Issue Number 21

4200 Smith School Road · Austin, Texas 78744

January 2007

New&Noteworthy

ANN MILLER – Aquatic Education Coordinator

If you dial Karen Marks' number here at TPWD headquarters to check on an order for materials, you are going to hear a new voice. Karen just moved up the ranks in TPWD, although she is still on our Outdoor Learning Programs team and will work with us as her time allows. Congratulations to Karen and welcome to Windy Altum, Karen's replacement. Windy has grown up hunting and fishing in Texas and is committed to helping us keep our records in order and in helping you, our volunteers, in any way that she can. See the staff directory on page 11 if you would like to give Windy a call or e-mail to welcome her or to congratulate Karen on her new position.

By the way, you may not be aware of the significant contributions Karen has made to our program. She created a wonderful database that allows us to keep MUCH better records of all of our program's transactions. We will forever be indebted to Karen for that, but since she is still in our program, she will be able to continue to work with us in various capacities.

In addition, we have some new folks helping us in our warehouse to get your orders out on time and to keep up with all that fishing equipment. **Robin Williamson** and **Mac Almond** are making the best of a difficult situation as our warehouse space is being remodeled. We welcome them with

(Continued on page 2)

The Ultimate Reality Game

We've reached new heights of video gaming. Kids pretend to run, play sports, even fish through a video screen. At the same time we are obsessed with reality shows. No wonder! We're surrounding ourselves with virtual experiences. Where are we headed?

Richard Louv's book, *Last Child in the Woods – Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*, has sparked a national movement to reverse the trend that is disconnecting our kids from nature. What most of us experienced as children, free time to go outside and play and explore the outdoor world, has all but disappeared for the majority of children in the United States.

His ground-breaking work reveals an alarming picture. Childhood obesity and Attention Deficit Disorder have skyrocketed during the same timeframe that schools have reduced physical education requirements and cut back recess. Open spaces for free play have all but disappeared from neighborhoods and communities fearful of liability suits. The average child today spends about 45 hours per week in front of some electronic media.

Yet, study after study has confirmed the benefits of being connected to nature. It is good for our children's emotional and physical health and well-being. Children *need* to play outdoors. Sadly, current trends rob children of this ultimate reality experience.

(Continued on page 3)



Events like Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo help families learn about outdoor activities together.

<u>New&Noteworthy</u>

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

sighs of relief since we have needed their help for many months. Three cheers for Robin and Mac!

Our department is very proud of the work our volunteers are doing, and because of that, three of our staff, Brenda Justice, Steve Campbell and I were given the opportunity to attend the national conference of the Aquatic Resources Education Association. Aquatic Education staff from almost every state attended this

conference. We came back filled with new enthusiasm and with some great new ideas. Stay tuned as we create new teaching tools and implement new strategies for growing our program.

See the Angler Education "100 Club" below.

Note the date for our next Area Chief meeting on page 4.

P.E. Teachers can apply for grants. See page 10.

The Angler Education "100 Club"

Below is a list of 12 OUTSTANDING angler education instructors who documented over **100 HOURS** each of volunteer time this past fiscal year (September 2005 – August 2006). Although we thank everyone, even those who are able to volunteer only occasionally, we can't thank these particular individuals enough and hope that each one feels a tremendous amount of satisfaction knowing that their efforts are touching many lives in a positive way.



Volunteers make Expo a huge success.

Stanley Brietz of Corsicana
Dana Bullard of Canyon
Randall Bullard of Canyon
Kenny Fletcher of San Antonio
Keith Kubena of Stockdale
Larry Larson of Amarillo
Keith Martz of Highland Village
Blair McDonald of Seabrook
Mike Petrick of Plano
Daniel Raymundo of La Porte
Trey Scott of Round Rock
Janel Varvil of Frisco

Executive Director Robert L. Cook

Editors
Ann Miller
Steve Campbell



COMMISSION

Joseph B.C. Fitzsimons, Chairman San Antonio Donato D. Ramos, Vice-Chairman Laredo

> Mark E. Bivins Amarillo J. Robert Brown El Paso T. Dan Friedkin Houston Ned S. Holmes Houston Peter M. Holt San Antonio Philip Montgomery Dallas John D. Parker Lufkin

Lee M. Bass, Chairman-Emeritus Fort Worth TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT "To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."

You may view this publication through the TPWD Web site. Please notify us by completing a request form at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/enews. Once verified, we will notify you by e-mail when a new version of your selected newsletter is posted at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsletters/. Your name and address will be removed from the printed version mail distribution list.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

All inquiries: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744, telephone (800) 792-1112 toll free, or (512) 389-4800 or visit our Web site for detailed information about TPWD programs:

www.tpwd.state.tx.us

©2007 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

PWD BR K0700-162 (1/07)

accordance with Texas State Depository Law, this publication is available at the



The Ultimate Reality Game, continued

A recent summit in West Virginia brought together national, state and local leaders from many different sectors – health, education, developers, media, natural resource agencies and the like who discussed a strategy for getting our kids off the couch and outside for a healthier lifestyle.

"We are here today to light a fire of passion that opens the doors to the great outdoors so children can see, hear, smell, taste and touch nature," said Dirk Kempthorne, the new U.S. secretary of the interior.

Thankfully, a movement to "leave no child inside" is emerging across the nation. Texas is joining the ranks with its own "Life's better outside" campaign to get kids back outside to smell the flowers, feel mud between their toes, dig a hole to China, discover what happens in an ant hill, and feel the tug of a fish on the line.

This is where you come in. We need you more than ever to help get our children and young families back outside.

We learned during focus meetings that parents don't take children outside because they don't know what to wear, what gear to take or what to do if the kids get bored. Other studies show how important it is for a parent, family member or caring adult to introduce a child to fishing. (Think back – who started you fishing?) One of the newer studies showed that just a few times out with a mom or dad can start a kid fishing for a lifetime!

Most of you are already using our angler education program, and for that we say thank you and please continue! If you are new to our ranks, take the plunge and call a buddy to help you start. Try working with community groups, schools or places of worship. Encourage neighbors and friends as well.

In his book, Louv fondly recalls the words of his son Matthew, whom he says has the fishing gene and at age three started his fishing career in the humidifier in his bedroom.

"Healing the broken bond between our young and nature is in our self-interest, not only because aesthetics or justice demand it, but also because our mental, physical, and spiritual health depend upon it."

—from Richard Louv,

Last Child in the Woods

Fishing Tips for Parents, from Matthew Louv, age 12:



- 1. Fish with your kid.
- 2. Let your kids go fishing, even if you don't want to take them.
- 3. Let your kids buy supplies and tackle. That's half the fun of fishing.
- 4. If your kids are young, take them to a place where fish are easy to catch and are small.
- 5. Let kids fish as long as they want. Let them get obsessed.
- 6. Let the kids go off and do their own thing. It can get to be incredibly annoying and/or frustrating if there's an adult standing over them barking orders.
- 7. At least pretend to act excited when your kid catches a fish. It can quickly ruin a day of fishing if the kid feels you don't want to be there, and he's just dragging you down.
- 8. If you know how to fish, don't give your kid too much unsolicited advice, although it can be helpful if the kid is young.
- 9. Let your kids teach you how to fish; participate in the fishing. This can be quality bonding time.
- 10. Remember that fishing and spending time with family is just as, or more important than, homework.
- 11. Have fun; that's the entire point of going fishing in the first place.
- 12. And whatever you do, don't let your kids throw rocks in the water.

But more than anything, pass along your love of the outdoors to our children. Give them time to play outside and connect with the real world. It's the ultimate, interactive reality game, and in the end, the one we can't afford to lose!

Area Chief Meeting Set for May 4-6

Our Area Chiefs rock! This past year, Area Chiefs trained or helped train a total of 240 new instructors. Mike Petrick, James Galpin and Trey Scott led the pack by training the most volunteers, with Larry Larson coming in pretty close. This number far surpassed the number trained by our staff! Of course there are lots more Area Chiefs than staff, but we are still thrilled! Thanks to all of you whose leadership helped our program reach new heights.

This spring, our Area Chief meeting will again be at Parrie Haynes Ranch near Killeen. Sign up early because we have limited space. Each year, our Area Chief meeting has grown and it looks like this year's meeting will be better than ever. Look for e-mail announcements in February about special speakers and activities.

Before anyone gets upset about not having another wonderful meeting on the coast, hang on until our plans firm up for a saltwater meeting and fishing opportunity in November 2007. You will be notified by e-mail (if your e-mail address is up to date in our database) and in our June issue of *Reel Lines* about this opportunity, which will include Area Chief training and saltwater fishing.

If you are an active angler education instructor and would like to become an Area Chief, talk to Brenda, Steve or Ann (TPWD Aquatic Education staff) about stepping up to that next level of volunteerism!

Check out the list of active Area Chiefs on page 14 who are willing and able to support you in your angler education activities. Don't hesitate to call on them for help.

How Do You Say Farewell to a Legend?

STEVE CAMPBELL - Aquatic Education, North Texas/Panhandle

On the morning of August 24, 2006, I was saddened to learn of the death of James Parker, III. Jim was not only my friend; he was also an outstanding member of the outdoor community and a compelling ambassador for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, its mission and its goals. He served as an Area Chief in Hunter, Boater and Angler Education. I teasingly referred to him as a triple threat and often held him up as a shining example of volunteerism.

Jim was a mountain man, marksman, craftsman, community leader, hunter, angler and teacher. In fact, it would be easier to mention the things he could not do; it would an extremely short list. He had field stories to keep one enthralled for a thousand and one sportsman's nights. Jim could turn a lowly carp into an epicurean delight. He was an incredible wealth of knowledge regarding outdoor activities and helped us all with his insights.

I first met Jim and his first wife, Velma, almost ten years ago. I soon learned that when they arrived, you were done. It was time to visit. I chuckle softly to myself when I remember how they told stories in tandem; my eyes would travel back and forth between the pair, concentrating on the one that had the floor for the moment. Jim and Velma were inseparable. Sadly, we lost Velma in 2003. In 2004 he met and married his second wife, Jo.

While those of us in Aquatic Education tend to focus on Jim's contributions to Angler Education, hunting was Jim's first love.

He became involved in Hunter Education in the 1950s after joining the National Rifle Association (NRA) and eventually became a lifetime member of that organization. Along with Velma and life-long friend, Lee Robertson, he established the first Fort Bridger Rendezvous re-enactment in the 1970s. He was also a lifetime member of the Arlington

Sportsman's Club and was selected twice as their Sportsman of the Year. In 2000, he and Velma were honored with a Lone Star Legends Award for Outstanding Educational Efforts and Volunteer Service.

"He is a total perfectionist and goes that extra mile to make sure the job is done correctly. He is one of the most dependable instructors I have ever met. No matter what the request, he voluntarily agrees to get the job done and in a very professional manner," said Terry Erwin, TPWD Hunter Education Coordinator.

Jim leaves behind an enormous pair of empty boots that will be difficult to fill.

Thank you, Jim, for your kindness, friendship and service to TPWD. Godspeed.



Casting Kids Contest Winners and a Partnership on the Grow

Want to motivate your students? Try some simple contests and provide some prizes. Money might be the BEST motivator, but even squiggles work. Trey Scott, Texas BASS Federation Nation State Youth Director has used both as he partners with Texas Parks and Wildlife to motivate avid anglers to give back by mentoring youth.

In July's issue of *Reel Lines*, you read about Trey's new F.A.S.T. trail for Texas BASS Federation Nation (TBFN) club members who earn points (and potential prize money) by participating in Angler Education programs and helping with Casting Kids contests and Jr. Bassmaster events around the state.

This past October, Trey and his TBFN club members introduced the Casting Kids contest at the Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo, to great acclaim. Expo was another example of TBFN and Texas Parks and Wildlife enjoying the fruits of our partnership. Over 50 volunteers from eight clubs helped for the two-day contest, with 296 kids competing.

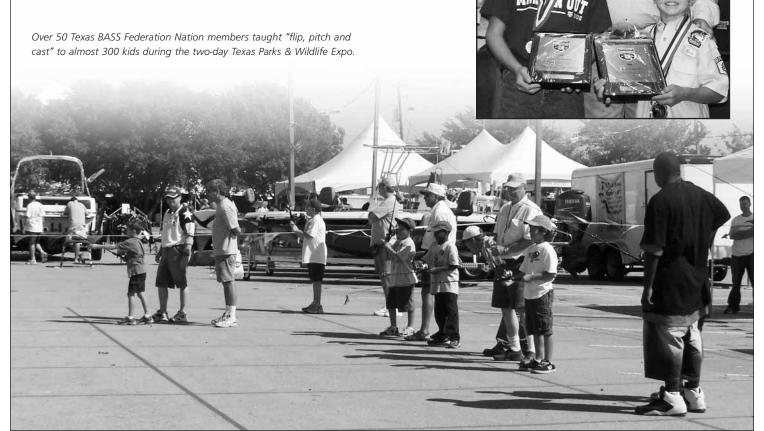
A total of five tournaments were held with 10 winners for both age groups.

Kids who won for their age group at Expo qualified for the state contest held at Sportsman's Warehouse in Round Rock on October 14. State winners qualified to go to the semi-nationals competition to be held in January in Gadsden, Alabama. Check out some of the happy state winners below, and volunteer to help Trey and other TBFN members as they begin to hold contests and tournaments around the state for 2007.

Seventeen-year-old Central High School student Cody Floyd became the new Texas State Youth Champion in the 15-to-18-year-old division by winning the state championship tournament at Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir in Belton in October.

The TBFN Web site,
www.texas-bass.com/Youth/index.htm,
has all the information on the
F.A.S.T. trail and on the Jr. Bassmaster
and Casting Kids contests.

Casting Kids state winners Ryan McNeil (left), 12, and Zay Ridgle, 7, show off their awards with organizer Trey Scott. These kids will compete at the national competition in Alabama in January.





BRENDA JUSTICE Aquatic Education– Houston/Galveston

Community partners participating in the project range from elementary schools to nonprofit groups, all striving to increase parental involvement in their programs and to encourage families to get outdoors.

Take Me Fishing Houston!Bringing Families Together Through Fishing

"Wow, this is so much fun!" "Can you bring me here to fish again, Daddy?" These are just a couple of the many heart-warming comments we have heard over the past year from children participating in Take Me Fishing Houston! (TMFH) program. Recently, I visited with a dad and daughter who learned how to fish at a TMFH school field trip at Sheldon Lake State Park. They said that after the trip, they continued to go back to the park over the summer and fish, as well as venture out and try new locations.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, in a partnership with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation and 11 community partners in the greater Houston area, recently completed year one of a pilot program called Take Me Fishing Houston!

The program is focused on increasing fishing participation and aquatic stewardship while using a "best practices" approach. This approach follows a four-phase model.

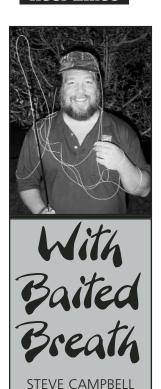


- 1) Awareness Finding out about fishing through media and other fishing-related outreach events
- 2) Interest Becoming interested and participating in fishing
- 3) Trial Learning and developing fishing skills and participating in fishing opportunities
- 4) Adoption Considering yourself an angler, buying fishing gear and fishing on a regular basis

Community partners, TPWD staff and volunteers are working with families to help provide opportunities to carry them through the "best practices" model while at the same time collecting valuable research on what works and what doesn't.

The community partners participating in the project range from elementary schools to nonprofit groups, all striving to increase parental involvement in their programs and to encourage families to get outdoors. Participating schools held staff training workshops in our Angler Education program, and then teachers taught the TPWD Basic Fishing curriculum in the classroom. Students were able to participate in end of the year field trips where they were able to practice what they learned. Families then enjoyed a fun day of fishing at a nearby lake which was stocked for each event. One school even had the opportunity to go saltwater fishing at Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson. Other partners, including community non-profit organizations, trained staff, took families on fishing field trips and provided numerous fishing-related activities for their local families participating in the project.

Year two is already underway, and the excitement is still going strong. Community partners are already implementing activities at schools and have numerous events planned for spring 2007. We are stepping up our research to learn more. I look forward to hearing more stories from families about their newfound love of fishing and getting outdoors thanks to Take Me Fishing Houston! I hope you will, too.



Aquatic Education – North Texas/

Panhandle

Thinking that since he was older he knew what he was doing, I dutifully carried out his instructions. I cut the rope!

Skiff to My Lou

Like most of us, my earliest recollections of fishing revolved around my grandparents—my mother's parents, to be precise. Growing up, we all had silly names for our grandparents; to my sisters and me they were known as Paw-Paw and Maw-Maw.

This past summer I attended a family reunion. I hadn't been to one of these functions in decades and was overcome by a tidal wave of nostalgia. During that day, my older sister began to relate a story about Paw-Paw taking her fishing at Fort Parker State Park, the very site of this reunion. For a brief moment I became jealous of her. After all I was the only son of his youngest daughter and he never took me fishing there.

I tried desperately to recall any of my fishing expeditions with Paw-Paw. My memory is not too reliable these days, so my brain began to squeak, groan and smoke as it tried to conjure up these thoughts. I'm not entirely sure, but I think it actually generated an audible "boing." Then, I uncovered one. Most of the details remain a bit sketchy, while parts are crystal clear, as though it had occurred only yesterday. I must have been five years old at the time this occurred.

Maw-Maw and Paw-Paw had taken me, and only me, to a particular body of water. I think it might have been an old gravel quarry filled with water, as I can recall very steep banks on the opposite shore. It seemed rather large to me at the time, but perhaps that is due to the interpretations of a young child. In reality, I am certain it was probably no more than an acre or two in size, but in the impressionable mind of a kid it just as well had been the ocean.

On this particular outing, we were joined by another pair of grandparents in the company of their grandson. I can't recall this other youngster's name or face, but I do remember that he was a few years older than me.

This older boy and I quickly teamed up and began to fish together. Things proceeded as one might expect them to. That is, until we both noticed a wooden rowboat moored to the shoreline just a few dozen feet to our right. The craft was obviously no longer seaworthy as its stern was entirely submerged.

We both boarded because the vessel offered dry seating towards its bow. A moment or two passed and the older boy turned to me, offered his pocket knife with blade extended and jokingly said, "Here, cut the line."

Thinking that since he was older he knew what he was doing, I dutifully carried out his instructions. I cut the rope!

The bank from which we were fishing had a much gentler slope than that of the far side, but it had a slope nonetheless. The half flooded boat began to slowly slip backwards, sinking deeper as each inch began to disappear beneath the water.

Both sets of grandparents happened to look our way just as I initiated the launch. Tackle was unceremoniously tossed to the ground in a pair of heaps as the grandparents raced to our rescue. In hindsight, what I did was not as reckless as it appears; we both could have simply stood up and stepped out of the boat, barely getting our sneakers wet.

The panicked reaction of my grandparents frightened me more than any sense of real peril and I froze. Unfortunately for my new fishing buddy, I was sitting near the bow, blocking his escape route. Paw-Paw grabbed me by the arm and roughly yanked me out of the boat. My back was turned to the other boy, and so I did not witness the heroic feat of his grandparent.

I lost Paw-Paw in the mid-60s. Maw-Maw passed away a decade or so later, a month after my mother's death. So I plan to hold on to this memory as tightly as possible, keeping it safe and viable inside my mind. In it, both are alive and healthy and protecting me, even from myself.

Fish on!

Events at State Parks Need Volunteers

This year, you will have more opportunities than ever before to help your state parks provide special fishing programs and to help families learn how to fish – saltwater or freshwater, spincasting or fly-fishing.

You probably remember that fishing licenses are not required to fish within the boundaries of a state park, but are you aware that our state parks are celebrating with fun-filled events that begin in January and go through August?

Twelve state parks will have fishing event coordinators who will organize events varying from simple Junior Angler programs to fishing derbies

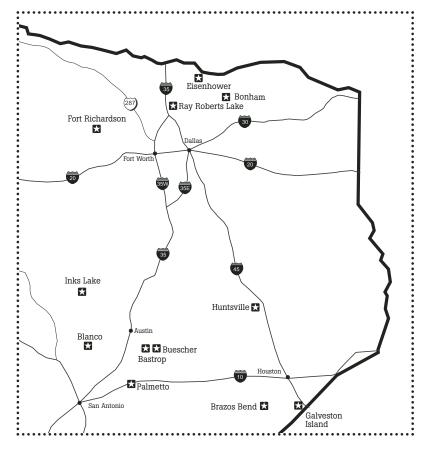
to a fly-fishing Expo at Eisenhower State Park on Lake Texoma. But they are going to need some help to make those events happen.

Below is a list of parks that will have fishing event coordinators. If you are interested in volunteering at any of those parks, contact the park directly or e-mail Ann Miller for a referral to one of the fishing event coordinators. Some of those events are already listed on the TPWD Web calendar, but watch for many more to be listed soon.

With your help, these events can introduce many folks, young and old to a lifetime sport ... and the great outdoors!









Fly-fishing 101 at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

BOB CAPPALLO – Angler Education Volunteer

In 2005, I was asked by my good friend and fly-fishing expert, Joe Autry, to help out with a fly-fishing class he was teaching in conjunction with Texas Parks and Wildlife's Angler Education program. The event was held at Fairfield Lake State Park and organized by park manager Jeff Geer. As I recall, more than 20 excited adults signed up for the class. Before I knew what was happening, Joe was fishing and I was doing the instruction.

Barry St. Clair from the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens started teaching fly-fishing classes at TFFC in 2005 and asked Joe Autry and me to assist him. We held four classes in 2006 with the last one on December 9, just in time for trout season. I have loved every minute of it.

Class size is limited to 15 anglers so we can spend more time with each student. We concentrate on teaching the basic elements because most of the adult students have never fly-fished. The curriculum includes identifying the parts of a fly rod, reel, line/backing, basic knots, leaders/tippet, vest/accessories, care/maintenance, flies, casting, safety and ethics. The classes are fun and very informative.

TFFC is an ideal location for fly-fishing classes. Students can take what they learn in the classroom and apply that knowledge immediately by trying to catch fish on a fly from the stocked fishing ponds.

At the end of the program, students are asked to rate their experience by filling out a survey. So far, they have given us high marks. A student in the last class has even given me a new name, "The Texas Fly Fisherman." It sounds a little corny, but after 50, who cares?

Take care and keep a tight line.

Joe Autry, second from right, offers fly-casting tips to students.





Bob Cappallo teaches Basic Fly-fishing at TFFC.

ART CONTEST

Texas students in grades 4 through 12 can help conserve the state fish of Texas and win prizes by entering the State-Fish Art Contest sponsored by Wildlife Forever and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens.

To enter, students must create an illustration of any official state fish and write a composition on its behavior, habitat and conservation. Entry forms, rules and resources for teachers, along with pictures of last year's winners, may be found by visiting www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishart.

Texas entries will be judged at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center. Three winners will be selected: one from grades 4–6, one from grades 7–9, and one from grades 10–12. Winning entries will then compete against those from other states, and the top three pieces of artwork in each grade category will receive best of show honors. One will win the art of conservation stamp award and be reproduced as the 2007 State-Fish Art Conservation Stamp. Proceeds from sales of the stamp will be used to fund conservation education and aquatic restoration projects across America.

Texas P.E. Teachers Win Grants for Angler Education

Each year, we wait with anticipation for the announcement of the grants from the Future Fisherman Foundation. In the past three years, Texas teachers have always been among the winners.

One renowned Angler Education instructor and Area Chief from Katy, Mark Fobian, used his grant to extend his angler education program at Golbow Elementary to include an all-day field trip to a nearby private, stocked lake. Now, Mark is at a different elementary school in his district and has trained 29 other instructors around the district to conduct angler education at elementary, middle and high schools. With support from district administrators, Mark has been able to create a model program that not only provides district students with wonderful outdoor skills and experience, but also draws parents into the learning process.

Another Texas winner, Sandra Sanchez of Galena Park ISD, is in her second year of her Angler Education program and has already taken her students on a second fishing field trip to Sheldon Lake Environmental Center, where the kids not only fished but also rotated among stations that included fish printing, a nature walk and boating safety.

If you are a P.E. teacher or you can work with a P.E. teacher, you could be a winner, too. This year, the grants must be submitted to the Future Fisherman Foundation by March 2, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

Sheldon Lake Environmental Center provides a variety of outdoor learning opportunities for students.



To download the application go to: www.futurefisherman.org/programs/

Game Warden Wins Local Hearts



Milam County Game Warden Mike Mitchell and Precinct 3 Constable Herbie Vaughan, present Junior Angler Certificates at Gause 4-H Meeting.



Game Warden Mike Mitchell was new to rural Milam County and worked hard to get to know its people. He observed a need for education and hoped that Angler Education might be a way to reach out to kids and parents alike.

Working with the Aquatic Education team, he discovered an unused Angler Education Instructor Kit over 50 miles away. After restocking the trunk, he worked with the program and studied the angler education curriculum. He presented the angler education opportunity to parents at every Lions Club, 4-H, Rotary, and similar program he gave, noting that Angler Ed had not been offered in that area previously.

Further, Mike joined up with a local community leader and the 4-H agents in the area. Shortly thereafter, 17 kids enrolled in his first Angler Education program, mostly from the town of Gause. With the help of nearby Game Warden Travis Allen and Constable Herbie Vaughan, the class was an astounding success. The event culminated in a fishing day on a nearby private pond, where the kids caught fish with delight.

As a result of his efforts, the town nominated and awarded Mike with its **2006 Outstanding 4-H Supporter Award**, presented at the county-wide annual banquet. Winning the hearts of constituents is always a huge step for any new game warden.

Congratulations, Mike, and welcome to the Angler Education network of instructors.

Third Annual Oktoberfisch

BOB SPENCER – Fredericksburg Fly Fishers

Do you ever just sit back and dream of that fishing spot you long to explore? My new screen saver is of the Llano River taken during Oktoberfisch: early morning with the mist rising above the river, cool water rushing over the granite bed and stones in the riffles making a song that can only be heard in wild water.

The Llano River is the ideal site for Oktoberfisch, an annual statewide fly-fishing event, presented by volunteers from the Fredericksburg Fly Fishers club. Members donate their time and resources to create a venue that offers expert instruction for the novice or advanced fly fisher. Held on the Llano riverside near the crossing of U.S. Highway 87 nine miles south of Mason, a hands-on educational, social and learning adventure satisfies many interests of anglers, kayakers and canoeists.

Situated in the Hill Country where German heritage abounds – hence *Oktoberfisch* – is an October weekend fly-fishing event. This is an event one doesn't just dream of, but participates in with other kindred spirits that enjoy fly-fishing, kayaking, good food and great company.



The river fishing is good with Guadalupe Bass, Bream, Rio Grande Perch, Big Mouth, and Spotted Bass caught and released. Fly-casting lessons are taught by FFF-certified instructors for beginner through advanced anglers.

Noted guests speaking on techniques of fly-fishing in saltwater and freshwater are scheduled throughout Saturday in the large tents on the banks of the Llano. Folks explore riverside entomology by collecting and identifying insect samples to show water quality and the ample food supply available for fish.



Fly-tying and knot-tying instructions are also offered and vendors have kayaks and canoes in the river for demonstration. Ferry runs for kayaks and canoes are scheduled Friday afternoon and all day Saturday to give fly fishers the opportunity to experience the clear, fishable waters upstream of the Highway 87 bridge and enjoy an all-day run. Semi-primitive camping is stream-side in a freshly cleared area with portable toilets nearby. RV'ers can locate just across the bridge in the new Llano River RV Park with hookups for electricity and hot showers available. A number of motels and inns are available in Mason and Fredericksburg.

In 2006, the third annual Oktoberfisch grew to over 150 paid participants. Each participant received a goody bag filled with local information, maps and hand-tied flies that catch fish on the Llano. Early risers on Saturday morning were greeted with coffee and a hot breakfast, and barbecue was available for lunch. After a full day of casting, fishing and kayaking, Saturday evening dinner was welcomed with 125 grilled steaks, served with all the trimmings. Raffle and silent auction winners were announced, highlighted by great prizes including a Wilderness Systems 120 kayak, two complete fly rod and reel outfits, guided fishing trips, and lots of fly-fishing items.

ANGLER EDUCATION CONTACT INFORMATION

General Information and Records

WINDY ALTUM (800) 792-1112 + 65 (512) 389-8183 Fax (512) 389-8042 windy.altum@tpwd.state.tx.us

Supplies

MAC ALMOND or ROBIN WILLIAMSON (800) 792-1112 + 61 Fax (512) 389-4372 (512) 389-4795 or (512) 389-4528 mac.almond@tpwd.state.tx.us rita.williamson@tpwd.state.tx.us

Aquatic Education Coordinator

ANN MILLER (800) 792-1112 + 9 + 4732 (512) 389-4732 Fax (512) 389-8042 ann.miller@tpwd.state.tx.us

Aquatic Education - Dallas/Fort Worth

STEVE CAMPBELL (972) 263-0427 stephen.campbell@tpwd.state.tx.us

Aquatic Education – Houston

BRENDA JUSTICE (281) 534-0123 brenda.justice@tpwd.state.tx.us

Outdoor Learning Program

KAREN MARKS (512) 389-8833 Fax (512) 389-8042 karen.marks@tpwd.state.tx.us

Outdoor Learning Programs Coordinator

NANCY HERRON (512) 389-4362 nancy.herron@tpwd.state.tx.us

Paperwork: Like Death and Taxes ...

... we can't escape! As many of you know, it is your timely reports that help us maintain our funding so that we are able to provide all the wonderful and *free* teaching materials for your classes and events.

Each year at the end of our fiscal year which ends on August 31, we compile all the data from your reports for our federal aid and state legislative budget reports. Typically, if you have taught a class at the end of the summer, we can still include the information if we receive the report in September.

In spring 2006 it was necessary for us to update our forms to meet the guidelines for our federal aid grant. In addition to reporting the **age** (youth or adult) and **gender** for all of our class participants, we are also required to provide a breakdown of **ethnicity categories** as defined by the census bureau. Our old forms did not include these "new" ethnicity categories.

Additionally, we also must record **individual names and hours worked with the accompanying signatures** for all volunteers that assist with a class or event.

Why are your reports and those volunteer signatures so important? I'll toss you a *virtual squiggly* if you answered "the value of each reported volunteer hour is worth \$16." Yes, that's right! That's why each and every one of you is so important to our program. Without you and your reports we would not be able to provide such a successful program across this great state of Texas!

So, if you have any of those old forms, find the nearest recycling bin and discard them!

All of the new forms can be found in the instructor resources section on our Web site at **www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/angler_education/**To access the instructor resources site, use the following login:

Username: instructor Password: gofish

If you do not have Internet access and need copies of the new forms, please feel free to call our office and request a copy.

How is paperwork like a fish? It starts to smell after three days. So just send in that report to us ASAP! It loses its odor in the mail and arrives smelling like a rose.

FORMS AT A GLANCE

Ordering Supplies?	Submit via fax or mail a Request for Literature: Angler Education or Fly Fishing Instruction Complete and submit one of the following: Angler Education Class Report (short version or long version) or Basic and Intermediate Fly fishing Class Report	
Teaching an Angler Ed or Fly Fishing class using the complete curriculum?		
Giving a brief aquatic or angler related presentation to a scout, school or adult civic organization OR leading a fishing event, outing or derby that does not include the use of the complete curriculum?	Complete and submit the Volunteer Fishing Aquatic Education Activity Event Form	



Talented Young Anglers Recognized at Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo

Alissa Lewis, Daniel Haluzan and Wayne Trammell, Jr., recieve special recognition at Expo for holding multiple fishing records in the Junior Angler division. Alissa uses a pink Barbie fishing combo, while Daniel catches his fish on a fly rod and Wayne bow fishes.

Learn more about these amazing youth record holders in your next *Reel Lines*.

Tackle Loaner on the Move

There are currently 30 Tackle Loaner Sites across the state of Texas (mostly in state parks) and new sites are being added each year. The equipment is available free of charge. It's also available to you, as Angler Education volunteers, for your activities and events.

During the course of the fiscal year 2006, equipment was borrowed around 839 times. Users under the age 17 represent the largest segment utilizing Tackle Loaner at 62 percent. Thirty-three percent had never fished before. Overall usage was up 42 percent over the first half of FY06.

A modest beginning perhaps, but the mightiest oak tree was once just a little nut that held its ground.

EVENT CALENDAR

Looking for an opportunity to have fun and use your Angler Education Instructor training? Many of the following events would welcome additional volunteers. Please contact the event coordinator or location for more information. For additional events and information check out these Web sites: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsmedia/calendar/ and www.texas-bass.com/index.htm

ANGLER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR COURSES

February 3 – Austin. Contact Karen Marks at (512) 389-8833 or karen.marks@tpwd.state.tx.us

February 10 — Brownsville. Contact Dr. Reynaldo Ramirez, (956) 882-8979 or reynaldo.ramirez@utb.edu

February 24 – Houston, Sheldon Lake State Park. Contact Brenda Justice, brenda.justice@tpwd.state.tx.us or (281) 534-0123

March 17 – Grand Prairie. Contact Steve Campbell, stephen.campbell@tpwd.state.tx.us or (972) 263-0427

March 31– Denton. Contact Denton County Office of Texas Cooperative Extension (940) 349-2883

April 21 – Grand Prairie. Contact Steve Campbell, stephen.campbell@tpwd.state.tx.us or (972) 263-0427

May 19 – Grand Prairie. Contact Steve Campbell, stephen.campbell@tpwd.state.tx.us or (972) 263-0427

June 16 – Grand Prairie. Contact Steve Campbell, stephen.campbell@tpwd.state.tx.us or (972) 263-0427

YOUTH FISHING CLINICS

Through

January 13 — Port Isabel. Contact Dr. Reynaldo Ramirez, reynaldo.ramirez@utb.edu or (956) 882-8979

January 13, March 14, June 16, July 21 – Buescher SP. Contact the park at (512) 237-2241 or Bill Brooks at bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu

January 20, March 3, April 4, May 19 – Palmetto SP. Contact the park at (830) 672-3266

March 24 — Port Isabel. Contact Dr. Reynaldo Ramirez, reynaldo.ramirez@utb.edu or (956) 882-8979

April 7 — Eisenhower SP. Contact the park at (903) 465-1956

April 28, May 19, June 9, June 23 – Bonham SP. Contact the park at (903) 583-5022 or Don McCommas at (903) 583-8660.

June 2, July 14 – Bastrop SP. Contact the park at (512) 321-1673 or Bill Brooks at bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu

FLYFISHING CLASSES AND EVENTS

January 20 — Port Isabel. *Basic Fly-fishing Class*. Contact Dr. Reynaldo Ramirez, reynaldo.ramirez@utb.edu or (956) 882-8979

January 27 — Brazos Bend SP. *Basic Fly-fishing Class*. Contact Brenda Justice at (281) 534-0123 or brenda.justice@tpwd.state.tx.us

January 27 — Eisenhower SP. *Texoma Tie In*. Contact the park at (903) 465-1956

February 10 — Huntsville SP. *Basic Fly-fishing Class*. Contact Brenda Justice at (281) 534-0123 or brenda.justice@tpwd.state.tx.us

March 3 — Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center. *Fly Fish Texas*. Contact the center at (903) 676-BASS

April 14 — Port Isabel. *Basic Fly-fishing Class*. Contact Dr. Reynaldo Ramirez, reynaldo.ramirez@utb.edu or (956) 882-8979

June 23 — Eisenhower SP. Texoma on the Fly. Contact the park at (903) 465-1956

OTHER FISHING EVENTS

January 20 — Fort Richardson SP&HS and Lost Creek Reservoir State Trailway. *Trout Stocking and Family Fishing Day*. 9 a.m.-noon (940) 567-3506

February 3 - Landmark Inn SHS. 14th Annual Kid Fish. (830) 931-2133

April 13-15 – Lake Fork (near Athens). *Texas Toyota Bass Classic*. To volunteer, contact Karen Marks, karen.marks@tpwd.state.tx.us or (512) 389-8183

May 5 — Eisenhower SP. 4-H Kids Fishing Derby. Contact the park at (903) 465-1956

May 5, 19 - Washington-on-the-Brazos SHS. Children's Fishing Derby. Contact the park at (936) 878-2214 ext. 224

May 12 — Cedar Hill SP. 6th Annual Youth Carp Fishing Event. Contact the park at (972) 291-3900 ext. 232

June 2 — Eisenhower SP. 4-H Kids Fishing Derby. Contact the park at (903) 465-1956

TEXAS FRESHWATER FISHERIES CENTER, ATHENS, TEXAS

March Center's 1.5-acre pond. No fishing license or trout stamp needed. Regular entrance fee plus \$5 for the opportunity to harvest five trout. Fly-fishing Clinic. Learn fly-fishing skills from a master fly Feb. TBA fisher. Fee charged. For information call (903) 670-2222. Fly Fish Texas. Learn about fly-fishing through seminars, March 3 demonstrations and hands-on practice. Free with admission. For information call (903) 670-2222. March 31 Outdoor Fools Day. Representatives of various divisions of TPWD, conservation organizations and outdoor businesses will conduct hands-on activities that build your fishing, hunting, birding and camping skills and tell you where to go to apply them in East Texas. Free with admission. Cinco de Mayo Celebration. Family fun with games, May 5

dancing, music and food. Adults \$2.50. Children 12 and

under free. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Annual Trout Harvest. Catch and keep trout at the

- June 2 **National Fishing Day**. Celebrate with a fun day of fishing contests, games and learning about the wonders of the aquatic world. Children 12 and under free.
- June 9 **Crocs and Gators Day**. Learn about alligators and crocodiles through a variety of activities. Wear your CrocsTM and receive \$1 off admission.
- June 17 **Fathers and Grandfathers Fishing Day**. Bring your favorite fishing buddy to TFFC for an afternoon of fun and fishing. Free with admission.
- July 4 **Fireworks at the Fishery**. See one of the largest fireworks shows in East Texas. Admission is free after 5 p.m. Fireworks begin at dark.
- On-going **Catfish Harvest**. Catch and keep catfish at the Center's 1.5-acre pond. No fishing license required. Regular entrance fee plus \$10 for the opportunity to harvest five fish.

Times and dates subject to change. Call (903) 676-2277 for more info.

Area Chiefs by County

COUNTY	NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE
ANGELINA	MCLENDON, LINDA	ljomc@mindspring.com	(936) 875-3726
ANGELINA	MCLENDON, WALTER	waltermc@sprynet.com	(936) 875-3726
BASTROP	REED, AARON	aaron.reed@tpwd.state.tx.us	(512) 389-8046
BEXAR	CRUMRINE, WILLIAM	billoutdoors@hotmail.com	(210) 656-5898
BEXAR	YORK, PEGGY	peggy.york@sbcglobal.net	(210) 647-7053
BRAZORIA	GORE, JAMES	HEYPACO@YAHOO.COM	(979) 480-9736
BRAZOS	HARMEL-GARZA, DENISE	d-harmel-garza@tamu.edu	(979) 694-8405
BRAZOS	HYSMITH, LARRY		(979) 485-0792
BURNET	BOHANNAN, JANET	cjbohanan@thegateway.net	(512) 355-3649
CALDWELL	ROBINSON, FRANK	FRANK.ROBINSON@TPWD.STATE.TX.US	(512) 389-8445
COLLIN	ANDERSON, JERE	Jaand75023@cs.com	(972) 618-6714
COLLIN	HOWES, MICHAEL	mikesfishn@msn.com	(972) 562-1698
COLLIN	PETRICK, MICHAEL	mike.petrick@verizon.net; petrickm@lisd.net	(972) 618-4081
DALLAS	CARPENTER, MARK	markscampfire@sbcglobal.net	(972) 485-2040
EL PASO	VAN DE PUTTE, ANTOINETTE	yhstrainer@aol.com	(915) 779-6884
FANNIN	BOHANNON, KEN	KENBOHANNON@MSN.COM	(903) 583-4738
FREESTONE	HAMMON, KATY		(254) 739-2124
GALVESTON	HIERONYMUS, ALFRED		(409) 935-4533
GALVESTON	HIERONYMUS, TODD	tlhero50@yahoo.com	(409) 948-3187
GALVESTON	RICHARDS, DANNY	richardsdanny@sbcglobal.net	(281) 339-5788
GILLESPIE	FLOYD, JOHN	jcf5460@aol.com	(830) 990-1585
GILLESPIE	HENKE, ROBERT	SH56RH@YAHOO.COM	(830) 997-7956
GILLESPIE	MASTERS, KEITH	keith.masters@honeywell.com	(830) 990-4863
GILLESPIE	PURSCH, MARTIN	countryflyfish@fbg.net	(830) 990-9453
HARRIS	DANNER, THOMAS	thomas.danner@nov.com	(281) 445-4784
HARRIS	FOBIAN, MARK	markfobian@katyisd.org	(281) 463-0868
HARRIS	GALPIN III, JAMES	jim.galpin@aiminvestments.com	(713) 463-5814
HARRIS	GALPIN, BARBARA	BGALPIN@CONSOLIDATED.NET	(281) 392-2014
HARRIS	GANZE, CHARLES (CHUCK)	ganzec@gte.net	(281) 421-2860
HARRIS	GERHARDT, EDGAR	ELG@JRAHA.ORG	(713) 880-8107
HARRIS	IBARRA, ROBERTO		(281) 421-5612
HARRIS	LEVRON, TEDDY	teddylevron@hotmail.com	(713) 688-2785
HARRIS	PARKS, ROBERT		(713) 937-8617
HARRIS	WALL, ROBERT	bobwall@hal-pc.org	(281) 445-7936
HENDERSON	FOLTS, LYNDA	iupattx@aol.com	(903) 887-5061
HENDERSON	FOLTS, TERRY	iupattx@aol.com	(903) 887-5061
JIM WELLS	BURKHALTER, GEORGE		(361) 664-9885
JIM WELLS	CONTRERAS JR., RICARDO	RICKYCONTRERAS96@gmail.com	(361) 593-2682
KERR	HARRISON, GUY		(830) 895-8696
KERR	HICKMAN, ROY	roydh@ktc.com	(830) 896-2565
KERR	SAUNDERS, WALTER		(830) 895-5198
KERR	TULL, FRANK	bcft@omniglobal.net	(830) 257-9424
KLEBERG	DELA CRUZ, ELIGIO	POMPANOSLAYER5000@YAHOO.COM	(361) 592-0446
KLEBERG	LOPEZ, JEFF	KSDJL01@TAMUK.EDU	(361) 593-3756
LLANO	CONE, DAN	cast@llanoriverflyfishing.com	(325) 423-0045
NACOGDOCHES	LEE, JAMES	flynacbrm@yahoo.com	(936) 569-9855
POLK	BELLO, DAWN	DAWN.BELLO@TPWD.STATE.TX.US	(713) 203-2915
POTTER	LARSON, LARRY		(806) 353-4048
SAN PATRICIO	MASON-LEISTER, ANDREW	masonator 19@gmail.com	(361) 522-2329
TAYLOR	CONDRA, LARRY	larry.condra@abileneisd.org	(325) 672-9605
TOM GREEN	BROWN, JIMMY	JMYBRN@MSN.COM	(325) 655-9093
TRAVIS	BAMMEL, MICHAEL	mikebammel@yahoo.com	(512) 257-7275
TRAVIS	DURAN, GILBERT	gillduran@yahoo.com	(512) 569-8716
TRAVIS	KOLTON, ROBIN	robin.kolton@tpwd.state.tx.us	(512) 912-7104
TRAVIS	PEDRAM, HALEH	heyhalehguesswhat@gmail.com	(703) 598-9666
WICHITA	GOSE, TAD	TAD.GOSE@TPWD.STATE.TX.US trey@bantamei.com	(940)528-2211 (512) 255 3004
WILLIAMSON WILLIAMSON	SCOTT III, TREY SCOTT, MERLE	merlea@ev1.net; merle@force-elec.com	(512) 255-3994 (512) 310-1700
VVILLIMIVIDOIN	JCOTT, IVILITEE	meneasevi.net, menesioreselec.com	(312) 310-1700

RENO
PFLUGERVILLE
RICHMOND
RICHMOND
ROUND ROCK
ROUND ROCK
SAN ANGELO
SANTA FE
SEALY
SEGUIN
SPRING
SPRING
SPRING
SPRING
SPRING
SPRING
SPRING

SPRING BRANCH
TEXAS CITY
TEXAS CITY
THE COLONY
THE WOODLANDS
THE WOODLANDS
THE WOODLANDS
THE WOODLANDS
THE WOODLANDS

TOLAR TYLER VICTORIA WAELDER WASHINGTON WICHITA FALLS WICHITA FALLS

WILLIS
WILLIS
WINNSBORO

Welcome New Instructors!

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.

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

MICHAEL ODLE	ADDISON	ARLANDER COLEMAN	HOUSTON	MICHAEL BARNETT
CHARLES JOHNSTON	ANGLETON	KELLY CRIST	HOUSTON	ROY ALEMAN
JOHN DUNLAP	ARGYLE	MICHAEL DANGERFIELD	HOUSTON	BENJAMIN LOHMER
J. PATRICK REIRDON	ARLINGTON	GREGORY GAMBLE	HOUSTON	CLIFFORD WRAY
BILL BERRY	AUSTIN	WILBUR HARKNESS	HOUSTON	LES WEST
MATTHEW GAMMON	AUSTIN	ROBERT KESTER	HOUSTON	DONALD YENNI
LINDSEY HARPER	AUSTIN	BARNABY MATTEER	HOUSTON	JIMMY BROWN
REBECCA HILL	AUSTIN	MARIE MCCORMICK	HOUSTON	DANNY CAUSER
MIRANDA HODGKISS	AUSTIN	TERRY MCCORMICK	HOUSTON	SANDI WARD
MELADEE PEREZ	AUSTIN	EMERY PUSTEJOVSKY	HOUSTON	DON DESCH
HUNTER SMITH	AUSTIN	MELVIN SMITH	HOUSTON	SCOTT ANDRE
MICHAEL STANCIL	AUSTIN	GARRY SULLIVAN	HOUSTON	GENE ILLICH
JUANITA (NITA) VASQUES	AUSTIN	RAYMOND JOHNSON, JR	HUMBLE	CHRISTOPHER ONEY
MICHAEL SHIRLEY	BELLAIRE	PATRICIA DANKO	IRVING	KEITH STELTER
KAREN BOLYARD	BENBROOK	JANET BAUER	KATY	PETER VOLLMER
HUNLEY ELMORE	BURKBURNETT	AMY BRAYTON	KATY	SHANE REYNOLDS
REBECCA FENTER	BURKBURNETT	GARY DERKS	KATY	CATHY RIVETTE
LYNN SEMAN	BURKBURNETT	greg eubank	KATY	TIMOTHY RIVETTE
WILLIAM WEIR	BURKBURNETT	ANN FERNER	KATY	ROBERT WOOD
HONEY KEY	BURLESON	STEVEN FEX	KATY	ROBERT BRUNING
GUY HENDERSON	CARROLLTON	TARA HAUHE	KATY	ANDREW CATANZARO
VIRGINIA MILLER	CEDAR PARK	ROSALIND KINSEY	KATY	JOHN DURISKO II
WILLIAM KILASPA	CLEVELAND	JAN MERCER	KATY	DAVE HOLLES
WILLIAM PISKE	CONROE	PATRICK OKRUHLIK	KATY	DELMOR WILLIAMS
JASON RAVERTY	CONROE	EDDIE OTWELL	KATY	DANIEL (ERIC) KALE
TRAVIS UPDEGRAFF	CORSICANA	CAREY PALMER	KATY	DAVID NELSON
PATRICK FRY	CYPRESS	MARY POSADA	KATY	CHARLES SCHONS
KALI BLEVINS	DUNCANVILLE	RICHARD REMELS	KATY	KATHRYN SULLIVAN
WILLIAM PARKER	FLOWER MOUND	DONALD ROUSSEAU	KATY	STACEY JEZISEK
ARCHIE WALKER	FLOWER MOUND	MARILYN JEWELL	LA MARQUE	LILA ARNOLD
TRENT BAKER	FORT WORTH	Joanna Sharp	LEAGUE CITY	LESLIE CUSICK-FERNANDES
SUSAN LYONS-TOVAR	FORT WORTH	BARBARA ROWLAND	LEANDER	TIFFANY DIUR
ALAN NICHOLS	FORT WORTH	LADAWN SNAPP	LEWISVILLE	ROY FULMER
ROGER WILLIAMS	FORT WORTH	ERIC WILLIAMS	LEWISVILLE	KAREN HANCOCK-WHITE
DEBORAH EVANS	FRISCO	JANIE PLUENNEKE	LIBERTY	MARK HOWELL
LAURA VANCE	GARRISON	SALLY PINA	LIBERTY HILL	BRENDA KING
SHANE VANCE	GARRISON	DAVID SCHWERTNER	LUBBOCK	DONNA MCGOUGH
SCOTT MASSIE	GONZALES	GORDON WETSEL	LUBBOCK	PENNY MILLER
BRANDON NEAL	GRANBURY	EDWARD PAXTON	MISSOURI CITY	JANA SCHWARZ
MARTIN (BLAKE) EDWARDS	HICO	REBECCA MORGAN	MONTGOMERY	JJ WHITE
ROBERT VAUGHN	HIGHLAND VILLAGE	TAMARA RODRIGUEZ	NEEDVILLE	JAMES BIRDWELL
WILLIAM CALLAHAN, JR	HOUSTON	LINDA PARKER	PALACIOS	FRANK SPARKS
CHARLES COATES, JR	HOUSTON	CHARLIE KEITH, JR	PEARLAND	ALICIA MOORE
	l	l		1