

TEXAS ANGLER  
EDUCATION PROGRAM**Reel Lines**

Issue Number 15

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January 2004

**New & Noteworthy**ANN MILLER – EDITOR  
TPWD Aquatic Education Coordinator

While things are slow in January, check out the changes we have made to our Angler Education Web site. We've added some pages to help you teach your Junior and Master Angler classes, to access upcoming events and to enjoy fishing our wonderful Texas waterways. The Web site is divided into a "Learn to Fish" section, a "Teach Fishing" section, an "Instructor Resource" section and an "Information" section. Here is a quick look at important information you will find in each section.

1. "Learn to Fish" divides our Junior and Master Angler Guidebook up into different sections (in PDF format) to provide a novice with fishing basics. You might also want to download and copy certain sections of the book to use in teaching your classes (although you can still order class sets of the hard copy books). If you scroll down that "Learn to Fish" page, you will see links to full-color fish identification pages and our popular fish ID laminated cards that you can print out. This might be useful to instructors who want to make their own flash cards to help teach kids the different kinds of fish.

2. "Teach Fishing" explains how a person can become an angler education instructor, provides a link to the class

*Continued on the next page*

**Hook Up With Your Kids!**

On August 29, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department kicked off its Family Fishing Celebration, a yearlong event that gives families just one more reason to visit dozens of scenic and historic state parks from Caddo Lake to the Big Bend. A main purpose of the celebration is to encourage families to discover fishing as a way to spend quality time together.

From Aug. 29, 2003 to Aug. 31, 2004, TPWD will waive fishing license requirements inside park boundaries at more than 70 state parks, where waters offer ample angling opportunities.

In support of the Family Fishing Celebration, TPWD will host several special events and "Learn to Fish" seminars during the year at select state parks throughout the state. Park visitors will be greeted at state parks by "Hook Up With Your Kids!" promotional posters and flyers.

**For more information, see our Web site at [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)**



## New & Noteworthy

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

schedule and to many resources including fishing activities created by teacher interns at TFFC.

3. The "Instructor Resources" section is a special section that requires a password. Remember that the user name is "instructor" and the password is "gofish." In this section, you can download copies of our roster forms, the supply order forms and we can post special changes. Our Instructor Guides for Junior and Master Angler and for Basic and Intermediate Flyfishing will be updated soon and will be posted here. Please look for both of these. Note also that you can find the contact information for Aquatic Education staff listed in this section.

4. The "Fishing Information" section links to fishing reports, trout stocking schedules and urban fishing locations as well as wonderful articles from previous *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazines.

I hope you enjoy the Web site, refer your friends and students to the Web site and send me your comments and suggestions.

Ann Miller

[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/edu/anged/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/edu/anged/)

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PWD BR K0700-162 (1/04)

# Trout Stockings a Bonus to Free Fishing in State Parks

AUSTIN – Psssst. Want to know a sure bet for landing some fish? You don't even need a fishing license. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will be stocking more than 26,000 rainbow trout at nearly a dozen state parks during the months ahead as part of its annual winter trout stocking program.

Thanks to the agency's yearlong Family Fishing Celebration event, anglers fishing in state parks are exempted from buying a fishing license and the \$7 freshwater trout fishing stamp. Park admission fees, as well as the five trout per day bag limit, will still apply during the event.

The state agency has the authority to grant the license waiver for such events according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code. The waiver will save those fishing in state parks the cost of a fishing license.

During the Family Fishing Celebration, license-free angling will be restricted to bank and pier fishing and to fishing in bodies of water totally contained within the boundaries of a state park, such as Lake Raven in Huntsville, explained Kevin Good, Family Fishing Celebration coordinator for Texas State Parks. If anglers launch boats from state park property to access an adjacent lake or other water body, he said, they will still need a fishing license because the waiver will not apply outside state park boundaries.

State parks that will be conducting special events during the trout stockings include:

**Fort Richardson SP&HS and Lost Creek State Trailway:** A Trout Family Fishing Day on Jan. 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Quarry Lake. For more information call (940) 567-3506.

**Landmark Inn SHS:** The park's 11th Annual Kid Fish event on Jan. 31 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. along the Landmark millstream. The event is open to children 4-16 years of age, with all tackle supplied. For more information call (830) 931-2133.

**Rusk/Palestine SP:** A Trout Fishing Day sponsored by the Friends of Rusk State Park and TPWD from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The event is open to kids 2-14 years of age. For more information call (903) 683-5126.

**Lake Corpus Christi SP:** The 9th Annual Fishing Clinic will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for kids ages 5-12 with hourly sessions. For more information call (361) 547-2635.

Other state parks where trout will be stocked include: Blanco SP, Bob Sandlin SP, Copper Breaks SP, Fort Boggy SP, Meridian SP, Palmetto SP, South Llano SP and Tyler SP.

"Blanco State Park is one of the more popular sites during the trout stocking season," said Todd Engeling, trout stocking coordinator for TPWD. "I would advise getting there early the day of the stocking to make sure you get a good spot."

To facilitate the fishing experience, many state parks have lighted piers, fish-cleaning stations, boat ramps, lakeside campsites and other facilities. If you don't have a boat, some parks will rent you watercrafts, such as kayaks and canoes, but some of the best fishing for trout occurs along the bank near where the fish were stocked.

Because trout stocking dates are tentative, guests should check with the individual parks or go online for up to date information. A complete list of state parks offering fishing opportunities and dates of upcoming special fishing events and seminars is available on the Web [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/familyfish](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/familyfish) or by calling (800) 792-1112. A listing of trout stocking sites and dates can be found at [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fish/infish/reports/trout\\_stocking.phtml](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fish/infish/reports/trout_stocking.phtml)

**State park fishing events usually need volunteers. This is a great opportunity for Angler Education volunteer instructors to contact their local parks and offer to help them set up Junior Angler activities that get kids and families hooked on fishing!**



Fort Richardson State Park  
and Historic Site



BRENDA JUSTICE  
Aquatic Education –  
Houston/Galveston

## Something's Trashy

While teaching ethics in the Junior Angler Program, I often ask children "Let's pretend that you are fishing on the bank of a river. You brought with you a sack lunch. When you are finished with your lunch, if there is not a trash can nearby, what do you do with your trash?" The first few responses of "throw it in the water" were shocking to me. It really bothered me that so many children, without hesitation, would answer this way. As time went on, I began to realize that many of them just didn't see anything wrong with it or understand why it is important not to litter. In addition to being aesthetically unpleasing, throwing trash on the side of the road or in the water can be harmful to wildlife and it is against the law.

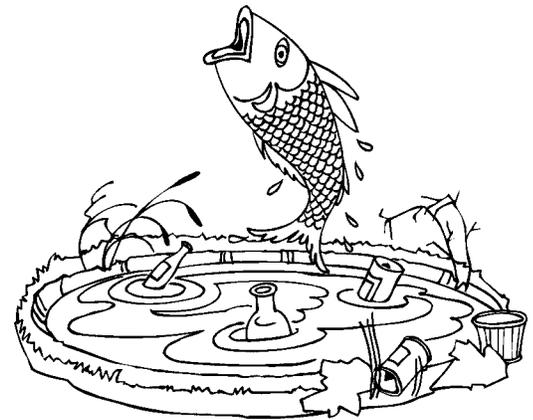


Volunteers and staff offloading abandoned crab traps during the 2003 Abandoned Crab Removal Program Cleanup in Galveston Bay.

Not disposing of trash properly can cause injury to animals. Animals can become entangled in debris or die from ingesting it. A common example in aquatic habitats involves entanglement of animals in old fishing line. Sea turtles, birds, fish and other creatures unlucky enough to get tangled in old fishing line often die a slow and agonizing death of starvation. Researchers have found that old monofilament fishing line can take up to 600 years to decompose in a marine environment. So it is going to be

around doing damage for a long time after it is left in the water. Additionally, animals such as fish and sea turtles often mistake plastics for food. If they ingest enough, it can cause death. It is important to remember that trash thrown out inland, often makes its way to lakes and the Gulf of Mexico through our rivers and drainage systems during flooding events.

Last, but not least, littering is against the law. Individuals can face fines up to \$500 for throwing litter out of a vehicle. For repeat offenders, penalties increase to fines



up to \$2,000 and up to 180 days in jail. Not to mention the fact that millions of state tax dollars are spent each year picking up trash on highways and roadsides throughout Texas.

Just one careless moment of littering can last for generations. Teaching youth to dispose of their trash correctly is a key element in teaching ethics in the Junior and Master Angler Program. As an instructor, help the children think about why throwing trash in the water is a bad idea. When conducting fishing clinics or events, have the participants spend a few minutes picking up litter on the shoreline. Setting examples for children and friends to follow sends out the message loud and clear. Try leaving a campsite, fishing spot or your favorite hiking trail cleaner than you found it and participate in community trash cleanups whenever possible.

A few opportunities to participate in trash cleanups that are scheduled for 2004 include the following:

**February 21, 2004** – TPWD Coastal Fisheries Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program, [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)

**March 27, 2004** – Rivers, Lakes, Bay's 'N Bayous Trash Bash, [www.trashbash.org](http://www.trashbash.org)

**April 3, 2004** – Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off, [www.ktb.org](http://www.ktb.org)

**April 24, 2004** – Adopt-A-Beach Program Beach Cleanup, [www.glo.state.tx.us/adopt-a-beach](http://www.glo.state.tx.us/adopt-a-beach)

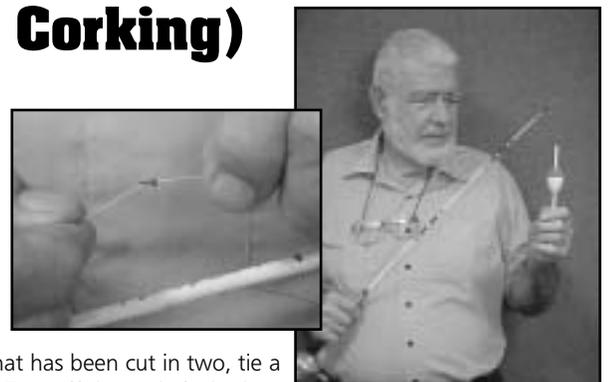
## Casting Safely with a Float (Slip Corking)

JIM PARKER – Angler Education Area Chief

Casting with a float can put others in harm's way if you have several feet of line below the float. But with the method I'm about to describe, the danger is minimized. You can fish at any depth you like and fish difficult areas.

Use a spindle-shaped float (or slip float) with a small hole (a little larger than your line) in the top of the spindle. These floats can be purchased anywhere you buy regular floats. Running the line through the hole allows the float to slide freely on the line. Attach a hook and sinker on the loose end. The float will rest on the sinker. With a small rubber band that has been cut in two, tie a square knot on the line at the desired depth where you want the bait to be in the water. Trim off the ends fairly close to the line. You can slide the rubber band up or down to adjust the depth. When you wind the line up on the reel, the small rubber band will reel on, but the sliding cork will allow you to reel in the line down to the sinker. This way you can cast without excess line and a dangerous hook dangling down while casting ... very helpful when working with several youth at once. Be safe and have fun.

Note: Bobber stops can be bought, too, that are made out of spring wire and a small plastic bead. They will last longer than rubber bands, especially in salt water, but isn't it great to recycle when possible?



# Have Rods — Will Travel

JEFF GEER

Assistant Manager, Fairfield Lake State Park

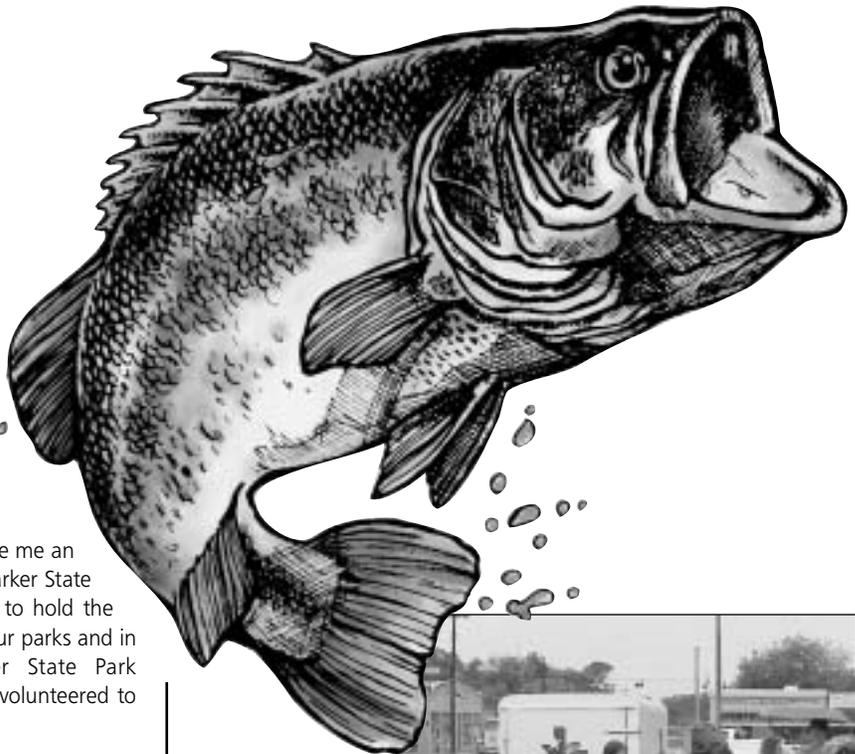
Fishing is the big attraction at Fairfield Lake State Park. After hosting a successful Junior Angler training at the park last spring and a successful Wal-Mart Kid Fish in June, I began looking for ways to involve more young people in fishing and other outdoor recreation opportunities at our park.

Attending a TPWD Community Outreach Grant program gave me an idea that has opened new doors for us. Fairfield and Fort Parker State Parks teamed up on a proposal to purchase a mobile unit to hold the tools we need to conduct fishing and aquatic programs at our parks and in the surrounding communities. Friends of Fort Parker State Park submitted the proposal for our project and Dan Blackstock volunteered to do the legwork of acquiring supplies for us.

Luckily, our proposal made the grade and we were able to purchase our new Angler Education trailer. Now the rods and reels DO travel. This is truly a joint venture, involving State Park staff, Steve Campbell from TPWD's Angler Education program, private support from the Friends of Fort Parker State Park and from the vendors who discounted and donated goods and services supporting this project.

Our trailer is a mobile classroom available for park staff and volunteers to use on a loaner basis. It contains tackle boxes, wall-mounted carriers for the fishing rods, and teaching supplies. The trailer made its first appearance at Expo. The next week it went to downtown Fairfield for Freestone County 4-H Week, where kids learned casting skills with the Backyard Bass game and signed up for future Angler Education, Hunter Education and Boater Education classes at the park.

Although we didn't plan it, the trailer is working well with the Family Fishing Celebration (see front page), making it easier for us to introduce folks to fishing and generating a new customer pool for our park. If we spark an interest in fishing, boating or learning about a park in our area, we benefit from an increase in understanding and appreciation of our park resources plus an increase in visitation and revenue.



*4-H awareness day, Freestone County Courthouse*



*The new fishing trailer*

**For more information about the trailer, contact Jeff Geer at Fairfield Lake State Park, (903) 389-4514 or Tom Fisher at Fort Parker State Park (254) 562-5751.**

## Junior Angler Adds the Spark



MARILYN BOWERS – Education Coordinator at Sea Center Texas

Angler Education is adding a new spark to the 7th grade curriculum at Sea Center Texas. This addition was a natural one for us, considering the subjects and activities covered in the field investigations at both Sea Center and the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge. Students were already exploring coastal habitat, learning to throw a cast net and studying the life cycle of the redfish. But teachers voiced a concern that our program needed even more hands-on activities.

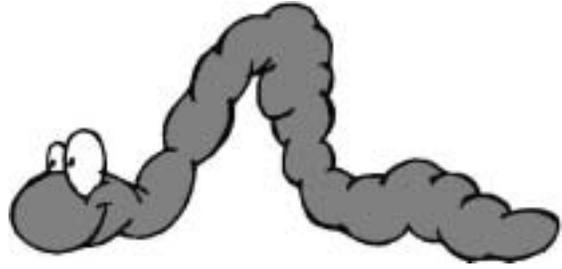
After Brenda Justice provided an Angler Education Instructor class for our volunteers and for teachers in the Brazosport ISD, we felt ready to incorporate angler education into our traditional program. The Junior Angler activities made learning about the redfish more relevant, more fun and made each student feel successful. There is a new level of commitment and excitement for all involved in the program. And 125 more local 7th graders came to Sea Center this year than last year because of the new hands-on lessons. Interested teachers make for interested students.



*With  
Baited  
Breath*

STEVE CAMPBELL  
Aquatic Education –  
North/Northwest  
Texas

# Squiggles and the Art of Squigglyness



## SQUIGGLIES

For my first couple of years with Aquatic Education, Steve Hall would frequently ask me if I needed any squiggles; squiggles being what Steve calls plastic worms. Since I am not one to look a gift horse in the mouth too long, I finally accepted. I was rewarded with three large cardboard boxes containing various sizes, colors and configurations of soft plastic worms and assorted other artificial baits.

They sat contentedly in a corner of my storage unit for another couple of years, collecting a fine accumulation of dust in the process. Out of sight and out of mind.

While teaching Junior Angler at a Boy Scout day camp, I discovered something interesting. As each Pack would approach an activity area, they would award the presenter with something they called a "Doo-Dad." A Doo-Dad was a small token that reflected something about their Pack. It could be something as simple as a couple of plastic beads on a short, thin strip of leather and generally referenced the Pack's name – somehow.

My mind flashed back to the dust-covered boxes of plastic worms and suddenly the concept of squiggles was born. No longer would those squiggles remain in their corner exile. Now, like a Phoenix from ashes, they would arise and take their rightful place by my side and become an Angler Education tool. I would use my squiggles for truth, justice and the angler way!

## FROM BAIT TO SQUIGGLY

Taking a plastic bait and converting it into a squiggly is probably one of the most mindless chores possible. I simply gather up the targeted baits, a bag of large safety pins and park myself in front of the television. Pick up a worm, pierce it through the head with the safety pin and then close the latch. Drop the new squiggly into a bag and pick up the next plastic, repeat the process until completion. It ain't rocket science.

I would caution that food should not be consumed during this process, unless you are partial to the flavor of the lubricant that coats the baits.

Another point to be made here is conditioning. The repetitive motion of unlatching and latching safety pins can make the tips of your fingers tender and sore. Start out light and work up to larger numbers.

## THE ART OF SQUIGGLYNESS

When I employ the squiggly technique, everyone starts with a single squiggly. They get that for simply showing up. Additional squiggles are awarded for correct answers, creative solutions and acts of kindness. And a squiggly cannot be refused and is to be pinned on the shirt/blouse immediately.

When squiggles are given out, they cannot and must not be simply handed to the recipient. Instead, they are to be tossed through the air to the awardee. I am, however, compelled to express a cautionary note here. Before you toss a squiggly, make sure the participant is maintaining direct eye contact with you. At the last Area Chief's meeting Brenda Justice looked away at the exact instant her squiggly left my hand and she took a worm in the eye. One can certainly see the downside to potentially blinding students and volunteers with an ill-conceived squiggly launch. Ann Miller particularly frowns on this. So this is the "do as I say, not as I do" part.

At the conclusion of the class, I ask the participants to count their squiggles to determine their Squiggly Factor. Clearly, the one with the most squiggles attached to his or her chest is declared the Squiggly Champion of the Day and is awarded a small prize. At the 2003 Angler Education Area Chief's meeting, Robert Parks of Houston was declared the Champ (Bob, I still owe you your prize).

## SQUIGGLY EXTENSIONS

If I'm in a very playful mood, I sometimes dare my students to wear their squiggles to work. The hoped for outcome is that coworkers would then ask about the squiggles and that it might encourage others to participate in Angler Ed workshops. If I'm feeling a bit wicked, I sometimes double-dog-dare them to wear their squiggles to work. And as all TRUE Texans know, a double-dog-dare CANNOT be refused. They are just too powerful and have to be used with extreme caution.

Hi-ho Squiggly, away!

Addendum: If possible, vary the type and color of squiggles. The goal should be a varied assortment of squiggles dangling from the chests of your participants.



**"I would use my squiggles for truth, justice and the angler way!"**

# OPPORTUNITIES for fishing fun!

## ANGLER INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

- January 10 Junior and Master Angler; Austin area; McKinney Falls State Park; 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact Ann Miller at (512) 389-4732.
- January 17 Junior and Master Angler; Navasota; Navasota Public Library; 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact Brenda Justice at (281) 534-0123.
- January 20 Junior and Master Angler; McKinney Roughs Nature Center; 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact Jennifer McKay at (512) 303-5073, Ext. 8025.
- January 31 Fly Fishing Instructor Class on the Guadalupe below Canyon Dam, with exact location to be announced. The class will be sponsored by Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited and held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact Jennifer Logan at (512) 389-8183.
- April 24-25 Angler Education Area Chief Meeting, Parrie Haynes Youth Ranch (see article on page 15 about becoming an Area Chief) Contact Ann Miller at (512) 389-4732.

## EVENTS AT SEA CENTER TEXAS

### February 21 – Nature Day, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Fishing, birding and habitat gardening are just a few the activities that will be highlighted at Sea Center Texas' Nature Day. The event will offer many tips on how to enjoy nature in your backyard or at your favorite outdoor get-a-ways. Seminars will be offered throughout the day and youth activities will include a nature scavenger hunt and catch and release fishing from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. only. Youth planning to fish will need to bring their own rod, reel, tackle and bait. Cut squid or fresh dead shrimp work well fished on the bottom. Barbless hooks are easier to remove and less stressful to the fish to be released. Call (979) 292-0100 for more information.

### June 5 – National Fishing Day Youth Fishing, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

This event is open to guests 16 years old and younger accompanied by an adult. Start your summer with catch and release fishing at Sea Center Texas on National Fishing Day. Anglers must bring own gear and bait with barb-less hooks. No artificial bait or treble hooks. Volunteers and staff will be on hand to assist first-time anglers. Pack your sunscreen, hat, lawn chair and fishing gear for a morning of fishing at our marine fish hatchery and visitor education center in Lake Jackson. Call (979) 292-0100 for more information.

### Sea Center Texas Aquarium and Fish Hatchery Tours – Daily Tuesday to Sunday, closed Mondays

See saltwater aquariums showcasing the diversity of the Texas coast and tour the largest redfish hatchery in the world. Reservations required for hatchery tours. Hours for visitation are Tuesday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. No charge for admission or tours. (979) 292-0100; [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fish](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fish)

## EVENTS AT TEXAS FRESHWATER FISHERIES CENTER

### Annual Trout Harvest – Every Tuesday through Sunday, January 3 – March 12

Catch and keep trout from our fishing pond. Visitors 17 and older must have a valid fishing license and trout stamp. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; fee \$5 for up to 5 fish; regular entrance fees apply (903) 676-BASS.

### Fly Fish Texas 2004 – March 13

Fly fishing schools, gear, special programs for junior anglers and more at this great exhibition for new and experienced fly fishermen. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; regular admission fees apply (903) 676-BASS.

## OTHER EVENTS

### Becoming an Outdoors Woman Workshops – Dates: March 12-14 in Marble Falls; April 16-18 in Ft. Davis; May 21-23 in Palacios

\$175 per person, 18 yrs. & older, 18-20 classes offered at each event. In addition to fishing, there are classes in camping, kayaking, shooting and more. For more information: [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/edu/baow/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/edu/baow/) or (512) 389-8198. Sign up early to assure your place.

### February 21 – Coastal Crab Trap Cleanup – Galveston. Contact Brenda Justice at 281-534-0123.

April 24 and 25 – Outdoor Kids Adventure Day, Meadowmere Park in Grapevine, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. including fishing, rock climbing, living history and kayaking. Contact Maria Sweet at (972) 263-1101 or cell (214) 912-8604.

June 5 – Texas Free Fishing Day – We will send you an update around the first of May with special events happening around the state on this day ... and more opportunities for you to volunteer!

# PARTNERSHIPS

## TEXAS JUNIOR ANGLERS

These community events are sponsored by Shakespeare and Academy Sports and Outdoors. Free to children 16 and under. A Catch Tank is provided at the events designated with \*\*\*. Adult catfish are stocked prior to those events. Prizes awarded to 1st and 2nd largest fish in 3 different age groups. Equipment provided for those who need it. Events are 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays.

January 9-11 and 16-18	Ft. Worth***	Ft. Worth Boat Show
January 16-18	Mesquite***	Texas Fishing & Outdoor Show
February 13-21	San Angelo***	San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo
February 28	Grand Prairie	Mike Lewis Park
February 29	Colleyville	Colleyville Nature Center

## 4-H SPORTFISH AND RELATED EVENTS

For information about the events listed below, contact Larry Hysmith at (979) 845-4865 or lhysmith@tamu.edu

January 9-10	Fly tying and flyfishing workshop, Camp Tyler in Tyler, Texas
January 24	Sportfishing Quiz Bowl (see next page)
June 27 – July 1	Bass Brigade Youth Leadership Camp, McKinney Roughs Nature Center near Bastrop. Volunteer leaders still needed.

The Bass Brigade is an aquatic wildlife education and leadership development program held in a 4 1/2 day camp for high school students with no less than a 'B' average. The camp is designed to teach life skills and increase knowledge of aquatic wildlife and habitat management. The camp is organized and run by volunteers from various government agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses and individuals all interested in teaching youth about the great outdoors. In addition to a heaping dose of ecology, participants learn skills in photography, entomology, art, water safety, fishing, leadership, communication and team building. Application available on the Texas Brigades Web site, [www.texasbrigades.org](http://www.texasbrigades.org) or contact Helen Holdsworth, Executive Director, at 800/TEXWILD or [h\\_holdsworth@texas-wildlife.org](mailto:h_holdsworth@texas-wildlife.org).

July	4-H Sportfishing Camp at Lake Buchanan
August	Youth Aquatic Camp in Corpus Christi

## LEWISVILLE ISD COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Kids – Grab a parent or your favorite adult and invite them to a morning or afternoon of fishing fun. All equipment is provided; you just show up. Earn your Junior Angler pin and certificate! (Free Junior Angler Class taught by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department volunteer instructors.) Your fee for the event covers all you need for enjoying a morning or afternoon spent fishing with us. You'll put to use what you just learned about knot-tying, safe handling of fish and hooks, baiting and even catching fish from the creek.

Location:	Lewisville ISD Outdoor Learning Area
When:	Saturday, April 3, 9:00 a.m. to noon or from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Fee:	\$20 for each class

Lee Ann Bandy, Community Education Supervisor – (972) 219-0086, Ext. 107 Fax: (972) 420-6869

# PARTNERSHIPS

## Coppell HS Students Enjoy Angler Ed

SCOT McCLURE



Coppell High School's Outdoor Education classes have doubled in size over the past few years, partly due to their exciting off-campus fishing trips. Students complete the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Angler Education curriculum, where they learn to cast a variety of rods and reels and identify fish and baits. Conservation and safety issues are emphasized throughout the course. Students

practice what they learn about casting in the gym or on the football fields, and then use the skills they learned during one of the semester's four field trips to Coppell High School's four stocked ponds.

On one of our recent trips to Andy Brown Park in Coppell, the classes caught a total of 32 fish, primarily largemouth bass, sunfish and catfish, including one 4-lb and two 3-lb largemouth bass. Eight students enjoyed their very first catch on this trip.

Over 180 students are enrolled in the Outdoor Education course this year at Coppell High School. The class is financially supported by the Dallas Safari Club, which supports similar courses in 22 schools in and around the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The students enjoy the curriculum and many have expressed a desire to continue their new skills beyond the classroom. Thanks to the

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department team for developing a fine curriculum that is challenging and exciting to both new and experienced young anglers.



## Sportfishing Quiz Bowl

Contact Larry Hysmith  
for a registration form:

(979) 845-4865 or

lhysmith@tamu.edu

Registration due by  
January 19, 2004.

**When:** January 24, 2004

**Where:** LCRA Training Facility at Lake Buchanan Dam (west of Burnet)

**Who:** Teams of four youth; Junior Category – 13 and younger, Senior Category – 14 to 19

**Quiz Bowl Rules:** General rules and guidelines will follow the Texas 4-H Quiz Bowl Guide. This guide can be ordered or downloaded and printed from the Texas Cooperative Extension online publications site, <http://tcebookstore.org>. Select the '4-H' button, select 'Projects,' scroll down to 4-H 3-2.030, click on the title, select 'view/download publication,' and print guide. Specific Sportfishing Quiz Bowl rules and procedures will follow with registration information. Contact me if you have questions or problems finding reference materials. Please pass this information along to anyone in your area that may be interested in working with youth in this program. The contest is open to any youth regardless of 4-H membership.

**Study References:** All quiz bowl questions will come from the following references only. These references are easily obtainable by anyone and should be used for team preparation.

1. Texas Freshwater and Saltwater Identification Guides (TPWD) – these can be ordered through me. Free of charge.
2. *Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual* – Hunting and Fishing Regulations – the student version (free of alcohol and tobacco ads) can be ordered through me as well or a public version can be picked up at your local outdoor/sporting goods store or through your local game warden. Free of charge.
3. *A Guide to Freshwater Ecology*, publication #GI-34 (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) – a copy can be ordered by calling TCEQ Publications at (512) 239-0028. Free of charge for educational use.
4. *Sportfishing and Aquatic Resources Handbook* (American Sportfishing Association) – available and printable free of charge on the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation Web site, [www.waterworkswonders.org](http://www.waterworkswonders.org)
5. *North American Fishing, The Premier Guide to Angling in Freshwater and Saltwater*, by Ken Schultz (ISBN 1-84222-259-7) – this commercial text can be purchased at most bookstores, including online. Cover price is \$24.95.

# PARTNERSHIPS

## East Texas Hooked on Fishing - Not Drugs

BECKY BERNET

**East Texas Get Hooked on Fishing is a non-profit organization developed to provide East Texas youth with positive alternatives to the destructive and negative lifestyle associated with alcohol and drug abuse. Ideas for the program arose in 1986, when Paul Hinton and 100 other outdoor writers were invited to the famous Southfork Ranch in Dallas, Texas. There, they heard 14-year-old guest speaker Mathew Dekins of Florida share his grief over the death of his best friend due to drug abuse. Dekins described his idea of helping at-risk youth resist drugs and alcohol by encouraging them to participate in outdoor activities like fishing. The Future Fisherman Foundation challenged each writer present to take Dekins' story back to their own communities and start a program to promote a drug-free lifestyle for the youth in their area.**

The East Texas Get Hooked on Fishing program got started a year later, while Hinton was fishing with Houston Oiler linebacker John Girmsley. While fishing, they discussed the tragic drug overdose that ended basketball player Lynn Bias' life. John agreed to talk to kids at local area schools about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

Since then, over 200 local celebrities, sports stars, professional anglers, and state and federal legislators have volunteered their time with the



program, serving as role models, speaking to students in East Texas schools and fishing with them at Fishing Friends and Family Day.

Many other local, state and national organizations, such as Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Forest Service, the United States Forest Service, and the ADAC (Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council) also partner with the East Texas Get Hooked on Fishing program. Over \$350,000 worth of fishing equipment has been donated to East Texas Get Hooked on Fishing, and over 23,000 East Texas youth have taken part in the program's activities.

Program activities include a Poster/Essay Contest at participating local schools and Fishing Friends and Family Day, a day of free, supervised fishing, games and fishing related seminars.

The annual Fishing Friends and Family Day is the East Texas Get Hooked on Fishing program's showcase event. It would not be possible without the many people who volunteer their time, energy, and expertise to make it a memorable experience for the youngsters who attend.

The East Texas Get Hooked on Fishing board members are now working on integrating Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Junior and Master Angler program into The Explorer's



Club, recently started for local area kids in third through sixth grades.

Anyone in the Sam Rayburn or Toledo Bend area who would like to be involved with East Texas Get Hooked on Fishing may contact the organization at 409-787-2863 or by e-mail at [hookedonfishing@sabine.net](mailto:hookedonfishing@sabine.net). Donations may be mailed to: East Texas Get Hooked on Fishing, Rt. 4, Box 270, Hemphill, TX 75948. This exciting program exists entirely on contributions by businesses and individuals, and all donations are tax deductible.

Note: East Texas Get Hooked on Fishing staff was recently trained in our Angler Education program by Brenda Justice. Welcome Kenny Isaacks (Executive Director), Tina Isaacks (General Program Chair) and Becky Bernet (Program Coordinator)!

# PHOTO ALBUM

## Texas Wildlife Expo '03 a Huge Success

Through the efforts of more than 40 very energetic volunteers, over 850 kids ages six and up were certified as Junior Anglers at Expo this year.

Additionally, children five and younger got to catch a big one in the "Reel Kids" magnetic fishing pond. Yes, it was hot and dusty, but our volunteers amazed us with their dedication and energy. We can't thank them enough!

Ideas and feedback we received after Expo will continue to make the Junior Angler tent better and better. If you plan to be in Austin for Expo next year, don't hesitate to volunteer to help out. Just contact Ann Miller, Aquatic Education Coordinator.

**Mark your calendars for the next Texas Wildlife Expo: October 2-3, 2004.**

Besides fishing activities, you and your family can view wildlife and park displays, participate in shooting events, climb a rock wall, paddle a kayak, shop for outdoor gear and enjoy various outdoor demonstrations.

There is something for everyone at Wildlife Expo ... a free, family-friendly event.



# PHOTO ALBUM



More fishing fun from Texas Wildlife Expo!

Katy Hammon sent in these photos of angler education activities at Girl Scout Summer Camp.



# PHOTO ALBUM



At the Capital Area Summer Fish Camp, this young lady caught a fish on a spinner – bait that she made herself. Submitted by Noel Rodriguez, AED Area Chief.



Mark Carpenter teaches a Boy Scout Winter Camp during Christmas break.



## Angler Education Grant Opportunities for PE Teachers

PE teachers who are affiliated with the Texas Association of Health, PE, Recreation and Dance (TAHPERD), or the national association, can apply for a grant that would help them establish a fishing and boating program at their school. Funds available through the grant will support teacher training as well. Information about the grant and an application is available on line at:

[www.aahperd.org/aalr/template.cfm?template=grants.html](http://www.aahperd.org/aalr/template.cfm?template=grants.html)

At the same time, you can visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Web site to view the correlations to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) that the Junior and Master Angler program activities address. View this document at

[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/edu/anged/instruct/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/edu/anged/instruct/)

Use "instructor" for the user name and "gofish" for the password. The correlations have been done for PE, science and social studies since those disciplines apply most directly to fishing activities.

Teachers who aren't affiliated with TAHPERD can partner with another teacher in their district who is affiliated. The grantors encourage partnerships among teachers of different disciplines.

# Welcome New Instructors!

A total of 191 AED instructors were certified between 5/1/03 and 12/15/03. If we have accidentally left someone off, please let us know. We encourage you to team up to teach. It's fun, easier and a great way to support each other. Just call the Austin office if you would like to team up with one of these new instructors.

MIKE MURPHY	ABILENE	Jack E. Arnold	FREDERICKSBURG	SHIVER J. NOLAN	HOUSTON
LARRY M. CONDRA	ABILENE	ERVIN E. GROSS	FREDERICKSBURG	CARLOS J. GONZALEZ	HUMBLE
TRUDY G. SPARKS	ALVIN	RICHARD A. WILSON	FREDERICKSBURG	DENNIS E. SMITH	HUNTSVILLE
RONNIE PERKINS	ANGLETON	MICHAEL T. MURPHY	FREDERICKSBURG	KRISTAN C. HART	HUNTSVILLE
TOM E. SCHNEIDER	ANGLETON	ROBERT M. SPENCER	FREDERICKSBURG	SCOTT H. WEAVER	HUNTSVILLE
BERTHA M. VASQUEZ	ANGLETON	JOANNE SPENCER	FREDERICKSBURG	JOSHUA E. VODEHNAL	HUNTSVILLE
LEON H. SKEETE	ANGLETON	KEITH R. MASTERS	FREDERICKSBURG	TRACEY L. CORTEZ	HUNTSVILLE
MATT V. HEJL	AQUILLA	MARY L. ROHRER	FREDERICKSBURG	MELINDA K. BROOKS	HUNTSVILLE
CINDY J. POTTS	ARANSAS PASS	GENE R. SMITH	FREDERICKSBURG	TRACEY S. FRIDAY	INGLESIDE
MONA E. KOVACHEV	ARLINGTON	JAMES F. KUPER	FREDERICKSBURG	CINDY M. MULLINS	INGRAM
JUSTIN B. ANDING	ATHENS	JACKIE A. JONES	FREEPORT	WILLIE E. STEWART III	INGRAM
JASON C. GUNSTANSON	ATHENS	JUAN J. BRAGG	FT WORTH	COLE R. DAVIS	INGRAM
KEITH D. SUTHERLAND	AUSTIN	JIM C. BRADY JR	FT WORTH	GEOFFREY D. KATSION	INGRAM
JACK E. LEHMAN	AUSTIN	ALLEN D. KENDRICKS	FT WORTH	DEANNA L. ENGLEMAN	JEWETT
GREGG DUKE	AZLE	JOHN B. SHELBEY	FT WORTH	JAMES M. THAYER	JOHNSON CITY
DEBBIE S. CROW	BAYTOWN	SHELLEY C. RAINS	FT WORTH	ED M. OLSON	KATY
MARGARET H. KILLEBREW	BAYTOWN	WAYNE D. BECKER	GAINESVILLE	ANDREW A. LEEPER	KATY
BRYAN G. GESFORD	BAYTOWN	PHYLLIS A. GRIFFIN	GAINESVILLE	BARBARA W. GALPIN	KATY
COLETTE C. TOMPKINS	BAYTOWN	LAURA L. MULL	GERONIMO	DANNY J. RICHARDS	KEMAH
SHARLENE A. BARNETT	BAYTOWN	BEVERLY F. GREENHILL	GLEN ROSE	SHEILA A. Hood	KEMPNER
MICHAEL W. YOLLAND	BAYTOWN	KATHY M. SINGLETARY	GLEN ROSE	FRANK TULL	KERRVILLE
KEVIN R. JONES	BAYTOWN	JOEL M. ROBBINS	GLEN ROSE	LARRY B. LOVE	KERRVILLE
SHERRY S. YOUNGER	BAYTOWN	BRENDA A. TISDEL	GRAND PRAIRIE	DANIEL P. WHEAT	KERRVILLE
NICKIE A. LEWIS	BAYTOWN	VICKIE L. VICKERS	HALTOM CITY	WALTER H. SAUNDERS	KERRVILLE
TIM L. LUMPKIN	BAYTOWN	HARLAN L. ATCHLEY	HALTOM CITY	GUY M. HARRISON	KERRVILLE
DONALD K. GEBAUER	BEAUMONT	ROBERT C. MAINDELLE	HARKER HEIGHTS	MIKE C. ANDREWS	KERRVILLE
MARY E. DAVIS	BEAUMONT	JOHN W. ALLBRITTON	HARRISONBURG	MICHAEL E. APODACA	KILLEEN
ELTON C. PAYNE	BEAUMONT	BECKY L. BERNET	HEMPHILL	TRAYN B. MESSBARGER	KINGSVILLE
MICHAEL STEVEN	BEAUMONT	KENNETH D. ISAACKS	HEMPHILL	LISA M. KOEPP	KINGSVILLE
JAMES B. Grier	BOERNE	TINA C. ISAACKS	HEMPHILL	LESLIE A. ANDERSON	LA PORTE
DARRELL B. FISCHER	BURTON	JANE E. HARTENSTEINER	HOUSTON	NIKI GALLAGHER	LA PORTE
AMBER R. STEWART	CARROLLTON	STEPHANIE E. ROMERO	HOUSTON	SHAY J. TALBOT	LAREDO
WILLIAM F. OLIVER	CHANDLER	LARRY J. HERNANDEZ	HOUSTON	DAVID A. CARDENAS	LAREDO
DAWN R. SELLERS	CHANNELVIEW	VELMA ZEPEDA	HOUSTON	TIMOTHY P. BROWN	LAREDO
ALAN W. BROWN	CLUTE	PAUL J. ZEPEDA	HOUSTON	STANLEY E. LEMMON	LEAGUE CITY
ROBIN R. ALANIZ	CORPUS CHRISTI	THERESA E. BLACKWOOD	HOUSTON	KELLY J. WALDO	LEAGUE CITY
KARL E. CLAUSEWITZ	CORPUS CHRISTI	TODD K. WOODRUFF	HOUSTON	MICHAEL S. ST. CLAIR	LEANDER
JENNIFER B. GRIMES	CORPUS CHRISTI	MARIA BELMONT	HOUSTON	AUSTIN VIEH	LEDBETTER
STEPHANIE L. EDWARDS	CROSBY	CELINA B. MONKS	HOUSTON	BRUCE E. BURNETT	LEDBETTER
SAMI HANNA	DALLAS	RUBEN O. GONZALES	HOUSTON	JAMES D. HESS	LOCKHART
JOHN F. GUTHRIE	DAYTON	MARIA I. DE LEON	HOUSTON	COCO DAVENPORT	LOMETA
CHANDRA A. DAVIS	DAYTON	JONATHAN D. MILLER	HOUSTON	ASHLEY C. LARUE	LOVELADY
PAUL C. KISEL	DENISON	PAMELA FICKES	HOUSTON	LISA A. WINTERFELDT	LYNCHBURG
JOHN W. HENSON	DENISON	GUADALUPE V. LOZANO	HOUSTON	RON N. BLACK	MADISONVILLE
ROGER W. SIEMS	DENISON	VICTOR M. DELGADO	HOUSTON	LEE P. LIVINGSTON	MASON
CHARLES R. EMERY	DENISON	THOMAS L. DANNER	HOUSTON	KEVIN L. DUREN	MAXWELL
JERRY D. WAGER JR	DICKINSON	FRANK A. MOORE	HOUSTON	AMANDA L. LOCKE	MEXIA
REN H. ESPINOZA	EDDY	GREG P. CARRION	HOUSTON	JEANNE M. LUPARDUS	MONTGOMERY
STACI A. BARTOS	FLATONIA	JERRY D. MARSHALL	HOUSTON	SHARON R. FINKE	NAVASOTA
FRED E. WHITTEN	FREDERICKSBURG	STEVE M. HAMM	HOUSTON	JACK D. JAMES	NEW BRAUNFELS
MARTIN W. PURSCH	FREDERICKSBURG	JAMES J. GALPIN III	HOUSTON	PETER H. BRUNO	RICHMOND

JOE R. LEE	RIVERSIDE	JAMES W. DAVIS	TRINITY
DIANE V. DUPNIK	ROCKPORT	COTTON M. GORDON	TRINITY
MARYAM JAMILAH	ROSHARON	RALPH E. WRIGHT	TRINITY
MERLE L. ADAMS	ROUND ROCK	RAY PORTER	TRINITY
ARCHIE W. SCOTT III	ROUND ROCK	VICKIE M. GEARHEART	TRINITY
SARAH L. VALENTINE	SAN ANTONIO	JAMES B. HANEY	TRINITY
ASHLEY R. DITBERT	SCHULENBURG	JANET A. HANEY	TRINITY
JOYCE A. WHITE	SHERMAN	LONNIE I. HOLDEN	TRINITY
MANUEL C. TYLER JR	SILSBEE	ROBERT CORLEY	TRINITY
FRED B. GREGG	SOMERVILLE	BENJAMIN F. PROKOP	TRINITY
SCHUMACHER L. BOBBY	SOMERVILLE	LEO C. CHANEY	TRINITY
TOMMY D. SNOW	SOMERVILLE	MEREDITH R. COOK	TYLER
JAMES H. CLAMPETT JR	SPLENDORA	JENIFER S. HOFSTETTER	TYLER
NOEL M. BAILEY	SPRING	ANNIKA R. SACCO	WACO
TERRY L. ANDREW	SPRING	JOSEPH D. MCLENNAN	WACO
EVA K. DANIEL	SUGAR LAND	ELIZABETH A. WICKETT	WARRENTON
ALFRED L. HIERONYMUS	TEXAS CITY	TAMMI LECLERC	WATAUGA
BRAD E. GERLEMAN	THE COLONY	KINSEY E. PARKER	WEIMAR
GERALD L. VAUGHAN	TIOGA	SHERRI C. RAY	WEST POINT



*Ann Miller, Aquatic Education Coordinator, teaches new instructors at the University of Texas.*

## Angler Education Area Chiefs to Meet April 24-25

To support our Angler Education program, some volunteers go the next step by becoming Angler Education Area Chiefs. Area Chiefs are a group of dedicated Aquatic Education (AED) instructors who have volunteered to help TPWD staff train other AED instructors. AED Area Chiefs must have completed Junior and Master Angler Instructor training and have demonstrated leadership in training youth. At the annual meeting, they receive additional training that will prepare them to hold instructor training workshops and to support angler education in their communities.

The details of the meeting are still in the planning stages, but the ranch is right on the Lampasas River and we plan to take advantage of fishing opportunities. Please contact Brenda Justice, Steve Campbell or Ann Miller if you want more information about the opportunity to become an Area Chief or about this meeting.

The meeting will be held at Parrie Haynes Youth Ranch near Killeen.



### How can you become an AED Area Chief?

1. Be trained as an AED Instructor.
2. Demonstrate leadership in the training of youth in your area.
3. Communicate your desire to become an AED Area Chief to your AED Specialist.
4. Be nominated by your AED Specialist.
5. Attend a special training workshop held once a year. Those who complete the training and who accept the responsibility to train other adult instructors, will become Area Chiefs.

*TPWD Education Director Steve Hall enjoys a little flyfishing at last year's Area Chief meeting.*



# Reel Lines

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Angler Education Program  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, Texas 78744