before the afternoon meeting began.

The meeting kicked off with presentations that extended our knowledge about current aquatic habitat issues in Texas. Tom Hungerford from TPWD Inland Fisheries brought samples of zebra mussels and discussed how this invasive species could negatively affect our state's waterways. Mike Murphrey from Texas Forest Service spoke about other invasive species found in our state and how to report them. Cappy Smith from TPWD discussed stream inflows and systems and how the current drought is affecting our state. Nancy Herron from TPWD completed our afternoon with some information about the new state Environmental Literacy Plan. As the saying goes, "Now we know the rest of the story!"

Thanks to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and the Friends of TFFC, we enjoyed an amazing Texas barbecue supper. The dinner was punctuated by a brief entertainment segment where Angler Ed staff performed to hip hop artist Mike Morazzini's F-I-S-H-I-N-G song – I think we should all keep our day jobs!

Keeping with the time-honored traditions of previous Area Chief meetings, the evening featured a gathering around the campfire – yes, at that time we needed jackets, and a sing-along using Steve Campbell's infamous Stink Bait Band Song Book. Jim Booker from TFFC did an incredible job strumming on his guitar by flashlight. Some people also went fishing or played a game or two of glow-in-the dark ring toss, but all had fun.

The next morning was the gem of our experience as participants moved round robin through six stations and reviewed our instructor workshop basics. "Workshop Planning" was taught by Cappy, "Equipment and Maintenance" was taught by Robert, "Safety" was taught by Gen, "Fish Habitats" was taught by Caleb, "Teaching Fishing Ethics and Regulations" was taught by Greg, "Icebreakers & Paperwork" was taught by Karen, and I taught "Knots and Tackle Assembly."

At each station the initial information was taught by TPWD staff and then participants had the opportunity to teach their group tricks they had learned and information they had found in their Angler Ed Instructor travels. Everyone, including staff came away with some good ideas

they could put to use and teach others. Helpful hints offered were, "Draw upon expertise near you" and "Put a business card if you have one in the Instructor Notebooks before distributing them to workshop participants." I love it when great minds share!

Afterwards, an overview of the new online volunteer system generated a lot of interest and questions. Procedures on how to update your profile and have the new volunteers create online profiles in the system were shown.

Of course the fun part about Area Chief meetings is our reward system! Every time someone gives input, answers a question correctly or actively engages in the meeting we throw them a "squiggly." Sometimes it is thrown to them and sometimes it is thrown near them so they have to be quick! These were saved and later used as currency in a live auction, with Area Chief Larry Condra as auctioneer. This year, some of our exciting auction items included tote bags, fly rods, fly tying kits, fishing tools, Tula hats, artist-signed TPWD Expo posters and jewelry. The big prize that brought the most competition was an Angler Education Instructor Kit. Thankfully, Karen was close and settled that dilemma!



The meeting closed with our annual Area Chief Awards. This year we introduced two new awards, the Platinum Award for people who trained 200 or more instructors and the "Guppy Award" for our Area Chiefs in training. See below for the list of awardees. Our table centerpieces, "Squiggly Starter Kits," were lovingly

The official Steve Campbell Squiggly Starter Kits were assembled with great care, and adorned the dinner tables at the annual Area Chief meeting.

assembled by staff and given away as door prizes. They were made from glass bottles filled with 'squiggles' and adorned with a label featuring Steve Campbell. It would be the perfect centerpiece for any fish fry! Our friend and colleague, Steve Campbell left a legacy with each of us when he developed this award system and shared his passion for fishing. He will be remembered.

This year's Area Chief Event generated comments including, "Very good meeting. I have been multiple times and this is among the best. Informative, fun and overall really well planned" and "Always learn something new - Thank you!" Pictures of the event have been posted on TPWD's photo stream Flickr page, www.flickr.com/photos/texasparkswildlife/

Be aware that we are always looking for additional members who share their passion for fishing and concern for the environment that our Area Chiefs model every day! We hope you can join us next year!

For those of you who couldn't attend this year - maybe we will consider making a t-shirt just for you as suggested by Area Chief Jerry Vaughn, "My leader went to the Area Chief meeting and all I got was this 'crappie' t-shirt!"

Mike Petrick and Michael Thomas tackle teaching skills at one of the round robin stations.



2013 ANGLER EDUCATION AREA CHIEF AWARDS

Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum Awards are earned by Area Chiefs for their leadership and dedication to our Angler Education Instructor training program. The award is based on the number of instructors trained, cumulative from year to year, through January 31, 2013.

PLATINUM AWARD (trained 200+)

- ALMANZAR, RAUL
- FOBIAN, MARK
- RAMIREZ, REYNALDO
- STEARNS, HAROLD
- VAN DE PUTTE, ANTOINETTE

GOLD AWARD (trained 50-199)

- ANDERSON, JERE
- CATCHING, DAMON
- CONDRA, LARRY
- DE LA ROSA, FRANK
- FRANCO JR, JESUS
- GANZE, CHUCK
- GEBAUER, TIMOTHY
- HAMMON, KATY
- HAMMON, WILLIAM
- JOHNSON, RICHARD

- LYTTAKER, BEVERLY
- MARTINEZ, OSCAR
- NEYSES, DAVID
- PETRICK, MICHAEL
- PORTWOOD, RONALD
- RAMIREZ, IRMA
- SHAVER, BRENDA
- SHIRLEY, MICHAEL
- WILSON, SHANE

SILVER AWARD (trained 25-49)

- GARCIA, RODD

BRONZE AWARD (trained 10-24)

- DEBUSK, DEREK
- MILLER, ANN
- MILLER III, JOHN
- PATERSON, CLINTON
- RICHARDS, DANNY
- VAUGHAN, GERALD
- WALKER, CARVER

Get Teddy Ready

GREG AKINS – Aquatic Education Specialist, Houston

Safety should be a principle practice in everything we do, especially at outdoor events where youth are fishing, kayaking or camping in and around water. The Angler Education program incorporates safety into its curriculum, activities and literature to ensure safety for the fish, habitat and people.

At a recent event, I had one of those teachable moments. We had 120 young men who were very excited to go fishing, and many of them fishing for the first time. As the groups picked up their rod-n-reels and headed toward the water, we immediately noticed we had failed to explain to each of them how to secure the hooks onto the rods to prevent any potential injuries from the free-swinging hooks. By the time we untangled the hooks and lines for the first group it was time for them to move on to the next event station. Lesson learned.

Our Angler Education mascot "Teddy" teaches safety lessons to youth, reminding them of the importance of wearing a hat and sunglasses to prevent hook injuries to the head, face and eyes. Many of you may not know about our mascot, Teddy, or how he started his TPWD career.

A high school beau gave Teddy as a Christmas present to Ann Miller, the former TPWD Aquatic Education Manager. For many years Teddy adorned the beds in the Miller household until sadly he was retired to a closet. When Teddy finally emerged from that dark closet, Ann decided to put him to work.

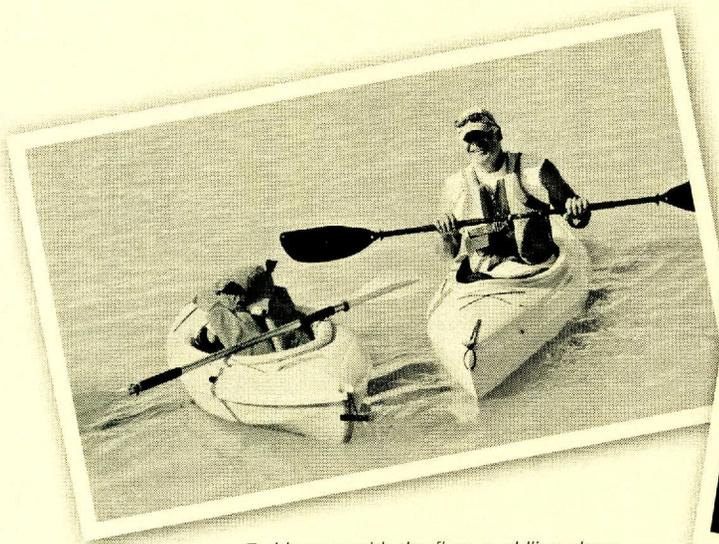
Ann developed the "Get Teddy Ready" interactive exhibit to encourage young kids to dress and prepare Teddy for a safe fishing trip. Decked out in his TPWD ranger uniform, his ensemble includes a hat, sunglasses, water bottle, hook remover pliers, a first aid kit, a life jacket, and a rod-n-reel with the hook safely secured – everything one needs to have a safe fishing trip. For years he traveled the state with the Take Me Fishing trailer making many new friends along the way.

But the constant travel was beginning to wear on Teddy, so staff decided that he should slow down and enjoy his retirement years. Maybe he could adopt an Angler Education family? In the spring of 2011, he visited the Angler Education Area Chief meeting and met Shane Wilson with Fishing's Future. After a short conversation, Teddy decided to pack his bag and go hang out in South Padre Island with the Fishing's Future family and teach kids in the valley and on the island all about fishing safety.

The following year he came back to the Area Chief meeting and met up with the Ascarate Fishing Club of El Paso. Teddy heard that the club does a lot of youth fishing events, and so he hitched a ride out west. During his stay in El Paso, he learned some Spanish, went fishing and kayaking, and taught safety to hundreds of kids.

This past spring, Teddy was adopted by the Fort Worth Fly Fishing Club. He is looking forward to learning how to fly fish and pass along his safety tips such as wearing plenty of sun screen, wearing sunglasses and a hat, and teaching everyone to drink plenty of water during the hot summer months, and of course, how to secure your hook to the rod for safe transport around the pond and back.

His heroic efforts and contributions to the State of Texas are greatly appreciated for teaching us to be safe anglers. I wonder where he will end up next?



Teddy goes with the flow, paddling along with his pal Rodd Garcia of the Ascarate Fishing Club of El Paso.



On the road again...Teddy leaves his El Paso friends and travels east to join the Fort Worth Fly Fishers Club.

Specialty Baits

LARRY M. CONDRA –
TPWD Area Chief, Abilene

In previous issues, we have covered the four major types of artificial baits: crank baits, jigs, soft plastics, and top water baits. However, there are many other specialty type baits used to chase fish. In fact there are so many, that this topic will be continued in the next issue. Some of these fall into the categories listed above, but it is the presentation that makes them a specialty bait. We'll discuss these as they apply to freshwater.

The drop shot rig came on the bass fishing scene just a few years ago. It is my understanding that it originated in Japan. A small hook (I use circle hooks) is tied on the line above the tag end at approximately the depth one wants to present the bait. Then a bell weight or weight specifically made for drop shot rigs is attached to the line with the appropriate leader length between them. The presentation is simply to lower it into the water and transmit very little movement to the bait. In water mostly devoid of structure, it can be cast and retrieved slowly. It is especially good in the presence of grass growing from the lake bottom. There is not much doubt when a strike occurs and this is a fun way to fish. Use small finesse type worms or your choice for that matter. Soft plastics can be wacky rigged, nose rigged, Texas rigged or pretty much how you chose. Worms in the 4- to 8-inch size seem to work best. Keep the weight intact with the bottom at all times. Light lines seem to work best.

Safety pin type spinner baits are very versatile. They can be fished near the surface or very deep or at any depth in between. They come in single and double blades and range in size from about 1/8 oz. to over 1 oz. They can be fished in heavy cover efficiently or slow rolled on the bottom when the bite is sluggish. Fished near the surface they function similar to buzz baits. They can be effective in really shallow or slow rolled in very deep water. They are especially effective for suspended fish as they can be fished up or down in the whole water column. These baits are not weed-less but are much more so than baits with exposed treble hooks. Blade sizes and shapes are varied and experience teaches the angler what to use. A quick trip on the internet might also help.

In-line spinners work differently but can be used on many different species including bass and crappie. However, due to their design, they cannot be fished weed-less unless one replaces the treble hook with a weed-less single hook or a special weed-less treble hook. They come in a rainbow of colors and various sizes.

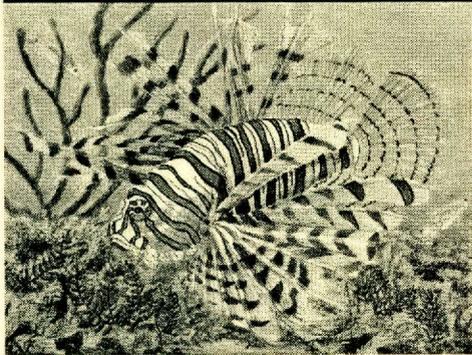
The swim bait, both hard and soft, is a fairly new arrival. Several tournament anglers have won lots of money fishing these baits when others were ignoring them. I do not have very much experience with this bait but I understand it is great for certain waters and certain times of the year. The baits come in various sizes from small minnow shapes to very large ones. Some fish the larger ones when looking specifically for large bites. I have several but have used them very little due to confidence in other baits and presentations.

A bait that is similar to a swim bait but often fished differently is the jerk bait (both hard and soft.) I have used hard jerk baits trolling for big strippers on Possum Kingdom with downriggers and working the surface on Lake Texoma. I have also fished smaller versions for large-mouth bass in numerous lakes. They can be fished several ways but one that is very effective at certain times is to cast it out, let it set (as they are mostly floaters), then using short downward jerks of the rod moving the bait back to you. Soft jerk baits are made by several companies and can be fished totally weightless or with some weight and can be rigged totally weed-less or with exposed hook points depending upon cover you are fishing in. They are fished with short twitches of the rod to barely move the bait, especially if weightless. They mimic injured baitfish and can create vicious strikes.

In part two we will explore the Donkey Rig, Carolina Rig and Alabama Rigs. If you missed these earlier articles, you can read them at www.tpwd.texas.gov/publications/newsletters/reel_lines/

In the meantime, keep your lines tight and wet. Remember to keep what you can use and release the rest. Taking pictures before releasing is certainly appropriate (CPR – Catch–Photo–Release).

This illustration of a drop-shot rig used to keep the bait off the bottom, along with five others, are available on the Angler Education Instructors Resource webpage. Illustration by Clemente Guzman, TPWD.



"Silent Invader" Lionfish in red drum habitat. Oil pencils and chalk pencils by Erin Werner, first-place winner in Grades 4-6. Lionfish, a native fish species of the Indian Ocean, has rapidly become an invasive species in the marine waters of the East coast of the United States, the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico due to the lack of predators, putting native marine species at risk. © Wildlife Forever

Texas State-Fish Art Contest Announces 2013 Winners

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, headquarters for the Texas division of Wildlife Forever's State-Fish Art Contest, has announced the Texas division winners for 2013.

In the K-3 category, winners were: First Place, Sofia Elena Di Stefano of Keller; Second Place, Tatyana Panchishna of Flower Mound; Third Place, Gabriella Malapitan of Flower Mound.

In the grades 4-6 category, winners were: First Place, Erin Werner of Santa Fe; Second Place, Amy Liu of Sugar Land; Third Place, Madeleine Alexander of Keller.

In the grades 7-9 category, winners were: First Place, Casey Nixon of Longview; Second Place, Daniel Heaney of Roanoke; Third Place, Candice Ma of Sugar Land.

In the grades 10-12 category, winners were: First Place, Brady King of Livingston; Second Place, Jessica Hooks of Fred; Third Place, Mary Campbell of Fort Worth.

Texas artists and their families will be recognized at an expo and banquet at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens on June 15.

First-place winners will advance to the national level and compete against winners from other states. National winners will be announced at an expo to be held at the Go Fish Education Center in Perry, Georgia, July 12-13.

Prizes and financial assistance for Texas winners to attend the state and national expos are provided by the Toyota Texas Bass Classic. Texas

winners receive \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for second place and \$500 for third place in the grades 10-12 division. Prizes in the K-3, 4-6 and 7-9 grade levels are \$100 for first; \$75 for second; \$50 for third.

Honorable mentions for Texas students also went to the following students in grades K-3: Lawson Loveland of Flower Mound; Elli Barnir of Flower Mound; Emma Barnard of Southlake; Eva Perez of Dickinson; Elaina Mullins of Dickinson.

Honorable mentions in grades 4-6 were awarded to: Tanmay Karandikar of Coppell; YiYun Li of Sugar Land; Rohun Kulshrestha of Flower Mound; Sarah Slator of Coppell; Nancy Shao of Sugar Land.

Honorable mentions for grades 7-9 were: Christy Kendall of Paris; Ninarika Jetty of Irving; Nasa Xu of Katy; Raashi Kulshrestha of Flower Mound; Kriti Sinha of Irving.

Honorable mentions for grades 10-12 were: Jermaine Castillo of Chandler; Olga Linares of Denton; Luis Castillo of Irving; Rama Imad of Houston; Sophia Anthony of Dallas.

The State-Fish Art Contest is a project of Wildlife Forever. Located in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, Wildlife Forever is a non-profit multi-species conservation organization dedicated to conserving America's wildlife heritage. Working at the grassroots level, Wildlife Forever has funded conservation projects in all 50 states, committing millions of dollars to "on-the-ground" efforts. Wildlife Forever supports habitat restoration and enhancement, land acquisition, research and management of fish and wildlife populations.

New Fishing Regulations

The general regulations are essentially unchanged, but listed below are the changes that are effective September 1, 2013.

Lake Jacksonville

- There will be no minimum length limit for Largemouth Bass. However, the bag limit for Largemouth Bass less than 18 inches in length is 2 per day and total daily bag limit for Largemouth Bass is 5 total.

Kurth Reservoir (near Lufkin)

- 16-inch maximum length limit on Largemouth Bass.
- Only one Largemouth Bass, 24 inches or greater, may be retained alive in a live well; weigh immediately using a personal scale.
- Largemouth Bass weighing 13 pounds or more must be released immediately; another option is to donate it to the ShareLunker Program.
- Largemouth Bass daily bag limit is 5 total.

Canyon Lake Project # 6 (in Lubbock)

- Fishing methods are restricted to pole-and-line only.

Hand Fishing

- A clear definition of hand fishing will be added to the TPWD rules and clarify legal activities and methods associated with this fishing method.

Saltwater

- Currently a federal offense, it will now be a state offense to harvest an aquatic resource in federal waters in violation of federal regulations and to possess it in state waters. If an angler harvested over the bag limit of fish in federal waters it would be a violation of state law even if that fish is not over the legal limit for state waters.

Do You See What I See?

CALEB HARRIS – TPWD Aquatic Education Specialist, Central Texas

Ever wonder how fish see things? Fish have many adaptations for living in water, including a number of vision adaptations that may change the way you fish once you know about them. Of course, the anatomy differs within the diversity of fish species, but for this discussion, I'll have the typical largemouth bass or sunfish in mind.

Orville Rice, TPWD



- 1) **Fish can see in many directions all at once.** Fish have a much greater peripheral vision than humans. This ability combined with their binocular vision in front allows them to see an object without having to turn towards the object. They do have a small blind spot behind their tail. **IMPLICATION:** Although a fish can see a lure to the side, putting it directly in front and above the head are the only two areas where the lure will be viewed by both eyes, and thus increase the likelihood of a successful strike.
- 2) **Fish do not regulate light well.** For most fish species, the iris and pupil is fixed and unable to dilate like a human eye. Although fish can moderate light using other means, many times they simply swim away. **IMPLICATION:** Fish will generally avoid direct bright light and have the best visual acuity in both mornings and evenings when the light is softer. If the light is good for your camera, it's also good for the fish eyes.
- 3) **Fish can focus.** Like most aquatic animals, fish eyes have a spherical lens that is rigid. To focus on an object, the fish must either move its lens forward in the eye orbit, or move its body farther or nearer to the object. In comparison, human lenses are flexible; muscles are used to contract the lens to focus at different distances. In its ordinary position, the fish lens is focused for near vision. **IMPLICATION:** Fish see best at close range. This is why a lure can pass by a bass a few times before he really takes interest.
- 4) **A blind fish still hunts.** If you were to effectively blind some largemouth bass and put them in an aquarium with minnows they will still strike successfully and eat the minnows! Why? Because fish use other sensory organs to smell and detect vibrations. A fish can smell things in water at concentrations we wouldn't even notice even in air; the lateral line organ lets them feel how it is moving. **IMPLICATION:** Be sure to remove scented lotion, sunscreen and bug spray from your hands before handling your equipment and tackle. To attract the fish, create motion when retrieving your line to grab the attention of the fish.
- 5) **Fish can see color, but contrast is key.** Fish eyes have rods and cones like the human eye

that allow it to see color. However, the color a fish sees is also determined by the water depth and water clarity (turbidity). The more turbid the water, the shorter the distance the light waves can travel through the water column. In clear water, red light waves are quickly absorbed; however, blue light waves are not, this is why pools and the ocean normally look blue. White lures will look the same color as any light that remains in the water column, rarely ever being seen as "white" at all. Fluorescent colored lures typically remain visible as the same color and convert UV light to visible light.

Fish vision shifts from color in daylight, to black and white at nighttime. As the sun sets, the color perceiving cones in the fish retina retract while the black and white rods expand, so now the fish is relying more on contrast to see. Keep in mind "contrast" doesn't mean an opposite color, it means shades. The best lure on a moon-lit night is often black, because it offers good contrast to the moon light from above. Contrast for green water can be a slightly different shade of green.

Add to this that many fish see UV as a distinct color and it gets really complicated! **IMPLICATION:** Don't worry too much about color. Shape, contrast and presentation are more important. If the angler next to you is catching more than you... look to see what shape of lure is being used. Is it light or dark? Are they fishing shallow or deep? How are they retrieving the lure?

Additionally, light and water have an interesting physical interaction that also must be considered if we are to increase our fishing success. As the light strikes the water surface it bends, in physics this is called refraction. As anglers, it's important to remember that a fish in the water is actually closer to you and a bit deeper than it appears.

For more information about fish vision and anatomy, see the TPWD Learn About Texas Freshwater Fishes publication: www.tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_bk_k0700_0717.pdf

I hope your fishing improves with this insightful information.

Welcome, New Instructors!

September 2012 - May 2013

We encourage you to team up to teach. It's fun, easy, and a great way to support each other. Call the Austin office for contact information if you would like to team up with one of these new instructors.

If we have accidentally left someone off, please let us know.

* Indicates Fly Fishing Instructor

CARLICE DERINGTON	ADKINS	JR KINKAID	BROOKSHIRE	MARY RENFRO	EDINBURG
ROBERT DERINGTON	ADKINS	LINDA KINKAID	BROOKSHIRE	JAMES IVES	EL PASO
JAMES GRIFFIN	ADKINS	KIMBERLY SMITH	BROOKSHIRE	EDGAR LOERA	EL PASO
WILLIAM GARNEAU	ALVIN	ROBERT CARUTHERS	BUCHANAN	ERNESTO MADRID	EL PASO
ANN HELLEWELL-			DAM	ERIC METZ	EL PASO
WALMSLEY-KUDLICKI	ALVIN	CATHY HILL	BUCHANAN	CARLOS RODRIGUEZ	EL PASO
MARK LOSTRACCO	ALVIN		DAM	EMMANUEL RODRIGUEZ	EL PASO
SASHA GONZALEZ	ARANSAS PASS	LARRY SNYDER	BURKBURNETT	RUDY SNELL	EL PASO
LESTER JACKSON *	ARLINGTON	HAROLD HILLEY*	BURLESON	WILLIAM MCLAUGHLIN*	EULESS
JEFFREY KEMP	ARLINGTON	DICK OLIPHANT	BURLESON	DANIEL BECKENDORF	FANNIN
MICHAEL MCCORKHILL *	ARLINGTON	LORI GRECO	BURNET	WILLIAM SLAUGHTER*	FARMERS
PAUL BELYEA	AUSTIN	RALPH HERTER	BURNET		BRANCH
MICHAEL BURO	AUSTIN	CHAD ETHERIDGE	COLLEYVILLE	RONALD ROBERTSON*	FLOWER
JENNIFER CHAPMAN	AUSTIN	JAMES "BILL" HODGES*	COLLEYVILLE		MOUND
LANDON DOBBS	AUSTIN	BILL HE CZKO	COMFORT	BILLY ANDERSON	FORT WORTH
HEATHER ELIAS	AUSTIN	DON ALCALA	CORPUS CHRISTI	ANDREW KEEBLE	FORT WORTH
ERIC KOCOUEK	AUSTIN	SYDNEY ALCALA	CORPUS CHRISTI	GREG KOHN*	FORT WORTH
KAREN LUNDQUIST	AUSTIN	CHELSEA ALLEN	CORPUS CHRISTI	WALTER "CHIP" MAY*	FORT WORTH
MORGAN MARSHALL	AUSTIN	BRENDA BENNETT	CORPUS CHRISTI	RALPH SIMMANS*	FORT WORTH
AMANDA MILLER	AUSTIN	GERALD BOOK	CORPUS CHRISTI	GARY BUCHANAN	FREEPORT
THOMAS NEWMAN	AUSTIN	ARJELIA CABRERA	CORPUS CHRISTI	SARA BEERY	FRIENDSWOOD
JOSHUA OYER	AUSTIN	JESUS CABRERA JR	CORPUS CHRISTI	ALEXIS BRETOS	FRIENDSWOOD
CHARLES PIKE	AUSTIN	DEBORAH EDWARDS	CORPUS CHRISTI	STACY PAGEL	FRIENDSWOOD
TRISHA PORTER	AUSTIN	MARK FLING	CORPUS CHRISTI	SUSAN UNDERWOOD*	FRISCO
WILLIAM REYMOND	AUSTIN	JESSICA GRUMMAN	CORPUS CHRISTI	FRANCES DAVIS RYAN	GALVESTON
MELISSA RIOS	AUSTIN	MARCUS HARALSON	CORPUS CHRISTI	FRANK HUNEYCUTT*	GRAND PRAIRIE
MELISSA RIOS	AUSTIN	JASON JAMES	CORPUS CHRISTI	MICK HAVEN	GRAPELAND
TIFFANY TAYLOR	AUSTIN	DAVID NORRIS, JR.	CORPUS CHRISTI	ROBERT GARBER*	HALTOM CITY
ALAN VENNEMAN	AUSTIN	STEVEN UTLEY	CORPUS CHRISTI	LAURA JOSS	HENRIETTA
ALLISON WILKERSON	AUSTIN	AUSTIN VALDEZ	CORPUS CHRISTI	BETTY CRUIKSHANK	HORSESHOE
TROY WILLIAMS	AUSTIN	STEVEN WELLS	CORPUS CHRISTI		BAY
SURESH VENUGOPAL*	AZLE	DAVID ROBERTSTAD	CORSICANA	KENNETH CRUIKSHANK	HORSESHOE
DAVID FITZGERALD	BELTON	KEBBIE MORAN	CYPRESS		BAY
LAURIE FITZGERALD	BELTON	RICHARD BROWN*	DALLAS	LINDA O'NAN	HORSESHOE
BRENDA OGILVIE BEN	WHEELER	RICHARD HANESS*	DALLAS		BAY
EDWARD GOODSON*	BENBROOK	KENNETH NELMS	DALLAS	PAMELA WALT	HORSESHOE
PAULA D'ORSOGNA	BERTRAM	MELITON VELASQUEZ	DALLAS		BAY
BARBARA BOOTH	BLUFFTON	PHILIP ADAMSON	DEER PARK	BELINDA MANRRIQUEZ	HOUSTON
REBECCA WEHUNT	BLUM	AARON KINT	DENTON	ANA AITA-CHERRY	HOUSTON
SANDRA CLARKE	BRAZORIA	GRETCHEN MINOR	DICKINSON	GREGG ANTHONY	HOUSTON
DAVID KINKAID	BROOKSHIRE	HYON LEE	EDGEWOOD	CHARLES BARNES	HOUSTON

MARGIE BLOUNT HOUSTON
 ROBERT BRASHEAR HOUSTON
 CHARLOTTE BREEZE HOUSTON
 JASON BROOKER HOUSTON
 KRISTEN DUNN HOUSTON
 ERIC FINLEY HOUSTON
 EDWARD FLOYD HOUSTON
 TERRANCE FORD HOUSTON
 JAMES FOWLER HOUSTON
 OSWAIDA GARCIA HOUSTON
 DARRYL GREEN HOUSTON
 HAROLD JACKSON HOUSTON
 MEAGAN LONGORIA HOUSTON
 TERENCE MANUEL HOUSTON
 JAMES MAXWELL HOUSTON
 YOLETTE MCCULLOUGH HOUSTON
 KEVIN MENIFEE HOUSTON
 CATHERINE MUNOZ HOUSTON
 LARRY MUSE HOUSTON
 MAYEN NELSON HOUSTON
 ARTHUR NEVAREZ HOUSTON
 THURMAN OUTLEY HOUSTON
 DONALD PRINCE HOUSTON
 EARNEST ROBINSON HOUSTON
 GINA ROBINSON HOUSTON
 SANDRA ROJAS HOUSTON
 REGINA SMITH HOUSTON
 GARY TUNSON HOUSTON
 KAMELL WEBSTER HOUSTON
 LIVY WILSON HOUSTON
 KELLY GAYDOS HUTTO
 CAROLE SAVAGE INGLESIDE
 LORETTA LUNEY IOWA PARK
 GEORGE BRUGNOLI JOHNSON CITY
 HANA ABDEL-RAHIM KATY
 CECILIA ALEJANDRE KATY
 TRINITY DAWSON KATY
 ELVA DUENEZ KATY
 IRASI JIMENEZ KATY
 APRIL JOHNSON KATY
 MARISA LIRA KATY
 NOHELIA MAZA DE HEIGF KATY
 NORMA MEJIA KATY
 KRISTINE NEILANDER KATY
 JUDY NICK KATY
 SEAN O'CONNOR KATY
 TELICIA RIGGLE KATY
 JUANA SANCHEZ-HERNANDEZ KATY

JEFFREY SCALES KATY
 BRETT SCHUMACHER KATY
 CAROLA STEAD KATY
 MARIANNE STIRRUP KATY
 LILIANA SUBIETA KATY
 RODOLFO SUBIETA KATY
 MARIA WOODS KATY
 DAWN WOYTEK KATY
 ENNIS HAW KAUFMAN
 ROB NICHOLSON KAUFMAN
 CHAD JURECKA KELLER
 EUDELL JILES KEMAH
 RONALD FORTNER KEMP
 REAGAN "GARRET" KEMP
 STOCKMAN KEMP
 MICHAEL KIRSCHNER KILLEEN
 RHONDA SPRAY- KILLEEN
 KURTZMAN LAGO VISTA
 DAVID BRANDES LAKE JACKSON
 CRIS FAUGHT LAKEWAY
 MICHAEL YOUNG LEANDER
 MARGIE LUNA LIVINGSTON
 RICKIE LUNA LIVINGSTON
 MARGRIT ANTONISSE MABANK
 ROLENDIS ANTONISSE MABANK
 MARK KOLANOWSKI* MANSFIELD
 AFTON HEINATZ MARBLE FALLS
 MAIA HOLMES MCKINNEY
 PAUL WALKER MISSOURI CITY
 REBEKAH BEARD N. RICHLAND
 DANIEL COWAN* HILLS
 DUSTIN WYATT NEW BRAUNFELS
 BOBBY TUCKER NEW BRAUNFELS
 GALENDA TUCKER PALESTINE
 KARL SCHOENTHAL* PALESTINE
 RODNEY BATY PARADISE
 ROY WILKERSON PEARLAND
 DANIEL PARK PEARLAND
 LESLIE OAKESON PFLUGERVILLE
 SHARON LEISSNER PIPE CREEK
 SALLY GUPTON PLANO
 DONALD EVANS RICHMOND
 DAKUS GEESLIN ROSHARON
 EMILY JOHNSON* ROUND ROCK
 CHAD SPAULDING* ROUND ROCK
 DEBBIE REID ROUND ROCK
 AUGUSTINE FRKUSKA SAN ANTONIO

ESTHER PALACIOS SAN ANTONIO
 GRISELDA PEREZ SAN ANTONIO
 JANICE POTTER SAN ANTONIO
 MARGARET ROBERTS SAN ANTONIO
 ROY THOMPSON SAN ANTONIO
 RON TULLIUS SAN ANTONIO
 MARK MEHRENS SAN MARCOS
 ALANA TRAMMELL SAN MARCOS
 BEVERLY FUNDERBURG SEGUIN
 J JAMES* SOUTHLAKE
 GARY TRAYLOR SPRING
 MANUEL CASAS STAFFORD
 MARISSA DIAZ SUNLAND PARK
 LOUIS GOLISH SURFSIDE BEACH
 KELLY GARMON TAYLOR
 BRENDA ALBRO TEMPLE
 HENRY ALBRO TEMPLE
 DIANE COONEY TEMPLE
 PAMELA DRAGOO TEMPLE
 KATHY PATTERSON TEMPLE
 LUKE STUCKER TEMPLE
 LINDA MINOR TEXAS CITY
 PERRY MINOR TEXAS CITY
 ROBERT CADY TOOL
 DARRIN TROXELL VALLEY MILLS
 RENE CASTRO VICTORIA
 JANET WALLACE WACO
 EILEEN BERGER WAXAHACHIE
 DEBORAH CLAY WHITNEY
 JAMES ADAMS WICHITA FALLS
 CYNTHIA ARCHIBALD WICHITA FALLS
 WENDI HOWARD WICHITA FALLS
 TOM LANG WICHITA FALLS
 ERMALINDA MEHEW WICHITA FALLS
 STEVEN BRANECKY WICHITA FALLS
 DARREN BRINKLEY WICHITA FALLS
 YANETTE CARMONA WICHITA FALLS
 LAUREN CREEK WICHITA FALLS
 DENNIS ELLISON WICHITA FALLS
 NANCY ELLISON WICHITA FALLS
 TRAVIS HUDSON WICHITA FALLS
 SIERRA JENKINS WICHITA FALLS
 KELLY MONTANA WICHITA FALLS
 JUAN REMIGIO WICHITA FALLS
 ANDREW RODRIGUEZ WICHITA FALLS
 JULIO VEGA WICHITA FALLS

UPCOMING EVENTS



Aquarium and Hatchery Tours

Daily. See saltwater aquariums showcasing the diversity of the Texas coast and tour the redfish hatchery. Accessible for the mobility impaired. View aquarium fish feedings every Wednesday and Friday at 10:30 a.m. Visitor Center hours are Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Sunday 1 – 4 p.m.; hatchery tours by reservation only; free admission and tours; for more information call (979) 292-0100.

Youth Catch & Release Fishing Events by Reservation

Reservations for group events are available the first and third Wednesday of the month in the mornings. Reservations must be made at least three weeks in advance and require a \$50 refundable deposit. Only groups with 10 to 20 participants between the ages of 7 and 16 are eligible to schedule an event. Sea Center Texas will provide the rods, reels, equipment and volunteers to assist the group. To inquire about available dates, contact Patty Cardoza at (979) 292-0100 ext. 21 or by email at seacenter@tpwd.texas.gov.

September 21, 2013

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Youth Fishing Event

Pack your sunscreen, hat, lawn chair and fishing gear for a couple of hours of catch and release fishing at our marine fish hatchery and visitor education center. This event is available to guests 16 years old and younger accompanied by an adult. Anglers must bring their own gear and bait with barb-less hooks. No artificial bait, steel leaders, corks or treble hooks. Volunteers and staff will be on hand to assist first-time anglers. Free admission; donations accepted. Gift shop located in visitor center.

October 27, 2013

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Halloween Spooktacular

Crafts, games and trick-or-treat for kids. Enjoy educational activities and touch live animals. Dress up in your best Halloween costume and enter our costume contest! Free admission. \$5.00 craft fee per participant. Costume contest at 2:30 p.m. Call (979) 292-0100 for details.

For complete calendar and updates, visit www.tpwd.texas.gov/seacenter

BE A PART OF THE CELEBRATION

This year we invite you to join us in celebrating 50 years of making life better outside in Texas! The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department was created in 1963 by the merger of the Texas Game and Fish Commission and the State Parks Board.

Become a Texas Parks and Wildlife Ambassador by pledging to take one or more actions (such as introducing someone to the great outdoors, visiting a state park, volunteering or buying a fishing or hunting license), and we'll send you a free "Life's better outside" window sticker.

Thank you for the role you play in helping make life better outside in Texas. We couldn't do it without you.



UPCOMING EVENTS

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE



TEXAS FRESHWATER FISHERIES CENTER

September 28, 2013

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Bluegill Family Fishing Tournament

Join us for a fun-filled day of trying to catch the biggest Bluegill here at our center and on Lake Athens. The tournament awards prizes for the heaviest stringers of sunfish, but the event is really about adults and children having fun fishing together. Call for details or to pre-register.

\$15 per family team – entry includes family admission

October 24, 2013

6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Halloween at the Hatchery

Local businesses and organizations will hand out free candy, and the center will be decorated throughout with a Halloween theme.

\$1 admission donation to local charities

Second Saturday of every month

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Bird and Nature Walk

Join us on our monthly bird watching outing during one of the best birding times of the year. Expect to see 25 or more different species as we explore our Interpretive Wetland Trail and other areas of the hatchery. Bring binoculars and field guide if you have them (not required).

Free with regular admission

For complete calendar and updates, visit www.tpwd.texas.gov/tffc

ARE YOU READY FOR OKTOBERFISCH?

October 18-20, 2013

Morgan Shady Park, 600 South 6th Street, Junction, TX

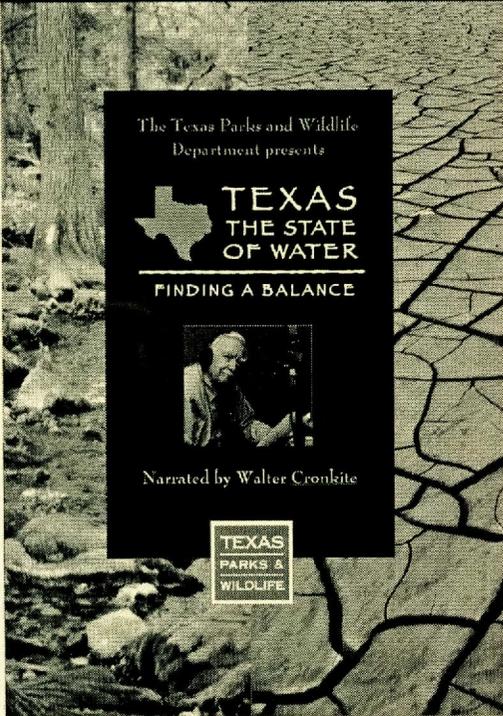
Hosted by the Fredericksburg Fly Fishers club, Oktoberfisch is a three-day fly fishing festival for both the beginning and experienced fly fishers.

For more information and to register for the event visit

<http://fredericksburgflyfishers.org/oktoberfisch/>

Or email oktoberfisch@hotmail.com or call 830.998.2477 or 830.456.2201





Wondering About Water?

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department produced "Texas The State of Water" documentary film series exploring the crucial issues facing water for Texas. This award-winning series investigates how our state is balancing the water needs of humans, agriculture, business, and wildlife.

Why these films, Why now?

Our recent drought, continued population growth, and increasing demands on limited water resources make this topic more important than ever.

We encourage communities to show these videos in a public setting to stimulate discussion on finding solutions to insure a sustainable water supply for now and the future.

FREE!

Learn more at the videos, view the companion "State of Water Video Screening Toolkit," and watch the latest documentary on the website, www.texasasthewater.org

Host a movie night or a "lunch and learn." Share these videos with your neighbors, civic clubs, church groups or friends. There is no charge for the videos but supplies are limited.

Interested? Contact Cappy Smith at cappy.smith@tpwd.texas.gov or (512) 389-8060 for additional information or to receive the videos.

COMING SOON!

TEXAS-BASED AQUATIC SCIENCE GUIDE



AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS OF TEXAS

An aquatic science guide for middle and high school students for and about Texas!

- » Texas-specific aquatic habitats and wildlife
- » Texas state education standards (TEKS)
- » Video enhancements for each chapter

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 1: Water Is Life
- 2: The Ultimate Recyclable
- 3: What's Your Watershed Address?
- 4: Living in the Water
- 5: From Sun to Sunfish
- 6: Texas' Aquatic Ecosystems
- 7: Aquifers and Springs
- 8: Rivers and Streams
- 9: Lakes and Ponds
- 10: Wetlands
- 11: Bays and Estuaries
- 12: The Gulf of Mexico
- 13: Fishing for Conservation
- 14: Water for People and the Environment

The electronic student and teacher guides will be available **FREE** on the project partner websites:



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