

TEXAS ANGLER
EDUCATION PROGRAM**Reel Lines**

Issue Number 20

4200 Smith School Road • Austin, Texas 78744

July 2006

New & NoteworthyANN MILLER –
Aquatic Education Coordinator

Thanks to over 400 of you who have completed and sent in the required background check permission forms. For anyone who has not yet returned the required form, please notify one of our Aquatic Education staff members to let us know you still want to maintain affiliation with us. If, for some reason, you never received a form or if you have lost the form we mailed you, please contact Karen Marks as soon as possible to request another form.

Aquatic Education will be marking folks as "inactive" in our database if we don't receive a background check release form from them by August 1. Only active instructors will be able to order materials from us and receive newsletters, updates and invitations to meetings and advanced training opportunities. We hope to receive all your background check release forms as soon as possible.

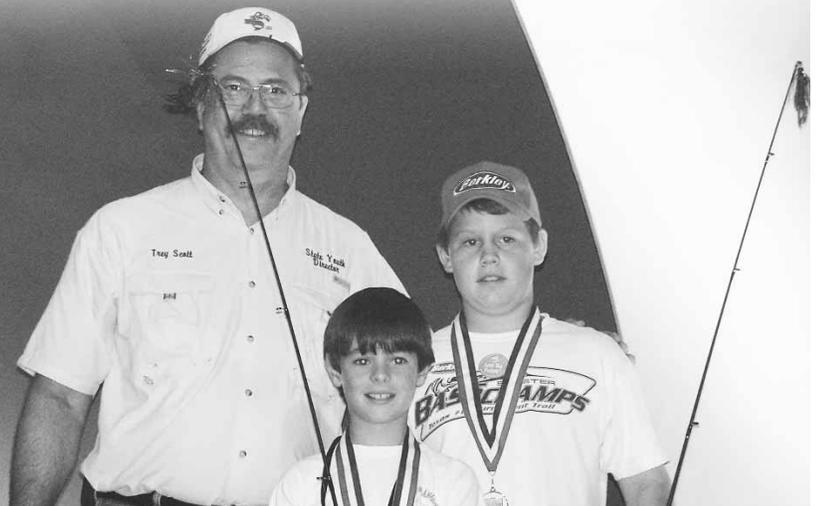
Special thanks to the 55 active instructors who have gone through Area Chief training and are prepared to help us train new instructors. The new Area Chiefs received their training at one of our two spring meetings, a meeting focused on saltwater fishing at Oak Island resort located on Trinity Bay or a meeting focused on freshwater fishing at Parrie Haynes Ranch on the Lampasas River. To learn

*continued on page 2***Texas B.A.S.S.
Federation Nation
Steps up to the Plate**

TREY SCOTT – TBFN State Youth Director and Area Chief, Round Rock

Texas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation (TBFN) has officially joined forces with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and pledged our support to TPWD's Angler Education program through a Memorandum of Agreement signed by Charles Harmless, TBFN president. With this agreement, TBFN's network of world-class anglers will work closely with TPWD's Angler Education to give Texas children a well-rounded education and exposure to the great outdoors. We feel that with the changing of times and issues being as complicated as they are, joining forces will multiply our impact!

Texas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation has several youth and conservation activities going on throughout the state all year long, and now, with our new alliance with TPWD, we're hoping to have a bigger impact on our state's youth. We want to help get kids out from in front of the video games and out to our streams and lakes.

continued on page 2

Trey Scott congratulates Holden Harrison, 10, and Travis White, 13, winners of the Casting Kids competition in May. Both kids are now eligible for the state championship invitational that will be held in Round Rock at Sportsman's Warehouse in October.

New & Noteworthy

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

more about those popular meetings read the articles on pages 3-5.

So who cares if we have 55 Area Chiefs? Area Chiefs are instructors who have stepped up a level in their dedication to spreading the LOVE ... the love of fishing, that is. You can call on an Area Chief almost like you can call on Aquatic Education staff to support you as you plan angler education activities in your community. If you need a little help and want to call in the big guns, contact Angler Education staff who will provide you with contact information for your local Angler Education Area Chiefs. For a complete list of Area Chiefs by city, see page 6.

Don't forget to use the latest edition (spring of 2006) of forms for ordering materials, reporting your angler education classes and activities and for printing out certificates.

All of these forms are located on our Web site:
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/angler_education

Go to Instructor Resources, then when the box pops up, user name is *instructor* (all lower case) and password is *gofish* (all lower case, no spaces). Or, simply contact Angler Education staff for the latest edition.

Volunteer hours. In order to count volunteer hours for you and those folks who volunteer with you, we must have a SIGNATURE FOR EACH PERSON who reports volunteer hours. Notice the column for signatures on the back of the Class Reporting Forms or the Volunteer Fishing Event Report form. If you and your volunteers don't sign for your hours, we will NOT be able to count them as part of our federal aid match that supports our program.

B.A.S.S., continued

To complement TPWD's Angler Education programs, we bring competition to the table. We basically have two different youth competitions that we are conducting on a worldwide level. One we call Casting Kids. This competition has two age groups, seven to 10 years old and 11 to 14 years old. These competitions teach the kids the three basic casting skills, flipping, pitching and casting. Winners go on to state, regional and then national competitions, with the winners competing at the annual Bassmaster Classic in front of tens of thousands of bass fishing fans and enthusiasts. Casting Kids competitions are free and open to any Texas youth in those age groups. For more information about Casting Kids go to www.texas-bass.com/Youth/index.htm

The other competition is the Jr. Bassmaster program. In this competition we have four age groups, three to six years old, seven to 10 years old, 11 to 14 years old and 15 to 18 years old. The state champions of the senior two age groups advance to the Jr. Bassmaster World Championship, held in conjunction with the Bassmaster Classic. Each winner gets to fish with one of the top pros of the sport like Kevin Van Dam, Rick Clunn and many others. Prizes for both, including college scholarships, total over \$200,000 per competition. The National Champions at the Jr. Bassmaster World Championship even win new boat packages. To find out more about the Jr. Bassmaster competition, check the same Web site as above.

Together, TPWD and the Texas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation can make a difference! For further information feel free to e-mail me at trey@bantamei.com

The Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, (B.A.S.S.), the worldwide leader in bass fishing, is the world's oldest and largest bass angling organization. B.A.S.S. has over 40,000 members in Texas. The Texas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation (sponsored by ESPN) has about 1,000 members.

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Steve Campbell



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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."

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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

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Angler Ed Area Chiefs Meet at Trinity Bay Lodge

AARON REED – TPWD News and Information

As the first day of April rolled around, Angler Ed staff and 19 volunteer instructors gathered at Oak Island Lodge on Trinity Bay for an intensive day-and-a-half of program updates and advanced angling classes.



The annual Area Chiefs' meeting offered the teachers' teachers – volunteer instructors who certify new instructors – an opportunity to expand their piscatorial and instructional knowledge and to learn from one another.

"It was an opportunity to inspire one another," said Ann Miller, aquatic education coordinator for TPWD. "We need that. We all get bogged-down in our everyday lives. Getting the opportunity to inspire one another is a real treat."

Presentations at the meeting included a comprehensive look at invasive species by Coastal Fisheries Regional Director Lance Robinson, an introduction to "Blood and Guts" data collection by Galveston Bay Ecosystem Leader Rebecca Hensley and a guided tour of the arcane and mysterious world of rigging for saltwater fishing, led by Palacios-based Coastal Fisheries Technician (and pro fishing guide) James Shuler.

Many of the volunteer instructors said they left with new information they planned to offer their own students right away.

"The information on how to rig for saltwater fishing was great, especially hearing it from such a good saltwater fisherman," said volunteer Bob Wall. "I took a lot of notes and will write them up for a hand-out to use in a future fishing class."

North Texas area Aquatic Education Specialist Steve Campbell kept the atmosphere lively with a seemingly inexhaustible supply of the ubiquitous "squiggles," and suggested the most effective ways instructors could incorporate the colorful plastic worms into their own classes.

Campbell "double-dared" attendees at the area chiefs' meeting to wear their squiggles to their day jobs following the Oak Island meeting. The payoff, he predicted, is that colleagues, clients or students are sure to ask what the squiggles are all about.

"A lot of things can be accomplished with squiggles," said Wall. "I wore mine to work on Monday and have two, possibly three, people wanting to take the Angler Ed instructor class."



Flying Squiggles and Crunchy Carp

Area Chief Conference, Part B

Over 20 new and returning Area Chiefs attended the 4th annual Area Chief Conference, Part B, held at Parrie Haynes Ranch May 6-7. Part B references the fact that this year we tried something very interesting by offering two meetings. Part A was at Oak Island on the coast in early April. And both were a great deal of fun.

Our keynote speaker at Parrie Haynes was Donnie Frels, manager of the Kerr Wildlife Management Area. Donnie explained how land management practices critically affect the quantity and quality of water in our rivers, streams and aquifers. Donnie is one of those great speakers who educates you while entertaining you. Thanks, Donnie!



Steve, the "Squiggly King"

After lunch on Saturday, the participants had their choice of six training sessions to attend. Joan Glass, TPWD Inland Fisheries Biologist, presented information on the dreaded golden alga (see more about this on page 10). Doctorial candidate Melissa Mullins, Baylor University, lead workshops on wetland restoration. Carp angler par excellence, Fr. Neil Stren, demonstrated some of the baits, tackle, methods and gadgets used in landing big carp. Veteran Area Chief Jim Parker showed us that carp are actually edible! His special method of preparing and cooking carp was a surprise for many and a big hit.

Walter and Linda McLendon, Area Chiefs from Lufkin, taught fly-casting while Ann Miller and Karen Marks showed us how to find and identify aquatic critters used to determine water quality. Nine attendees wishing to certify in Basic Flyfishing participated in both of these activities and took advantage of an optional flyfishing instructors' workshop during free time, lead by the McLendons. Nine Area Chiefs were certified as flyfishing instructors.

Squiggles are giveth and taketh away. Mike Bammel learns a valuable lesson about "perch."



Jim and Jo Parker serve up some mighty tasty carp.

Walter and Linda McLendon get "Golden Squiggles" for teaching a Basic Flyfishing class.



That evening the group was treated to a virtual tour of Waco's Cameron Park Zoo's new exhibit, the Brazos River Experience. This exhibit traces the course of the Brazos River, from its mouth in the Gulf of Mexico to its headwaters in Stonewall County and the seven distinct biological provinces it flows through. Animals that live in these regions are interpreted as well.

On Sunday, Area Chiefs met in separate groups, the Suckers (returning Area Chiefs) and Minners (new Area Chiefs) for training and discussions. (Ask an Area Chief how those names were chosen.) We shared ideas, tips, experiences and opportunities that inspired us all. Of course, our grand finale was awarding squiggly prizes!



Horsing around ... part of the fun at an Area Chief meeting.

2006 Area Chiefs

Larry Condra	Abilene	Danny Richards	Kemah	 <p><i>A new Area Chief, Robin Kolton, was a winner at the women's Bassmaster Nationals in May.</i></p>
George Burkhalter	Alice	Guy "Doc" Harrison	Kerrville	
Larry Larson	Amarillo	Roy Hickman	Kerrville	
Mike Bammel	Austin	Walter Saunders	Kerrville	
Gilbert Duran	Austin	Frank Tull	Kerrville	
Haleh Pedram	Austin	Ricky Contreras	Kingsville	
Chuck Ganze	Baytown	Marcus Arrisola	Kingsville	
Janet Bohanan	Bertram	Eligio De La Cruz	Kingsville	
Aaron Reed	Cedar Creek	Jeff Lopez	Kingsville	
Maria Sweet	Cedar Hill	Andrew Mason	Kingsville	
Teddy Levron	Cypress	James Gore	Lake Jackson	
Mark Carpenter	Dallas	Dawn Bello	Livingston	
Ken Bohannon	Dodd City	Dan Cone	Llano	
Toni Van De Putte	El Paso	Frank Robinson	Lockhart	
John Floyd	Fredericksburg	Linda McLendon	Lufkin	
Bob Henke	Fredericksburg	Walter McLendon	Lufkin	
Keith Masters	Fredericksburg	Lynda Folts	Mabank	
Martin Pursch	Fredericksburg	Terry Folts	Mabank	
Robin Kolton	Georgetown	Jim Parker	Malakoff	
Thomas Danner	Houston	Michael Howes	McKinney	
James Galpin	Houston	James Lee	Nacogdoches	
Bob Parks	Houston	Michael Petrick	Plano	
Bob Wall	Houston	Trey Scott	Round Rock	
Mark Fobian	Katy	Merle Scott	Round Rock	
Barbara Galpin	Katy	Bill Crumrine	San Antonio	

A new Area Chief, Robin Kolton, was a winner at the women's Bassmaster Nationals in May.

Peggy York	San Antonio
Katy Hammon	Teague
Al Hieronymus	Texas City
Todd Hieronymus	Texas City
Tad Gose	Wichita Falls

Water and Sun Safety

KATY HAMMON – Area Chief, Teague

Our responsibility as angler educators is to teach children to appreciate the outdoors and fishing. Should we not also impart to these young people the importance of safety? Not just the "sharps" on equipment and fish, but also water and sun safety.

The "AquaSmart" program from TPWD is an excellent water safety educational tool. There is a teacher's guide and video for three age levels, K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. Contact TPWD Boater Education staff to get a free copy, read it and incorporate the pertinent information into your teaching programs.

Even though exposure to sunlight is enjoyable and healthy, too much is dangerous – and overexposure can lead to immediate problems like blistering from sunburn and serious long-term problems of skin cancer and cataracts.

Conditions that increase our exposure to the damaging UV rays of sunlight include: time of year (summer), time of day (10 a.m.-2 p.m.), nearness to equator, and reflections off water, sand and concrete.

Sound familiar?

Teach your students to wear a wide-brimmed hat, long pants and long sleeves, sunglasses that block 100% of UV, and use sunscreen of SPF-15 or higher. Sunscreen should be applied before every venture into the sun and re-applied every four hours (more often if in the water).

Sun protection practices should begin early and be consistent. Teach them to stay in the shade as much as possible and drink lots of water. AND become a good role model yourself!

For current UV forecast information from EPA go to:

www.epa.gov/sunwise/uvindex.html



BRENDA JUSTICE
Aquatic Education –
Houston/Galveston

**Over
\$2,585,000
in college
scholarships
has been
awarded to
youth around
the state over
the past
11 years in
the Coastal
Conservation
Association
(CCA) Texas
S.T.A.R.
Tournament.**

Opportunities Abound With the CCA S.T.A.R. Tournament

Robert Ibarra, Houston area Angler Education instructor, knows first hand how exciting fishing can be for youth. Especially when it involves fishing for a big fish and when you are part of helping a child win a huge scholarship. Over \$2,585,000 in college scholarships has been awarded to youth around the state over the past 11 years in the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Texas S.T.A.R. Tournament. In 2004, one of Robert's students caught a prize-winning sheepshead weighing seven pounds, eight ounces from Trinity Bay. The fourth grader caught his fish on his first ever boat trip.

Numerous divisions in the S.T.A.R. Tournament target youth and offer scholarships of up to \$50,000. These include the Columbia Sportswear S.T.A.R. Kids Flounder Division, TXU Energy S.T.A.R. Kids Gafftop Division, Houston Community Newspapers Sheepshead Division, Academy Sports and

Outdoors S.T.A.R. Teens Trout Division and the Time Warner Cable S.T.A.R. Teens Inshore Division. Plus, there are runner-up prizes too. In order to enter the tournament, youth receive their membership to CCA for free and for \$10 receive a subscription to The Rising Tide. The Rising Tide is a publication designed to educate youth about conservation and restoration of marine plant and animal life.

As an instructor in the Angler Education program, this is another great opportunity to share with your students. Robert teaches the TPWD Angler Education program in his fishing classes and encourages all his avid young fishermen to enter the tournament each year. Robert's daughter, Emily Ibarra, age seven, has also won third place in the Sheepshead Division and received a gift certificate from Academy Sports and Outdoors. So spread the news and help your students start fishing for their futures too.



Robert and his daughter Emily enjoy one of many of their fishing trips on Galveston Bay.

You Can Say That Again!

Lincoln, NE. Clarence Olberding, a 75-year-old angler in Nebraska, caught something no one expected – a rainbow trout with two mouths. He was fishing in Holmes Lake when his discovery was made.

Olberding, describing his catch, said "I reached down and grabbed it to take the hook out, and that's when I noticed that the hook was in the upper mouth and there was another jaw protruding out below."

An official from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission suggested that although it was a genetic anomaly but he doubted there was anything wrong with the meat. Mouth number two is apparently nonfunctional.

The fish was caught on Dec. 17, 2005 and Olberding's plans were "to smoke it up and eat it."

Associated Press, Dec. 21, 2005



With Baited Breath

STEVE CAMPBELL
Aquatic Education –
North Texas/
Panhandle

Stressed Out Kids?

Recently, a North Texas ABC affiliate aired a brief story concerning children becoming stressed due to over scheduling various activities, such as soccer, ballet and gymnastics. The first mention of the story came fairly early in the broadcast and was repeated as “coming up” a number of times; this is known as a teaser in the news biz.

I admit to sitting in front of my television set in eager anticipation, even though I already knew the answer. Eventually I was rewarded with the story.

The reporter spoke of overzealous parents, in an effort to provide everything for their children, may be unwittingly over booking their children’s extra-curricular engagements resulting in over stressing their offspring, mentally as well as physically. Earlier teasers promised to reveal the symptoms of adolescent stress. In reality they gave one – stomach ache. To the reporter’s credit, she did provide two methods for easing this stress load. One suggestion was to allow one to two hours of unstructured play time each day and the other was asking the children if they liked the activity.

I sat there smiling smugly at my television. As I said before, I already knew the answer. You do too. Take the kids fishing!

Read on for some great summer fishing opportunities.



Fishing at State Parks – A Great Stress Reducer!

What can be a better stress reducer than taking the kids to one of our state park Family Fishing Celebrations! This summer, seven of our state parks have hired Fishing Event coordinators, supported by the Angler Education program, to organize fun and informative family-oriented fishing events. These events range from Junior Angler programs aimed at teaching youth the basics of fishing to flyfishing classes for advanced anglers. In some cases, the events feature a “fishing derby” while others will be more of an informal “fishing with an expert.” Most of the events will offer door prizes or derby prizes, giving folks an opportunity to walk away with some new tackle or even rods and reels. And, don’t forget that many parks have tackle that participants can borrow to use at the park. What can be more hassle-free?

The event coordinators can use some expert volunteers and will be glad to hear from any of you who might have a free Saturday to help out. You can view the list of park events and e-mails of those coordinators below. Help spread the word about these wonderful family events and think about taking your friends and families too!

Let these coordinators know if you can lend a hand at a future event at these state parks:

Bastrop/Buescher

Bill Brooks, bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu

Blanco

Ken Holmes, keholmes15@austin.rr.com

Inks Lake

Janet Bohanan, cjbohanan@thegateway.net

Galveston Island

Colin Campbell, cam17@neo.tamu.edu

Eisenhower

Steve Hollensed, stevehollensed@texoma.net

Bonham

Don McCommas, k_mccommas@finleyoates.bonhamisd.org

Brazos Bend

Jennifer Killian, sjkillian2003@yahoo.com

Angler Ed Around the State

DALLAS – reported by Mark Eskew

Jere Anderson, Jim Crump, Ken Cole, Jonathan Gonzalez, Carolyn Hill, Richard Johnson, Bill Sargeant and I (members of Dallas Fly Fishers) taught another 21 Boy Scouts their Flyfishing Merit Badge through the University of Texas Dallas Scouting University. This was our sixth class of scouts, and even though rain kept other visitors away, 19 of the scouts caught two species of fish at Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center to complete their scouting requirements. If you know of scouts in the Dallas area who want to earn their flyfishing merit badge, contact Mark Eskew at (972) 661-2940.

WEST TEXAS – reported by Brock Minton

The annual "Fish-Out" for Iraan and Sheffield on April 22, at the Nature Conservancy at Independence Creek, attracted 73 participants. Jason Wrinkle, the Conservancy's Manager, welcomed the group while I immediately jumped in with the Angler Education program and a crash course in ichthyology. After the game wardens discussed fishing rules and regulations, Roy Engeldorf introduced an array of herps indigenous to the Trans-Pecos area. The young anglers competed in several different size and species categories and for "Catch of the Day." Black bass, channel catfish and Rio Grande perch were among the most common fish caught. Prizes and fun capped a perfect "Fish-Out."



A nice bass caught at the Independence Creek "Fish-Out" in West Texas.

HOUSTON AREA – reported by Brenda Justice

Three of the "Take Me Fishing Houston!" partners ended the school year with Family Fishing Day events: Lyons Elementary, Golbow Elementary and Grissom Elementary. For some families, this was their first fishing trip, and for the students, it was a chance to practice new fishing skills they learned at school. Along with fishing, the events included family pledges to help keep the lake clean and teach others about the importance of clean water.

At Eisenhower Park Lake, Lyons Elementary students and their parents got a first-hand lesson on an aquatic food chain as two alligators spent the day feasting on the channel catfish that were stocked by Inland Fisheries for the event. More about the "Take Me Fishing Houston!" project will appear in the next issue of Reel Lines.

CENTRAL TEXAS – reported by Karen Marks

On a chilly, drizzly Saturday morning, my husband and I, and a co-worker drove through a thick fog to LBJ State Park for a beginning fly fishing class sponsored by the Fredericksburg Flyfishers. The class consisted of 20 individuals of all ages, including women, men and families with teenagers.

After a brief introduction, the class split into groups of four to five and rotated through aquatic ecology, knot-tying, basic fly fishing gear and safety items, fly tying and fly casting stations.

"I thought the stations were very user-friendly," my husband, Chris, said, "and all of the instructors were very knowledgeable." "The club members eagerly shared helpful tips during the fly casting activity," Lacey Estus said, "and the skills and hands-on activities were fun and gave me the confidence to go out fly fishing on my own."

In fact, since the class, my co-worker and I have gone out on separate occasions to fly fish, eventually catching fish (although we won't go into size detail). My co-worker is so jazzed about fly fishing that she is initiating a Thursday afternoon outing to the fishing hole behind the office.

As evident through the class reports we are receiving, fly fishing is becoming quite popular in Central Texas as clubs in San Marcos, Fredericksburg and Kerrville offer beginning flyfishing classes for the general public. Classes are publicized by e-mail, flyers and through the TPWD calendar on the Web site.

Alligators helped themselves to the channel catfish stocked in Eisenhower Park Lake.



Golden Alga Kills Fish

LIZ SINGHURST – TPWD Biologist

Imagine heading out to your favorite lake with a group of excited kids and their rods, reels and cameras ready for a fantastic afternoon fishing ... only to find dead fish of all shapes and sizes littering the shoreline.



Unfortunately, some in Texas do not have to imagine this dreadful scene; they have first-hand experience.

Golden alga (*Prymnesium parvum*) is an inland harmful alga that continues to cause problems in Texas. It is a small (8-11 mm, where 1 mm = 1/1,000,000 of a meter), naturally-occurring, single-celled plant found in brackish waters.

Under some conditions, it will “bloom” – dramatically increase in numbers – and produce toxins that are harmful to fish and bivalves. Gilled amphibians and crayfish may also be affected, but golden alga has no apparent lethal effect on other organisms, including birds and mammals. **The Texas Department of State Health Services has stated that there are no human health problems known from golden alga; however, keep in mind that eating sick or already dead fish is not a good idea.**

Golden alga blooms may be visible as discolored patches of water, often with foaming at the edges. First confirmed in Texas in the

1980s, toxic golden alga has since killed fish in five major river systems, primarily west of Interstate 35. Freshwater environments that have experienced fish kills due to golden alga can and have recovered. Even during a fish kill, much of the lake or water body may be unaffected. Most fish kills due to golden alga occur between October and April.

Although we cannot predict when, where or how long a toxic bloom will occur, scientists are studying this organism and how to lessen its impacts. More information, including reports of where fish kills are occurring, can be found on TPWD’s Web site at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/water/environconcerns/hab/ga/ (or search for “golden alga” from the home page) or from TPWD’s toll-free number: (800) 792-1112.

You may want to contact someone near your destination before leaving, and if you see a fish kill, please report it to the TPWD Kills and Spills Team at (512) 912-7055, your local game warden or the TPWD dispatch at (512) 389-4848.



The Great Outdoors

CINDI COLLINS – Fort Worth Zoo

As a 2005 grant recipient of the Community Outdoor Outreach Program, the Fort Worth Zoo Education Department was able to provide introductory outdoor experiences through their new Outdoor Explorers Overnight. The purpose of the overnight was to focus on ways to be good stewards of the outdoors and wildlife. Over 220 elementary school students, first through fifth grade, and 216 parents and teachers participated in the overnight and were from Alice Carlson Applied Learning Center, the zoo's adopted school.

To prepare for the Overnight activities, Steve Campbell, Aquatic Education Specialist with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, trained our zoo's full-time and part-time education department staff in catch and release fishing techniques. Next, full-time zoo education staff visited the school's physical education classes, where students practiced casting. Part-time zoo staff helped students with the other components of the Overnight curriculum.

The Overnight provided the opportunity to become aware of outdoor activities that the participants can do at home, school and/or in city and state parks. Scheduled on five weekend nights in September, each grade level came on a different night.

The students and their parents and teachers participated in a variety of outdoor activities. An evening of fun included eating pizza in the Texas

Wild! cafe, and utilizing other areas of the exhibit to help participants identify native North Texas plants and water sources. Once every leaf and body of water was named, they divided into small groups to become orienteers.

Overnighters returned to the education center to decorate their own small plant pots and planted native North Texas wildflower seeds to be transplanted to their school's Outdoor Learning Environment.



The next morning students were transformed into Junior Anglers as they became fisher-people and practiced their angling skills in the zoo's creek. For the fish and other objects that found their way onto a hook, students learned about the concept of catch and release.

The Overnight ended with the challenge of reaching the top of the zoo's climbing wall. Within a mere 16 hours, participants became botanists, orienteers, anglers and climbers in addition to becoming stewards of our environment.

If You are Going for Records ...

TPWD's Angler Recognition Program

1. Have an Angler Recognition Awards Application and know the current records for different fish species for the water body and for the type of tackle you are using. You can access this on our Web site at:
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/fish/programs/fishrecords
or call Joedy Gray at (512) 389-8037.
2. Make sure you have a camera and tape measure if you are planning to submit a Catch and Release record. The camera should be able to take good enough photos so that our staff can identify your fish, read the measurements on your tape and verify potential Catch and Release length records.
3. Know where you can access the nearest certified scales before you go, such as grocery stores, oxygen cylinder stores, post offices, feed stores and Inland Fisheries management offices.
4. Make sure you have a witness for weight measurements and live release verification.



Alissa Lewis is still breaking records. Check out all of Alissa's records on the Web site.

Topwater Fly Fishing for Bass

KEN BOHANNON – Area Chief, Bonham

Bass are a fascinating fly rod game fish. Even though fly rodding is one of the oldest and most productive methods of fishing, it was just a few years ago that it leaped ahead of bait casting and spinning in sophistication and popularity. The heavy club-like rods, old soggy enamel fly lines and sparrow sized bass bugs have been replaced by light power graphite fly rods, new tapered fly lines and variety of bass bugs hand-tied by commercial fly tiers and specialists. Collectively, they have taken out much of the hard work when fly fishing for bass.

On the surface, if you pardon the pun, top water fly-rodding for large-mouth bass seems simple. Just throw out a popper, let it sit until the ripples die down, give it a twitch and wait for the bass to explode from the murky depths. In reality, it seldom works that way, especially when the bass aren't exactly eager to climb into your boat or slide out of the shallows and onto the bank. Some special tactics and techniques are necessary when top water bass fishing with the fly rod.

Tackle to Use:

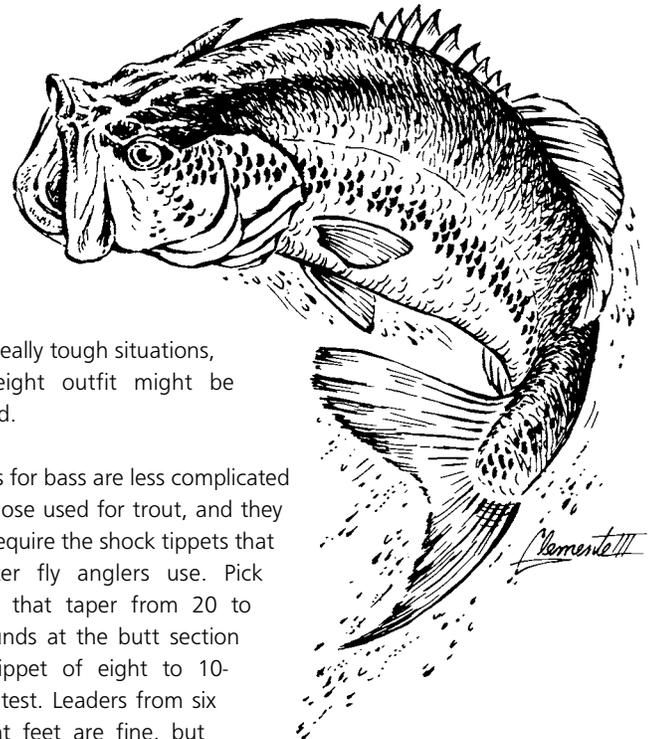
Proper tackle for topwater bass is the first step in taking any fish with a fly rod and making the most of your time on the water. A bugging rod is similar to what you would use for other largemouth bass fishing, although a slightly longer rod may make for an easier pick-up of cup-faced popping bugs. A slightly stouter rod will provide the punch needed to cast large resistant bugs and for "horsing" fish out of the weeds. When buying a new bass bugging rod you should consider a 9 to 9 1/2 foot graphite rod. Select a weight-forward, floating fly line matched to the rod. Most bass anglers prefer 6- through 8-weight rods,

but in really tough situations, a 9-weight outfit might be required.

Leaders for bass are less complicated than those used for trout, and they don't require the shock tippets that saltwater fly anglers use. Pick leaders that taper from 20 to 30 pounds at the butt section to a tippet of eight to 10-pound test. Leaders from six to eight feet are fine, but often the shorter stouter length is best since it will tend to turn over the big bugs easier and give you a straighter, more precise cast. Use 10-pound tippet material for weedy, snaggy situations and a six-pound test for open, clear water fishing.

You can use a variety of popping bugs and flies. Topwater bugs come in a variety of styles and colors ranging from the typical popper to the bullet-faced sliders to several styles of hair-bodied bugs. Any fly should include a variety of both popping bugs and slider styles, in the basic colors in black, white, yellow and perhaps frog patterns. All should include a healthy percentage of weedless styles, using wire weed guards or the several types of mono weed guards available.

For the complete article which discusses where, when and how to fish, see: www.fishnetdailynews.com



Fredericksburg Fly Fishers Third Annual Oktoberfisch Fly Fishing Festival

October 20-22, 2006

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or call Gene Smith at (830) 997-8881

Fishing in the Desert Southwest

TONI VAN DE PUTTE – Area Chief, El Paso

“Out in the West Texas town of El Paso” we fell in love with helping kids fish. On March 25, the Ascarate Fishing Club joined with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to introduce children to the lifelong sport of fishing. With the help of the El Paso Fire Department and TPWD’s San Angelo Inland Fisheries staff, we transformed the El Paso Convention Center into a fishing pond for two days.

Friday morning, members of the fishing club and TPWD staff put together the three-foot by 30-foot water tank and the fire department began filling the tank. (If we had used the water hose we would still be there.) Once the water was monitored and temperature was optimal, 400 pounds of catfish were added to the tank.

Saturday morning arrived with 12 members of the fishing club preparing poles with four feet of fishing line and a barbless hook. The members of the Ascarate Fishing Club are individuals with passions for fishing and a desire to share their wealth of knowledge with young people. The club’s members total 35 guys and one woman, that for the most part are mature, life-experienced individuals!

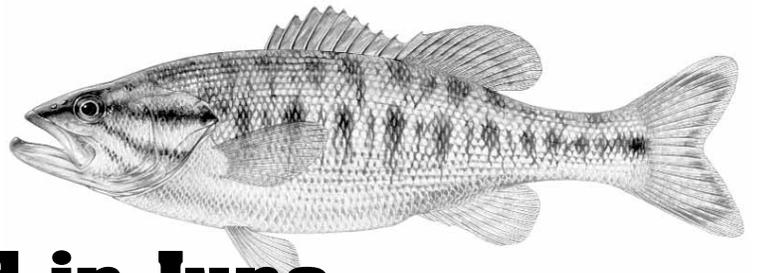
The guys from San Angelo had the kids come in at one area and then take a place between members of the club who helped them properly release the cats back into the pond. Once one of our members took out

the El Paso secret weapon for catching cats, the fish were jumping on the line. What was this secret weapon? Hot Dogs! That high-dollar power bait was back in the box.

The doors opened at 10 a.m. and we fished for eight hours straight! Every 10 minutes 17 different children entered the pond area. I don’t believe I’ll ever get tired of watching youngsters catching their first fish. The sparkle in their eyes and the squeal as they realize they have a fish on the line is priceless.

It was fun watching the crowd, too. There were times when parents would be holding the little children, too small to see over the tank edge. We had children of all colors, all shapes, all sizes and abilities. One thing made them all the same; they were fishing people. Sometimes club members would get a fish on the line and when the little fishing person walked up, hand them the rod and watch the thrill begin.

Some 2,000 kids fished with us that weekend! I don’t believe I ever caught and released as many fish as I did then. Upon the conclusion of the event the Fishing club loaded up the 400 catfish and released them in our local lake. What we took away from the event was much more than just volunteering. It was the satisfaction that we get when we tell our friends and families about this wonderful experience.



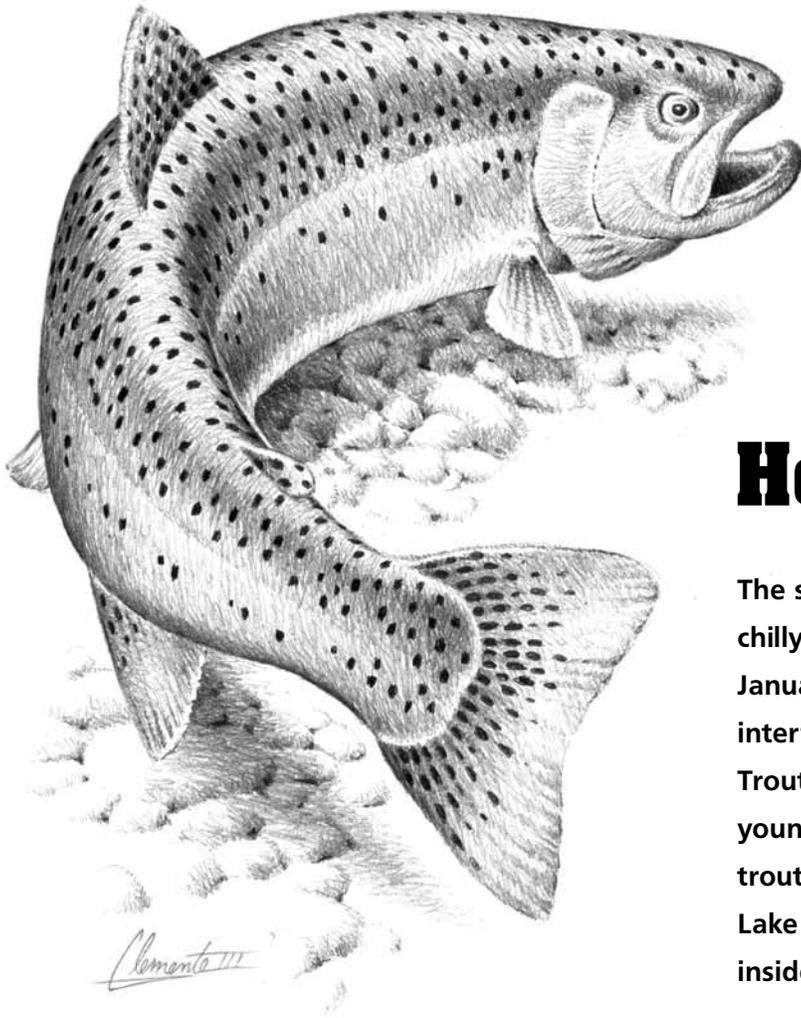
Guadalupe Bass to be Reintroduced in June

GUY “DOC” HARRISON – Area Chief, Kerrville

The planned five-year program to restore Guadalupe bass, the state fish of Texas, to a viable and healthy population in the Guadalupe River, is now in progress. A pure strain of Guadalupe bass is being raised at the TPWD Heart of the Hills Fisheries Science Center in Mountain Home near Kerrville. In mid-February, all Guadalupe bass were moved from the outdoor ponds to holding tanks indoors. This insured the fish protection from predators and supplied ample forage fish (good nutrition) for them. Under this cover, females could maximize egg production and paring off between males and females could begin. In early March all males were returned to outdoor ponds so they could start defining their pre-mating territories. In late March all females were returned to their respective outdoor ponds.

As of this writing, Dr. Gary Garrett of the Heart of the Hills Fisheries Science Center reports the females are on the nest, eggs are being laid and a few hatched fingerlings are present. We anticipate that about 50,000 fingerlings will be ready for stocking in the upper reaches of the Guadalupe River around mid-June. By next year we hope to expand the program to provide 225,000 each year. TPWD staff will be informed prior to this date so those wishing to attend this seminal event may do so.

As we reported in the last issue of Reel Lines, Guy Harrison, along with his Hill Country Flyfishers club, is still seeking donations to support this five-year effort to reestablish Guadalupe bass. If you would like more information about this important conservation project, please contact Guy at: gunyon003@aol.com



Hot to Trout

The sky was filled with low, gray clouds and a chilly rain fell upon Fort Parker State Park on January 28. The near hostile conditions didn't interfere with the 12th Annual Fort Parker Trout Clinic, nor did it dampen the spirits of young faces eager to match wits with rainbow trout. Over 1,000 trout had been stocked in Lake Springfield, a small spring fed pond inside the park earlier that week.

This event was, as in years past, sponsored by the Mexia Bass Club to assist the young anglers and tell a few fish stories to pass the time. If an army marches on its stomach, so do voluntary organizations. TPWD staff and volunteers were treated to delicious, steaming bowls rice and gumbo as well as chili.

As the youngsters arrived, they were registered by volunteers and given a welcome and orientation presentation. Unknown to many Texans, the present day site of Fort Parker State Park occupies the original county seat of Limestone

County. The audience learned that the source of Springfield Lake is a large aquifer that also provides drinking water for the surrounding communities. Protecting that resource is vitally important to humans as well as wildlife.

Those that lacked experience at casting rod and reels spent a little time getting to know how to use the tackle. Bolstered with their newfound skill, the little anglers headed to Springfield Lake.

Not only were these young anglers allowed to keep their catch, Dale MacDaniel, Angler Education Instructor, and

his daughter Sarah cleaned and dressed the trout. Each child was provided with a spincasting rod and reel combination, courtesy of the Mexia Bass Club.

"The Mexia Bass Club provides the support for this event. Without their help we just wouldn't be able to hold this event at all," said Tom Fisher, Fort Parker State Park manager.

Tom said that in the past, on pretty days, Fort Parker has seen as many as 400 participants. "The ironic thing is, the fishing is better when the weather is not so nice," he said.

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.

KRIS CARTRITE	AMARILLO	RICARDO DOMINGUEZ	EL PASO	BRENDA SHAVER	KATY
JASON HENEGAR	AMARILLO	JESUS FRANCO JR	EL PASO	SHANNON STOUT	KATY
BURTON REED	AMARILLO	SHAWN HILL	EL PASO	BRIAN THUESEN	KATY
KERRY ERWIN JR	ANGLETON	KIRK JACKSON	EL PASO	GLENDA WILLIAMS	KATY
LISA MALE	ARLINGTON	VICTOR LUEVANO	EL PASO	SHARREE ARMSTRONG	LIMESTONE
WILLIAM (WILLIE) GARZA	AUSTIN	DEANNA MARTINEZ	EL PASO	LESLIE BULLES	LIVINGSTON
MICHAEL HOWE	AUSTIN	ERICK NEVAREZ	EL PASO	BILL JACOBS	LIVINGSTON
ROZENA MCCABE	AUSTIN	LUIS RIOS	EL PASO	SHELDON KAVITZSCH	LIVINGSTON
PIERRE SHARBONEAU	AUSTIN	HAROLD STEARNS	EL PASO	CLINT LAWRENCE	LIVINGSTON
COLTON TURNQUIST	AUSTIN	ANTHONY BROWN	FORT WORTH	FRANK ROBINSON	LOCKHART
CHARLES TYBUR	AUSTIN	CARL CROPP	FORT WORTH	JOHN MOORE	LONGVIEW
YVONNE HINES	BOERNE	WHITNEY ELLIS	FORT WORTH	ELMA CAVAZOS	MCALLEN
LEE ELLIS	BONHAM	FELICIA JOHNSON	FORT WORTH	HOMER GARZA	MCALLEN
DON MCCOMMAS	BONHAM	TAMARA KELLEY	FORT WORTH	JANIS LENTZ	MERCEDES
ORALIA AVELAR	BROWNSVILLE	SANDRA MEDINA	FORT WORTH	RICHARD STATSER	MESQUITE
MIRNA BLANCO	BROWNSVILLE	SHANE MIZE	FORT WORTH	THOMAS FISHER	MEXIA
MARIA GAMEZ	BROWNSVILLE	JOHNNY PHILLIPS	FORT WORTH	LAMENDY DAVIS	MINERAL WELLS
LOURDES HERNANDEZ	BROWNSVILLE	LIONEL REED	FORT WORTH	YOLANDA SHAW-HARGROVE	MISSOURI CITY
J.R. (AMBROSIO)		JEROME WOOLEN	FORT WORTH	SHAWN FRIDDELL	PEARLAND
HERNANDEZ, JR	BROWNSVILLE	MARK SCHUBERT	GALLATIN	MICHAEL DEWITT	PLANO
GRACIELA RODRIGUEZ	BROWNSVILLE	COLIN CAMPBELL	GALVESTON	DANNY WISE-HERRING	PORT ISABEL
MONICA SIMPSON	BROWNSVILLE	SARA WATERS	GLEN ROSE	ELIZABETH DEATON	RANCHO VIEJO
ALLEN WOOD	BRYAN	DEREK DEBUSH	GRANBURY	MATTHEW BRAY	ROUND ROCK
MICHAEL HUNTER	BURLESON	CYNTHIA WYCHE	HARLINGEN	DAVID BAMBERGER	SAN ANTONIO
JOSHUA WELLS	BURLESON	SESSIA WYCHE, IV	HARLINGEN	RICHARD DEAN	SAN ANTONIO
RODGER WOODS	BURNET	MICHELLE HABY-SIFUENTES	HELOTES	KAREN DUPREE	SAN ANTONIO
MICHAEL MITCHELL	CAMERON	WILLIAM HEUGEL	HEMPHILL	PAUL FUGETT	SAN ANTONIO
LOIS HILL	CANYON	RUTH TURNER	HOCKLEY	LAURIE REAGAN	SAN ANTONIO
DAVID MOHR	CARMINE	THOMAS DANNER	HOUSTON	ROBERT VELA	SAN ANTONIO
AARON REED	CEDAR CREEK	WANDA EDWARDS	HOUSTON	RALPH HAUSMAN	SAN BENITO
TERRENCE (TSE-YANG)		SARAH GARCIA	HOUSTON	REYNALDO RAMIREZ	SAN BENITO
HUANG	COLLEGE STATION	EDGAR GERHARDT	HOUSTON	ARTHUR MANCINAS	SCHERTZ
DORIS REEH	COMFORT	ZACHARY HALL	HOUSTON	MICHELLE ZACHER	SOUTH PADRE ISL.
JENNY FASZHZOLZ	CORINTH	STEPHEN MACLAUCLAN	HOUSTON	CARMINE MEDIATE	SOUTHLAKE
JAMES DAVIS	CORPUS CHRISTI	CYNTHIA PETROWSKI	HOUSTON	KENNETH BACON	SPRING
LAURA HEIL	CORPUS CHRISTI	ROMERICO ROMERO	HOUSTON	LINDA HOFFMAN	SPRING
ROBERT CAPPALLO SR	CORSICANA	MARLENE WIMPENNY	HOUSTON	KELLY SALDIVAR	SPRING
JERRY LERMAN	CYPRESS	GARY ZOCH	HOUSTON	JERRY BECKWORTH	TATUM
TRAVIS HORN	DALHART	RAY (WAI) CHOI	IRVING	ANTHONY CASANOVA	TATUM
TOM JESSOP	DALHART	TIFFANY (TAE) KIM	IRVING	STEVE HOLLENSED	TOM BEAN
WALTER (GENE) LOWREY III	DALHART	KATHRYNE CAPSHAW	KATY	JEREMY ALCORN	WACO
COREY DENNIS	DALLAS	REBECCA CHRISTIAN	KATY	JENCY ALLISON	WACO
RICHARD KELLOGG	DENISON	TERRY CONRAD	KATY	RYAN BACA	WACO
KEN BOHANNON	DODD CITY	ANJANETTE FOWLER	KATY	ANGELA BROADDUS	WACO
ROSE KADER	DODGE	ERIN GALLAGHER	KATY	JEREMY FRYE	WACO
SAM HARRISON	DOUBLE OAK	BARBARA GALPIN	KATY	GREGORY HAWTHORNE	WACO
KENNETH HOLMES	DRIPPING SPRINGS	AMY GONZALEZ	KATY	BERNICE MOSBY	WACO
ROBERT ANCHONDO	EL PASO	BETHANY LOPEZ	KATY	BRANDON RUSSELL	WACO
MARIA ARMENDARIZ	EL PASO	LYNNE MCDONALD	KATY	JAMES WILLIAMS	WACO
LIANA ARMIJO	EL PASO	ROBERT MCDONALD	KATY	KRYSTAL ARCHER	WEST
KIRK COOPER	EL PASO	LINDA MOHON	KATY	BARBARA PARMLEY	WHITEHOUSE
LINDA CROOKS	EL PASO	MARK REIDER	KATY	RACHEL FARRIS	WOODWAY
ARTURO DOMINGUEZ	EL PASO	PENNY ROSAS	KATY	DANIEL PIRES, SR	WORTHAM