

Reel Lines

Texas Angler Education Program

Issue Number 11

4200 Smith School Road • Austin, Texas 78744

January 2002

New & Noteworthy

ANN MILLER – EDITOR
TPW Aquatic Education Coordinator

Greetings to all our friends,

This issue highlights some excellent youth fishing programs provided by the 4-H Sportfishing Program, Boy Scouts of America, and community groups who are working with the TPW Aquatic Education Team to provide aquatic adventures for youth across the state. As the new member of this team, I have had the pleasure to meet program leaders and volunteers like **Larry Hysmith, Denise Harmel-Garza, Jeff Scott, Mark Carpenter, Velma and James Parker, and Melanie Milner** who have made working here a pleasure. Many thanks to each of you.

This issue will introduce you to our staff, Christina Conner, Steve Campbell and Chris Lena, who will be regular feature writers, supplying you with some laughs, tips for fishing and creative ideas for aquatic education.

In each issue of *Reel Lines*, this column will focus on newsworthy changes in our aquatic ed. programs and events or opportunities that beg to be shared. *Reel Lines* will begin to offer a wider scope of articles, activities and news about aquatic habitats, issues and opportunities for adults to reach Texas youth. I hope you will send me pictures,

continued on the next page

Going Deeper with 4-H Sportfishing

LARRY HYSMITH, Texas 4-H Sportfishing Program Coordinator

Editor's Note: If you thought the Junior or Master Angler program was fun, you would really enjoy 4-H Sportfishing. In fact, the new activity-oriented Junior/Master Angler program was inspired in part by 4-H Sportfishing. Being a Junior or Master Angler is a perfect introduction to 4-H Sportfishing, which delves deeper into the watery world of fish and fishing.

The Texas 4-H Sportfishing Program provides youth with all the skills needed to be expert anglers, and it involves them in a deeper understanding of aquatic resources and their management. With aquatic issues as a top state priority, this program fills an essential educational role in Texas.

Adult volunteers are needed for this exciting and rapidly expanding program. Three state trainings last year taught volunteer leaders, county Extension faculty, and other individuals how to serve as instructors and youth mentors in 4-H Sportfishing. The leader training workshops provide important curriculum material in a "hands-on" setting, allowing all participants to experience the program as they would teach it to students. The 4-H motto, "learning by doing" is practiced.



In addition to the weekend leader trainings, advanced trainings are offered throughout the year covering a variety of topics. These trainings are designed to provide more in-depth information on specific topics. Training dates and locations move around the calendar and the state. (See training schedule on page 2.)

For more information about the 4-H Sportfishing program, contact the Extension agent in your county or contact Larry Hysmith, 103D Nagle Hall, TAMU 2258, College Station, TX, 77843-2258; (979) 845-4865; lhysmith@tamu.edu.

New & Noteworthy, continued

stories and descriptions of your triumphs and trials in aquatic education. I'm also including a little **reward** in each issue. Read carefully to find it.

PROGRAM CHANGES

- A new Jr./Master Angler Instructor's Guide will be sent to all instructors by mid-March. This guide will provide new ideas for "hands-on" approaches to teaching the Jr./Master Angler measures. If you already have some "tried-and-true" methods of teaching angler ed., just keep on doing it, but take a look at some of the new activities. They were designed to hold kids' attention and teach the basics.
- We are also making some very slight modifications to the Jr. and Master

Angler measures. These are a result of many discussions and much field-testing of the program. Please note that the new Instructor's Guide will include new roster forms that will reflect these new measures.

- Send all roster forms from each Jr. or Master Angler class directly to me (**within a week of class completion**), but stay in contact with the staff in your area. Remember that you can access the Jr./Master Angler Instructor's Trunk to help you teach your classes. The trunks have the teaching aids and equipment needed to teach your class, including new Ethical Dilemma cards and Fishing Safety and Regulations cards.

- Note some changes in locations of Tackle Loaner sites. Locations are listed on the Parks and Wildlife Web site: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/education/angled/tackloan.htm

- An updated version of the Junior/Master Angler Guidebook will be available by the end of February. The first 20 instructors who contact me to order the new Guidebook will receive a fishing lure. (Hint: this is the **reward** in this issue.)

I look forward to hearing from each of you.

Ann Miller

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Texas 4-H Sportfishing Program Training

The 4-H Sportfishing Program is supported by an impressive list of cooperators including Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Sea Grant Program, Texas Cooperative Extension and the Sportfish Restoration Program.



TRAINING SCHEDULE (as of Dec. 2001)

April 19-21	Leader Training; 4-H Center, Brownwood
May 3-5	Multiple Topic Advanced Training, 4-H Center, Brownwood
June 3-7	Harris County 4-H Sportfishing Day Camp
June 3-7	Bexar County 4-H Sportfishing Day Camp
July 15-19	4-H Sportfishing Camp, Burnet County
August 5-6	Leader Training, Corpus Christi A&M
August 7-10	Aquatic Camp, Corpus Christi A&M

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

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PWD BR D0200-162 (1/02)

Fishing for Smiles

DENISE HARMEL-GARZA, Extension Associate-Conservation



It was a hot July afternoon in East Texas with temperatures reaching 100 degrees in the shade. The humidity was oppressive. It was three weeks into the five week camping season at H. S. Estelle 4-H and Youth Camp in Huntsville and I was once again preparing a fishing class for thirty-five 10 and 11 year-olds. It was the last class of the day and I was tired. I missed the cool air of the dining hall.

Where the youth assembled for class, one young man peered at me through his glasses and said he didn't think he would like this "fishing thing." I smiled and said,

"we'll see." He was one of the 345 inner city minority youth that attended this camp.

After being taught the Palomar knot and practicing his casting on backyard bass targets, it was time to head to the pond. My young doubter's enthusiasm had increased. Knot tying went well. He felt a sense of accomplishment since knot tying is a very adult skill. Casting was even better. Who would've thought he would get to cast his very own rod and reel? And if he held his mouth open just right when he reeled in the casting plug, he could catch one of those wily backyard bass targets.

Overcoming the grossness of the worms was his next big hurdle. Five minutes after dropping the hook in the pond, he let out a yell. He had just caught his very first fish. He turned to me whooping and hollering, with a huge smile on his face. I no longer felt the heat and the humidity, just this young man's enthusiasm. This was what the hard work, hot days, and long hours were about. I hope I see him next year so

he can catch more fish and I can catch more smiles.

Thanks to Texas Parks and Wildlife's Community Outdoor Outreach grant many inner city minority youth went fishing this past summer at the H.S. Estelle 4-H and Youth camp.

The camp is run by the Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University. It provides some kids with their first experiences in the outdoors. It has various species of trees, insects and other animals. And the five-acre lake is filled with sunfish!



More Smiles from Happy Anglers...

Photos by Mark Carpenter, Boy Scouts, Camp Cherokee



Knot tying:
a Boy Scout tradition



Fish I.D. fun



Junior today...
Master tomorrow



Even Santa likes to fish!



Kids ^{on} the Coast

CHRISTINA CONNER
Aquatic Education –
Corpus Christi/
South Texas

Let's Go Crabbing!

For kids who like a little adventure when they're at the coast – take them crabbing! Capturing these feisty little crustaceans is very rewarding because the meat is so tasty. Here is an easy, fun way to catch crabs.

Equipment/supplies:

1. raw meat scraps with bone on (chicken bones are my personal favorite)
2. a deep 5-10 gallon bucket
3. several meters of twine
4. a large dip net with a long handle
5. antiseptic wipes to clean hands after handling raw meat
6. footwear for wading in shallow water

Where to crab:

Seagrass meadows are the preferred habitat of blue crabs. Find seagrass in shallow water (usually 1-3 ft. deep) in quiet bays and estuaries where there is a muddy bottom and little or no wave action. Look for large, shadowy areas in the water.

How to crab:

1. Tightly tie one end of the twine to a heavy bone with meat still attached. (Crabs prefer to eat the dead flesh of fish and other crabs as well as small, live fish and some vegetation.)
2. Clean your hands with the antiseptic wipes.
3. While standing on the shallow water's edge, toss the bone with the twine attached as far out into the seagrass meadows as possible, holding on to the end, of course.
4. Pull the line very slowly and wait for some slight tugging and pulling. This should be the result of one or more crabs (most likely blue crabs) grabbing the bone.

5. Very slowly pull in the twine until you can see the bone and the crab attached. Be sure not to pull the bone too close to you because you will scare the crab away and it will be almost impossible to catch.
6. Grab the dip net and very slowly walk towards the bone.
7. When you see the crab, quickly scoop it up with the net and place it in your bucket.
8. Shake the crab into the bucket without pulling it free from the net because crabs will try their best to pinch you with their powerful claws. Or, if you don't want to keep the crabs to eat, release them quickly back into the water.

Seagrass beds provide cover and serve as nurseries for many young fish and shellfish. Due to many factors including damage by outboard motors, dredging, and development, seagrass conservation is becoming an important issue along the Texas coast. Find out what is being done to conserve seagrass beds in Texas at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/admin/seagrass/seagrass2.htm

Remember, there are legal limits to blue crab catches. You must also have a current fishing license with a saltwater stamp. Make sure each crab is a minimum length of 5 inches. Refer to page 61 in your 2001-2002 *Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual* and page 41 for properly measuring a crab.



Water Works Wonders

NANCY HERRON, Education Services

There's a new national campaign promoting fishing and boating called "Water Works Wonders." Well-executed spots tug at our heart strings, evoking nods, warm memories, and an urge to reconnect with friends and family over a fishing rod. We were impressed, and use the campaign here in Texas.

But a deeper look into the phrase says much more about why I was so intrigued. "Water-Works-Wonders." Water's life-giving, of course. But water also brings joy; spiritual growth; a place for rest; for play; new skills; a window into the intricacies of nature's web.



Water works wonders

You, our volunteers, help reveal this universal truth. You may be thinking, "But I'm just helping kids learn how to cast."

Learning to enjoy life-long activities in and around water is key to appreciating and ultimately protecting our precious aquatic resources. Having fun, being safe, comfortable, and observant along our lakes, rivers, streams and coast contribute more to ensuring the future of our resources than any other educational activity we do.

For that, we forever thank you.

Water works wonders, and so do you.

Welcome New Instructors!

JULY

Ralph Gordon	Dallas
Ann Johnson	Forney
Sandy Francis	Mesquite
Nick Huckleba	Mesquite
W. D. Lewis	Brownsboro
Buck Dittforth	Athens
Ben Barrera	Gun Barrel City
Bill Autery	Streetman
John Scarborough	Athens
Clayton Worden	Chandler
John Talasek	Athens
Jean Scarborough	Athens
Mona Farmer	Athens
Hunter Wise	Trinidad
Joyce McCord	Athens
Joe Arenas	Carrollton

AUGUST

Paul Silva	Corpus Christi
Mark Shuttlesworth	Corpus Christi
Ruben Chavez	Corpus Christi
Dan Gonzalez	Corpus Christi
Joe Abrego	Corpus Christi
Lara Burkhart	Corpus Christi
Harold Lewis	Corpus Christi
Michael Robertson	Corpus Christi

John A. Brown
 Wesley S. Brewer
 Ron D. Anderson
 Ryan McElroy
 Brett Thomas
 Scott Rawlings
 Darrell Vinson
 Julie Renee Miller-Mikus
 Kristy Talamantez
 Kimberly Reich
 Laura Harris
 Chad Miller
 Asa Youngblood
 Ben Bohac
 Ty Herd
 Justin Hackler
 Chris Orum
 Waylon Holdridge
 Clayton Lynch
 Aaron Riggins
 Kelly Jones
 Chad Collie
 Kris Sparks
 Curt Metzler
 Rocky Turner
 Jonathan Middleton
 Mike Paramore
 Michael L. Brummond

Corpus Christi
 Corpus Christi
 Corpus Christi
 Stephenville
 Kempner
 Boyd
 Cleburne
 Stephenville
 Stephenville
 Stephenville
 Cisco
 Stephenville
 Stephenville
 Stephenville
 Granger
 Irene
 Waller
 Stephenville
 Stephenville
 Stephenville
 Uvalde
 Van Alstyne
 Stephenville
 Stephenville
 Stephenville
 Mansfield
 Stephenville
 Stephenville
 Stephenville
 Lampasas

Brent Dugat
 Joey Isbell
 Jodi Seider
 Clint Hammtreee
 Ginger Andrew
 Autumn N. Lisenbe
 Shana Berrier
 Nichole Dhooghe
 Stacie M. Smith
 Amy L. Knippel
 Lori Maddox
 Jennifer Pirkle

Portland
 Stephenville
 Priddy
 Copperas Cove
 Valley View
 Belton
 Salado
 Stephenville
 Alice
 Stephenville
 Lometa
 Sherman

SEPTEMBER

Rosa Vallejo
 Mary Jo Janovsky
 Lendon Gilpin
 Ken Miller
 Ann Miller
 Rudy Anderson
 Lillianne Goeders
 Noel Rodriguez
 Carol Jean Vaughn
 James Haynes
 Kitty Haynes
 Siri Lindholm
 Mark Secord

Weslaco
 Harlingen
 New Braunfels
 Dripping Springs
 Dripping Springs
 Cedar Park
 Austin
 Buda
 Austin
 Houston
 Houston
 San Antonio
 Beeville



Steve's Stories

STEVE CAMPBELL
 Aquatic Education –
 Dallas/Ft. Worth

Did you hear the one about the cat that swallowed a can of worms...

and then sat by the creek...

With Baited Breath

My very first adult angler education class took place in Bedford in July of 2000. Despite my lack of self-assurance, the class went extremely well. We joked and laughed and learned together. It was a great confidence builder.

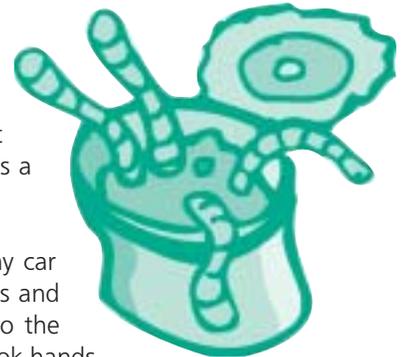
At its conclusion, everyone in the class carted something back to my car while my hands remained empty. As I was bombarded by questions and fish stories, others began loading equipment and teaching aids into the vehicle. Before I knew it, the car was completely loaded. We all shook hands and I drove off into the sunset.

The next day I had another class to teach. I opened the car door and was suddenly overtaken by one of the worst smells I had ever encountered in my life! I was stymied as to its origin.

As the day continued, so did the intensity of the smell. And in short order, I decided that I could not endure the odor any longer. I began an extensive search of the vehicle, literally led by nose, to ferret out the stench that had consumed my car.

In a very brief amount of time I discovered the source... a small, styrofoam carton of curdled nightcrawlers! *Uuuughhh*. I made the mistake of opening the lid and was engulfed in a green, gaseous cloud of ex-night crawler vapor, causing my eyes to instantly water. I staggered across the parking lot and managed to drop the worm coffin into the dumpster.

Apparently, in their haste to pack my car the day before, my students had included the night crawlers with the rest of the cargo and didn't tell me!

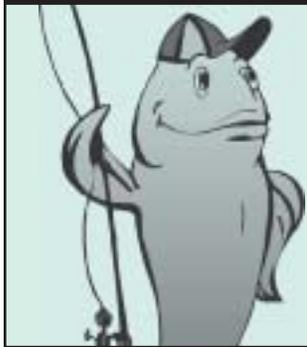


TJA Schedules Spring Fishing Events

The Texas Junior Anglers program, a non-profit 501c-3 organization, will begin holding **free fishing events** for children 16 and under starting in spring 2002. (See schedule below.) During each Texas Junior Angler (TJA) event, youth can be certified as Junior Anglers by volunteers who teach TPW's **Junior Angler Program**. TJA will provide loaner rods, reels, bait and tackle to young anglers who need them. The host pond or lake will be generously stocked with adult fish prior to the event, increasing the odds of catching fish and providing opportunities for licensed members of the community to fish after the youth event is over.

Texas Junior Anglers (TJA) is a statewide fishing program designed to educate young Texans regarding aquatic stewardship and conservation of our natural resources, foster strong relationships within the community, and enable children to participate in a sport providing a lifetime of fun. The new organization, led by Jeff Scott, is seeking volunteer assistance. For information regarding an event in your community, involvement in a committee, or angler instructors' workshops sponsored by Texas Junior Anglers in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area, contact Jeff Scott at (817) 247-5474 or by e-mail at txjranglersinc@juno.com.

EVENT SCHEDULE



DATE	HOST CITY	PARK
April 6, 2002	The Colony	Lions Club Park
April 7, 2002	Grand Prairie	Mike Lewis Park
April 14, 2002	Cedar Hill	Valley Ridge Park
April 27, 2002	Rowlett	Lakes of Springfield Park
May 4, 2002	DeSoto	City Lake Park
May 11, 2002	Watauga	City Lake Park
May 18, 2002	Farmers Branch	Gussie Field Park

Upcoming Events

See our Web site: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/edu/anged/angc.htm

MARCH

- 2-3 Fishing Show at George R. Brown Center
Houston
- 11 Youth Fishing Event in Euless
Call Steve Campbell
- 12-15 Reel Kids Event at Cedar Hill State Park
- 16 Coastal Expo in San Antonio at South Park Mall (Reel Kids)
- 21 Jr. Angler Instructor Training in Victoria
Call Christina Conner
- 23 Jr./Master Angler Instructor Class in Grand Prairie
Call Steve Campbell
- 23 Fly Fish Texas 2002 at Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, Athens
- 23-24 Outdoor Spotlight (Reel Kids and Jr. Angler) – Rio Hondo

APRIL

- 5-7 Hunting and Fishing Show at Bayfront Plaza in Corpus
- 6 Jr./Master Angler Instructors Class – Austin
Call Chris Lena
- 6 Jr./Master Angler Instructor Class – Grand Prairie
Call Steve Campbell

- 13-14 Texas Fish and Game Fishing Tournament – Granite Shoals
- 20 Jr./Master Angler Instructor Course – Pampa
Call Chris Lena
- 20 Earth Day/Bay Day in Corpus Christi – Jr. Angler/Reel Kids – Christina Conner

MAY

- 10-11 Conroe Parks and Recreation Dept. Expo
Call Chris Lena

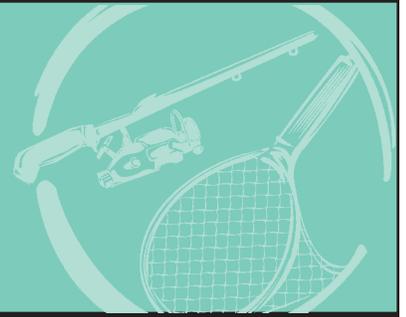
JUNE

- 1-9 National Fishing Week
- 1 Jr. Angler Adventure at Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, Athens
- 1 Free Fishing Day at Lowes Creek Marina in Hemphill
Call Chris Lena
- 17-21 Travis County Summer Fishing Camp
Call Chris Lena
- 22 Jr./Master Angler Class in Grand Prairie
Call Steve Campbell



Tips, Tackle & Tasty Tidbits

CHRIS LENA, Aquatic Education – Austin/Houston



Downsizing Large Lakes – Starting Points

When fishing a large, unfamiliar lake or reservoir with thousands of acres of unfamiliar water, forget the open spaces and concentrate on visible shoreline points, which are easy to find and fish. They offer shallow and deep water, as well as staggered and varied bottom structures, all within casting reach. These options allow you to try a variety of techniques and depths in a relatively small area. A pattern of depth and structure that produces fish from one point should work at similar sites throughout the lake.

Courtesy of Joe Doggett

Shakespeare – A Major Sponsor

Please join me by sending out a huge **“Thank You”** to Shakespeare Fishing Tackle as one of our major sponsors and contributors to TPW’s Angler Education Program. In the past two years, we have received equipment such as rods and reels, tackle boxes and fishing vests for

the Junior/Master Angler program, Tackle Loaner Program and our instructor incentive award program. Marketing Director, Roxanne Coleman, has been a true friend. Thank you, Roxanne, for all the hard work and time you have spent helping us reach a new crop of young anglers. We look forward to working with you and Shakespeare for many more years to come!

More than a Pat on the Back – Instructor Incentives

Although you teach angling skills to young Texans for many reasons, you don’t expect more than smiles as reward for your hard work. But TPW wants you to know how important it is for you to turn in your paperwork and get credit for each young angler (or other instructor) that you teach. Our being able to report your successes keeps this program going. In case you missed it in the previous newsletter, our **Angler Instructor Incentive Program** is offering some wonderful awards to angler instructors. Be sure to hop on this bandwagon!

Earning Points

- 1 point per student per instructor
- 10 points per class taught
- 25 points for attending an instructor workshop (in-service and pre-service).

Other points may be awarded based on participation in Texas Parks and Wildlife fishing-related events. Points will be based on type of event and level of participation (e.g. Fishing shows, Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo). Awards may change or be substituted based on availability. Award levels and awards continue beyond what is shown here.

Volunteer point levels

Pre-Service Workshop

25 Points
50 Points

100 Points

200 Points
300 Points

500 Points
750 Points

Award

- Instructor Pin
- Manual
- Fish Pen
- Training Aids Set of Laminated Fish Posters
- Woodstream
- Leakproof Tackle Box
- Fishing Hat
- Oversized Fish Hook
- Line Spooler
- Measuring Board

EXPRESSIONS WITH FISH

How Dry?

“So dry the fish were carrying canteens.”

How Scared?

“Green around the gills.”

How Busy?

“Many fish to fry.”

How Dishonest?

“Crooked as a barrel of fish hooks.”



Source: Anne Dingus. 1996. *More Texas Sayings That You can Shake a Stick At.* Gulf Publishing. Houston.

FISHING TIP

Keep a magnet in your tackle box.

Spilled hooks are difficult to pick up without jabbing yourself and almost impossible to find in relatively high grass.



Reel Lines

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Reel Lines

Texas Angler Education Program

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