

TEXAS ANGLER
EDUCATION PROGRAM**Reel Lines**

Issue Number 18

4200 Smith School Road • Austin, Texas 78744

July 2005

New & NoteworthyANN MILLER – EDITOR
TPWD Aquatic Education Coordinator**New Teaching Tools****FISH FLASH CARDS**

We have added nine laminated (11"x17") flashcards of common freshwater and saltwater fish to our Angler Instructor Kits. An additional flashcard depicts an aquatic food chain to help when teaching about fish habitat. If your Angler Ed Kit doesn't have a set of these flash cards, please contact Ann Miller or Karen Marks (see contact information on page 15).

ANGLER EDUCATION POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

This presentation is available on our Web site at: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/educated/instruct/. Remember to use the name: instructor and password: gofish. This gives you an overview of the program that might be used for recruiting other instructors or for describing the program to an adult audience when seeking community partners.

FISHING IN TEXAS: IMPACTS AND TRENDS POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

This Powerpoint can be used to provide information to adult audiences about the status, impact and trends of fishing in Texas. Author: Dr. Larry McKinney. Use same Web address as above.

*continued on the next page***Hooked on Learning**

LYDIA SALDAÑA – Director, Communications Division

On a beautiful May morning at a private ranch in Katy, Texas, 120 kids are finding out how much fun it is to fish ... and to learn. The field trip is an end-of-the-school-year treat for the fourth grade students at Golbow Elementary and the children and teachers involved got to wet a line, catch some fish and take in a few life lessons at the same time.

The event's organizer is Golbow coach and teacher Mark Fobian, who has inspired his students with his love of fishing. Fobian is a dedicated angler education instructor for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and has forged a unique partnership that is benefiting the entire student body.

"Mark is one of our most enthusiastic volunteers," said Brenda Justice, Angler Education, Houston. "He started a fishing club even before he became an instructor. But once he got connected to TPWD things really began to snowball."

continued on page 3

New & Noteworthy

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE



Jim Galpin looks on as Toni Van De Putte and Barbara Galpin enjoy a giggle while tying flies.

New Area Chiefs

We had a wonderful Area Chief meeting at Parrie Haynes Youth Ranch this year, with 24 special volunteers sharing ideas, learning how to help us train others to be Angler Education Instructors and spending some quality time kayaking on the Lampasas River or fishing at the Bass Pond. On page 12 is a list of our Active Area Chiefs and where they live. They are ready to help you teach either Junior/Master Angler classes or Basic/Intermediate Fly Fishing classes or train other adults in your community to be instructors. We hope you will call on them to strengthen your Angler Education program.

New Tackle Loaner Sites

See page 5 for more information about several state parks that are going to provide Tackle Loaner equipment. We hope having this equipment available to visitors (and to Angler Ed instructors) will enhance the Family Fishing Celebration activities going on at those parks and bring Tackle Loaner equipment to areas previously not being served. Check TPWD's Web site for more state park Family Fishing Celebration events.



Katy Hammon and Marcus Arrisola check out some interesting critters.

New Staff

In January, Karen Marks joined the Outdoor Learning Program staff as an Administrative Assistant. Karen is highly qualified, with a degree in Aquatic Biology from Texas State University. Karen's strong commitment to conservation and environmental education is evidenced by her previous employment at Bat Conservation International and by her 13-year tenure as a Girl Scout leader (great experience with volunteer organizations)! During her studies at Texas State, Karen especially enjoyed classes that took her into the outdoors: birdwatching and collecting aquatic macroinvertebrates. She's an old hand at our "Bug Picking" activity.

Along with her family, Karen likes to camp, fish, canoe and kayak and took her first flyfishing class at a Becoming an Outdoors Woman workshop in May. Already, Karen has made big points with all of our staff by setting up our new Angler Education database! What a job! You can welcome Karen via e-mail at: karen.marks@tpwd.state.tx.us or phone at (512) 389-8183. Karen and I work closely together so if I am out of the office, please feel free to contact Karen.

I hope this summer gives you time for some great fishing and sharing the outdoors with family and friends. Stay safe!

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

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Hooked on Learning, continued

After becoming a volunteer Fobian successfully applied for a grant from the Future Fisherman Foundation to fund fishing gear and other supplies and got permission to teach angler education courses at school. He also partnered with local landowner Herman Meyer, who invited the school kids to visit his ranch for special fishing trips.

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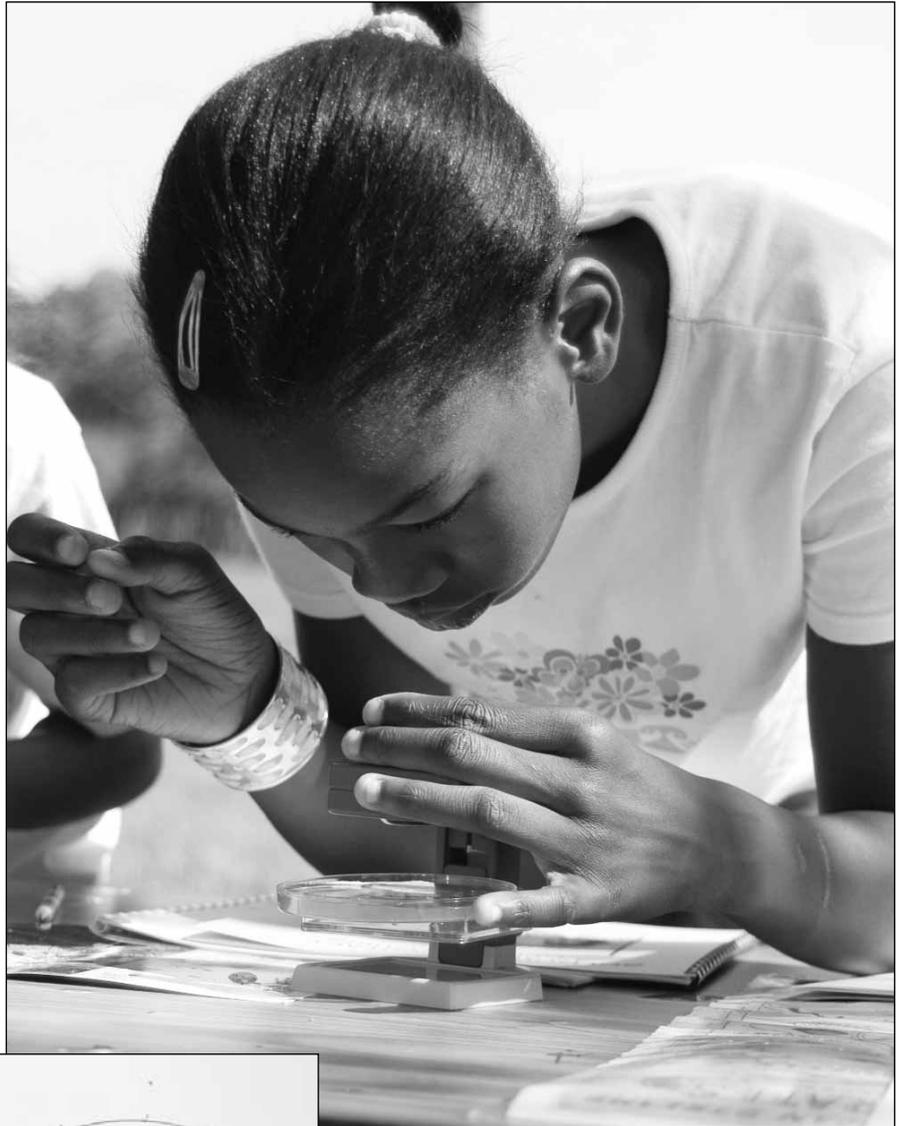
The things the kids are learning today are memories, not just facts.

”

“This is a great opportunity for these kids, one they might not otherwise have,” said Golbow Principal Terry Majors. “Most of them have always lived in cities and do not have a chance to get outdoors and experience nature.”

All of the fourth graders who attended the end of year field trip have completed the Junior Angler course at school. Their parents can also share the experience; fishing gear is available to check out over the weekends during the school year to interested families.

“This is life-long learning,” said Fobian. “We want these children and their parents to learn to enjoy the outdoors. It gets them outside walking around and exercising, together.”



Young anglers learn about aquatic insects and water quality.



The thrill of the catch! A bent rod tells it all.

Besides the fishing experience, the kids who attended the field trip were also exposed to some other hands-on learning opportunities. They learned about water pollution by studying which bugs can survive in clean and dirty water. At an art station they learned about making fish prints, and in a boater education station they learned why it is important to always wear a life jacket. Volunteers from Bassmasters assisted with the activities and local game wardens spoke to the children during a picnic lunch.

“We want to help kids learn,” said art teacher Shannon Stout as she assisted students making a fish print t-shirt to take home. “The things the kids are learning today are memories, not just facts.”



BRENDA JUSTICE
Aquatic Education –
Houston/Galveston

**A good rule
of thumb
is to
remember
that ethics
are caught,
not taught.**

Passing on a Conservation Ethic

Teaching conservation and environmental ethics in outdoor programs, such as Junior Angler or Basic Fly Fishing, can often be challenging. Can you teach someone how to act in the outdoors? Not really. However, you can make them aware of the consequences of their actions. You can also lead by example and show them what they can do to promote the conservation of our natural places and the creatures that live there. Here are a few tips volunteer instructors may find helpful in passing on key messages of conservation and ethics to young anglers.

You might begin by leading students in a discussion of ethical dilemmas they may face while fishing. Every Angler Education Trunk has a set of ethical dilemma cards that can be used as a springboard for discussion. The cards are labeled **Catch and Release** and **Environmental Responsibility** for Junior and Master Angler. Of course, the same dilemmas can also be used when teaching Basic or Intermediate Fly Fishing. Copies of the cards can be found in the Angler Education Instructor Guide too. The cards present an issue and then give an ethical solution to that issue. Read from the cards a dilemma and have the young anglers discuss with you what they should do.

You are moving and can't take your aquarium with you. It has tropical fish and some snails. You don't want your fish to die, so you...

Give them to a friend or someone who will take care of them. You know not to put them in a nearby creek, river or bayou because they are not native to that water and they could either die or cause damage to the ecosystem.

A good rule of thumb is to remember that ethics are caught, not taught. So set a good example when you take youth fishing. Larry Hysmith, 4-H Sportfish Coordinator and Angler Education Instructor, places a plastic bag in his pocket while at the lake fishing with children. Without saying a word, he begins to walk around and pick up trash.

The children slowly start to copy his actions and eventually start helping him with the clean up. Another thing you can do is practice catch and release if the fish you catch are not legal or if you are not planning on eating them. Explain to your students that wetting their hands when handling fish helps minimize the damage to the fish's protective slime.

When you are teaching, include a conservation message or ethical dilemma in everything you do during the class. For example, when teaching casting, explain how using barbless hooks helps minimize damage to the fish, especially important when the fish will be released. Show examples of trash that you have collected from a beach, lake or river. Ask questions about how the trash could hurt the animals that live there. Use the **Marine Debris Biodegradation Time Line** to illustrate how long trash hangs around in a marine aquatic environment. This poster can be ordered by calling (800) 691-MOTE, Ext. 354 or (941) 388-4441 or writing to Marine Debris Biodegradation Time Line, 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34236.

Passing on good conservation habits and ethics can be challenging. However, the benefits to fish and wildlife are extremely important. Discussing with children the consequences of incorrect actions and how those actions can hurt wildlife is a starting point. Volunteer instructors also have the opportunity, one by one, child by child, to set an example for future generations to follow as they begin to enjoy the outdoors.



More Resources to Teach about and Practice Aquatic Stewardship!

Available in early July – *A Handbook for Stream Enhancement and Stewardship*, prepared by The Izaak Walton League. The handbook has consolidated much otherwise-dispersed information into a clearly written, well organized, easily manageable single volume and is intended to be a basic resource for individuals, groups, or communities wishing to carry out environmentally sound, cost-effective stream corridor assessment, enhancement and stewardship programs. It will be of great value to lay readers who want to acquire a solid grasp of the fundamentals of assessing the physical condition and ecological well-being of streams, of recognizing what might be done to improve the stability and ecological health of stream corridors, and of implementing effective stream enhancement programs in their communities. The book will be valuable to **naturalists, ecologists, environmental consultants, landscape architects, conservationists, educators and others** whose work includes stream management, assessment or enhancement work, **or the mentoring and advising of those who do this work**. This title will list at \$34.95 and is more fully described at www.mwpubco.com/stream.htm.

Available in June – *Let the River Run Silver Again! How One School Helped Return the American Shad to the Potomac River – And How You Too Can Help Protect and Restore Our Living Waters* is an environmental conservation success story – **and a great model for replication elsewhere** – that features the participation of elementary school students in Maryland in the USFWS National Fish Passages Program. Sandy Burk tells how, over a period of nine years, the students raised and released shad, monitored and enhanced their watershed in various ways, helped inform and motivate their community and state government to contribute to the broader needs of responsible watershed management, and in the process themselves became environmentally literate citizens. This inspiring book is written in an energetic style suitable for upper elementary through junior high school levels and their mentors, but it concludes with (a) questions for reflection and (b) recommendations and resources for instituting similar successful programs in other locations. This title lists at \$14.95 and is more fully described at www.mwpubco.com/letriverrunsilver.htm.

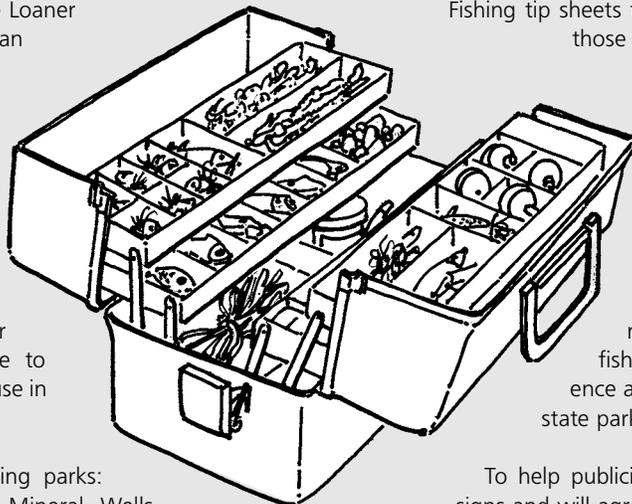
RECENT RELEASES ALREADY IN WIDESPREAD USE AMONG EDUCATORS

Over the past three years, numerous biologists, ecologists and naturalists involved with studying, monitoring, managing, conserving or teaching about freshwater resources have become acquainted with our very popular, accessible, substantive and beautifully illustrated book *A Guide to Common Freshwater Invertebrates of North America*, written by J. Reese Voshell and illustrated by Amy Bartlett Wright. This title was released in 2002 and lists at \$32.95; it may be reviewed at www.mwpubco.com/inverts.htm.

TACKLING A PROBLEM

Perhaps you've heard of the Tackle Loaner Program, fishing equipment that can be checked out by the general public much like one would borrow books from the local library. TPWD has had such a program for several years and this year we are expanding the program to include more state parks. What's in it for our certified instructors you might ask? Certified Angler Education instructors will be able to check out the equipment, too, for use in teaching their classes.

The new sites include the following parks: Fort Boggy, Purtil Creek, Lake Mineral Wells, Bastrop, Inks Lake, McKinney Falls, Nails Creek (a unit of Lake Somerville State Park), Lake Texana, Galveston Island, Goose Island, Sea Rim and Brazos Bend. Each park will receive up to 15 spincasting rod and reel combinations, simple terminal tackle, wall mounted rod holders and a tackle box.



Fishing tip sheets for each park will also be available to those checking out tackle. These sheets will include information about the type of fish that can be caught at the park as well as what size of fish can be legally harvested. The tip sheets will also include any special restrictions. Steve Campbell, Tackle Loaner Coordinator, has his fingers crossed, hoping that park visitors will then move from armchair angling to making fishing a regular part of the family experience and will have another way to enjoy our state parks.

To help publicize the program, each park will post signs and will agree to include information about being a Tackle Loaner Site on their Web page. Of course, the Angler Education Web page will also list the sites to make it easier for our certified Angler Education Instructors. Hopefully, the Tackle Loaner Program will help you tackle one of your biggest problems – access to equipment.

Chicken of the Sea?

CANDY GRAHAM

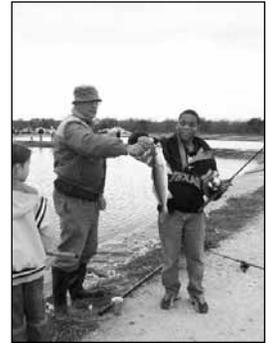
Candy is a counselor at West Columbia Elementary School and has been bringing her students to Sea Center for the past three years.

Each year, the fourth grade C.H.I.C.K.E.N. Club* at West Columbia Elementary School raves about the Angler Education Program at Sea Center. As the students rotate through 10 stations taught by Sea Center volunteers, they learn the basics to become successful anglers.

Because many of my students have never fished before, they need to spend a little time in fish identification, knot tying, fishing safety, regulations and casting. Of course, their day is always made when they practice their newly-acquired skills in the hatchery ponds there at Sea Center. These new anglers catch red drum, black drum and croakers.

Sea Center's enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers assist and supervise the fishing and small group activities, making the experience that much more fun for my students. It is a wonderful opportunity for my students and parent volunteers to learn the life-long sport of fishing. New skills and the self-confidence that brings will help my students deal with those upcoming teenage pressures.

*C.H.I.C.K.E.N. stands for Cool – Honest – Intelligent – Clear headed – Keen – Energetic – Not interested in drugs.
It is an anti-drug program for fourth graders at West Columbia Elementary students.



Experienced Anglers Sought for Coastal Fisheries Bay Team

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is looking for some skilled anglers to help catch spotted sea trout and flounder for its hatchery breeding program. Rough work, but someone's got to do it, and TPWD is dangling some nice bait—one angler at each of four special tournaments coming up on the Texas coast will win a lifetime fishing license.

With the new Coastal Fisheries Bay Team program, TPWD is working with coastal conservation groups to recruit experienced folks who have the skill to handle fish so they arrive alive and well at the hatcheries. "This all ties in to genetic diversity—the more fish we have for hatchery broodstock, the better it will be for the millions of fish we stock in Texas public waters to improve fishing each year," said Robert Adami, TPWD coastal fisheries biologist in Corpus Christi.

"Avoiding inbreeding is an essential component of any hatchery breeding program. You don't want the same fish siblings year after year after year. You want at least 25 percent of your brood stock to be new fish each year, and this program is helping us do that."

Two of the four tournaments will focus on catching spotted seatrout, and the other two will focus on southern flounder for this year. For tournaments focusing on spotted seatrout, only one fish more than 25 inches may be turned in per angler.

Each Coastal Fisheries Bay Team tournament is open to 30 two-person teams, 60 people total, on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration takes place on-site the day of each tournament. There is no entry fee, but all entrants must be 21 years old or older. Participants may turn in three fish per tournament.



At each tournament, anglers who bring in fish will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a lifetime fishing license worth \$600. Participants who do not bring in fish will be entered into a drawing at each tournament for a fishing gear prize package—a Texas Tackle Factory rod and Shimano Curado reel combo, Boga grip and a Garmin GPS unit. Every participant will receive a shirt and cap.

The prizes, equipment and program are made possible through support from Anheuser-Busch, Inc. Since 1991, Anheuser-Busch, in partnership with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, has contributed millions of dollars in funding to support conservation causes and fishing, hunting and outdoor recreation programs in Texas.

Since TPWD began enlisting anglers to help catch fish for hatcheries at special tournaments eight years ago, more than 1,200 people have helped catch more than 1,500 fish.

Two of the tournaments have already taken place, but two are still yet to come.

- Oct. 29 — Sabine Lake, S.A.L.T. Club — Southern Flounder
- Nov. 12 — Texas City, Texas City Dike — Southern Flounder

Anglers interested in becoming a member of the Coastal Fisheries Bay Team can contact Adami at the CCA/CPL Marine Development Center at robert.adami@tpwd.state.tx.us or (361) 939-7784.

PARTNERSHIPS

National PE Grants to Take Students Fishing

Three Texas teachers were awarded up to \$5,000 each in grants this past year to provide their students with a strong foundation in outdoor recreation through a fishing program. These grants were funded in part by the Future Fisherman Foundation and the national PE teachers association. In addition to their training as Texas Angler Education instructors through Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the national grant provided these teachers with a three-day training workshop and access to discounted equipment.

Mark Fobian, one of those teachers (and featured in our cover article) uses fishing as a fun gateway for his students to learn about the environment. Sandra Sanchez, a teacher at MacArthur Elementary in La Porte taught the Junior Angler program at school, then took her fourth and fifth-grade students on a field trip to Sheldon Lake on May 4 and 5. Both teachers use the program because the program's objectives go right along with the standards (as set forth by the Texas Education Agency) for PE and even for science and social studies.

Fobian, whose interest in fishing was instilled at a young age by his father, saw the opportunity in his school two years ago for a fishing club, before the sport was added as part of his classroom curriculum.

"I just noticed here at school there weren't a lot of kids playing sports. I thought it would be something that we could incorporate here at school and get more kids out fishing and spending time with their families," Fobian said. "When I wrote for this fishing grant last year, this was a situation where we had to get it into the classroom."

The \$5,000 grant helped buy rods, reels and tackle, which kids can check out on the weekends for fishing with their families. "I've had two families come up in the last week and check out equipment to take the family fishing," he said.



Teacher Mark Fobian with one of his successful students.



Sandra Sanchez's students at Sheldon Lake.

The Future Fisherman Foundation, in conjunction with partner organizations such as American Sportfishing Association, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation and The American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, provides these grants to schoolteachers nationwide.

To find out more about this grant go to:
www.futurefisherman.org/programs/pegrants.php

Dallas Fly Fishers Conduct Fly Fishing Merit Badge Class

MARK ESKEW



In spite of a very rainy day, several Dallas Fly Fishing (DFF) club members successfully conducted their second annual Fly Fishing Merit Badge class at the University of Texas – Dallas's Scouting University on Saturday, March 26. At the end of a long day, the scouts had received instruction

in safety, fishing regulations, fish identification, knot tying, fly tying, sportsmanship, fishing equipment, entomology and casting. Whew! FYI – the Fly Fishing Merit Badge is one of the toughest badges for a scout to complete.

In addition to the work at the Scouting University to complete the badge (and Basic and Intermediate Flyfishing through TPWD's

program), the scouts continued their learning the next Saturday at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. We fished in a stocked pond, saw an underwater fish feeding demonstration in a large aquarium and Zoe Ann Stinchcomb, Fisheries Education Specialist, helped us collect and identify "bugs" from the stream flowing into the pond.

DFF'ers, who are also certified TPWD instructors, spent lots of time preparing to teach the scouts. Richard Johnson handled safety and regulations, Jere Anderson handled sportsmanship, J.S. Gonzalez taught fish identification and was responsible for the outing, David Isaacs taught knots while Ken Cole showed the scouts how to cast and Jim Crump demonstrated a large array of fishing gear. Chuck Sabolovic and J.S. Gonzalez handled the fly tying activity, and Steve Campbell (Aquatic Education Specialist for our area) handled the entomology section.

It's a nice feeling knowing that you've introduced a young person to our hobby. After all, they're our future.

Don't Flex THOSE Mussels!

MARSHA REIMER



There are over 50 species of freshwater mussels (a.k.a. "clams") living in Texas rivers, streams, lakes and ponds. These creatures serve as a natural clean-up crew, making a living by filtering out organic debris and other chemicals from their watery surroundings, improving water quality for everyone. In enough numbers, they could make a significant contribution to clean water.

However, many native Texas mussel populations are in decline. On their own, they face a number of natural problems (i.e., predation and drought), but mankind continues to add to their burden by polluting water, building dams that impede water flow and encourage accumulation of silt, allowing livestock to overgraze areas (creating muddy runoff), using off-road vehicles in stream beds and over-harvesting. People once harvested certain species of freshwater mussels for their pearls and for their shells to make buttons. Now, the large-shelled mussels are harvested to make small round pellets which are inserted in oysters and serve as the nuclei around which cultured pearls are formed. I'll bet you didn't know that cultured pearls have a core of mussel shell!

In an effort to combat these non-natural disasters, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has enacted some counter-measures that offer freshwater mussels a chance for survival. Portions of several water ways (Sabine, Neches, Concho and Red rivers as well as Pine, Sanders

and Elm creeks) have been set aside as sanctuaries. This summer scientists are looking in the Red River basin for the Ouachita Rock Pocketbook Mussel (*Arkansia wheeleri*) which is protected as an endangered species and has not been seen alive for many years. TPWD has also established harvesting regulations which can be found on page 48 in the 2004-2005 Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual Hunting and Fishing Regulations book.

So consider the trials and tribulations of the freshwater mussel as well as their important role as nature's clean-up crew when you're fishing. Don't silence the clams!

Editor's Note: Texas Mussel Watch is looking for volunteers to help with monitoring Texas populations of these amazing freshwater mussels. For more information please visit our Web site at: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/mussels/ or contact Marsha Reimer at (512) 912-7011, Ext 7062.

Fishing for Scholarships

KAREN MARKS – Outdoor Learning Programs Administrative Assistant

With the onset of summer, parents begin planning for those annual rites of passage including family vacations, summer camps, fishing trips and graduations. Ok, so maybe your child, grandchild or Angler Ed student group isn't quite ready for high school graduation, but it's never too early to establish a college tuition financial plan. Now you may be asking yourself, "What do college tuition and fishing have in common?" Thanks to Chris Lena, Inventory Coordinator for Hunter, Boater and Angler Ed, we learned that the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) hosts an annual fishing tournament and includes college scholarships for the youth division.

The State of Texas Angler's Rodeo (STAR) tournament spans the entire Texas coast, and begins on Saturday of Memorial Day weekend and ends on Labor Day. Membership in the CCA is required to enter the tournament. Youth 17 and under may join CCA for \$10.00 and youth entry for the STAR tournament is FREE. The youth division is split into two age groups: ages 6-10 and 11-17. In the 6-10 age group, three \$50,000 scholarships will be awarded, and in the 11-17 age group, six \$20,000 scholarships will be awarded. Additionally, all registered youth will be automatically entered in a drawing for one \$20,000 scholarship. For more information about CCA, the tournament or to join CCA, visit their Web site at www.ccatexas.org.

Karen has two children, one in college and one in high school, and pursues "the scholarship hunt" in her spare time. She is shown at right helping her seven-year-old niece with her first cast.



Have you Hooked the “Old Fighter?”

JIM PARKER – Area Chief

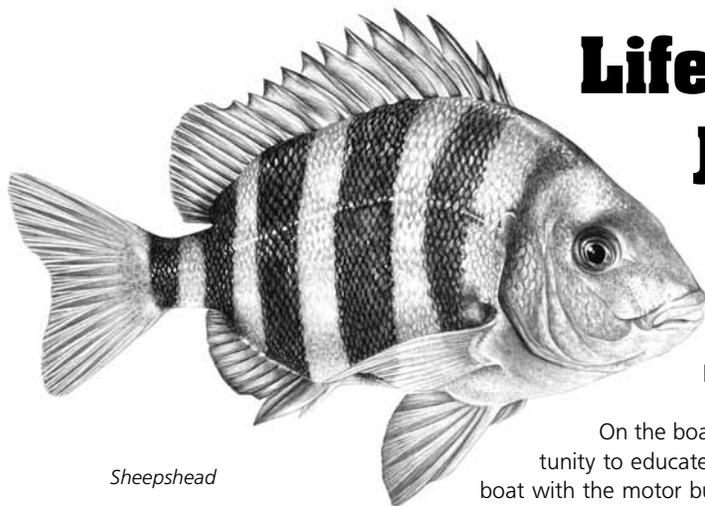
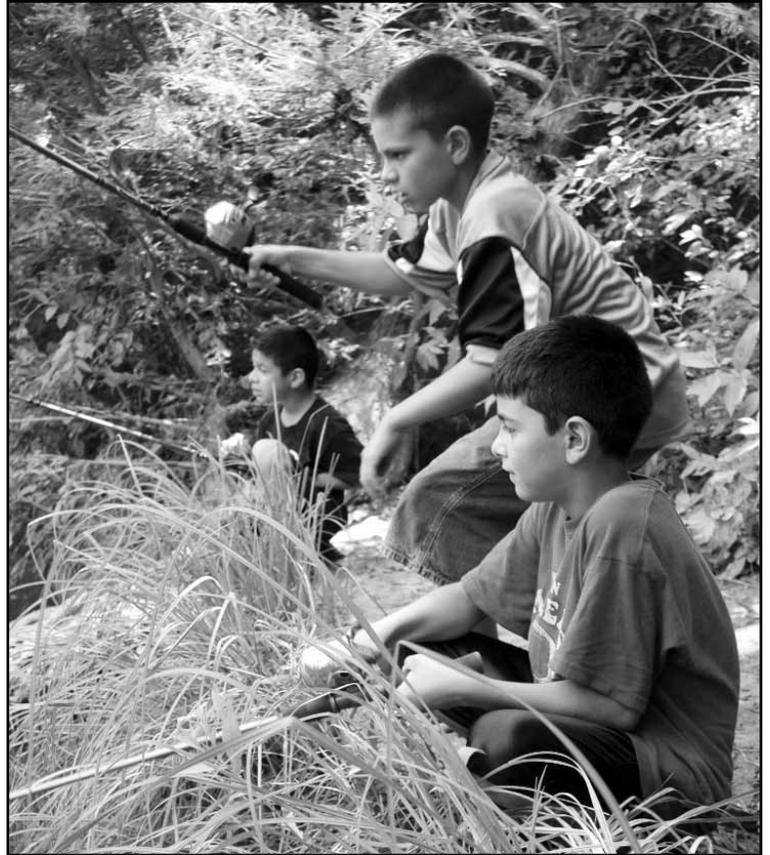
Just say the word “carp” and most Texans think of a fish they would rather not catch. But I try to change that perception each year at Cedar Hill State Park’s annual Carp Fishing event. This year, the event was held on May 14, when a late Friday night and early Saturday morning rain left the ground fairly wet.

Even then, with a 20% chance of thundershowers, 64 brave youngsters showed up to try their hand at catching “old fighter” (alias, carp). And most of them succeeded in finding out what “old fighter” really meant. My prediction was right as I saw the happy faces and total excitement of those youngsters catching carp.

My part as a volunteer at the event consisted of two jobs. My first job was explaining and demonstrating how to clean and pack the carp in an ice chest with crushed ice for the drive home. That makes the fish stay fresher and still easily measured and identified.

My other job was to demonstrate and explain how to clean and prepare carp for cooking. Carp are delicious deep-fried. Two fish in the 9- to 10-pound class were chosen and cooked. Every crumb was eaten. Folks at this event came away with a new appreciation for “old fighter” and I hope to encourage other parks to have a similar event. Carp are often wasted because people just don’t understand how to catch, clean and prepare them.

For more information about cleaning and preparing carp, contact Jim Parker at jpparker@earthlink.net



Sheepshead

Life is More Than Just a Beach

KEEL WHELESS – Helotes 4-H Sportfishing Project Leader

Having recently become certified as an Angler Education Instructor, I decided to combine my training with a beach cleanup and fishing outing we had planned for St. Joseph Island near Port Aransas.

On the boat trip from the mainland to St. Jo, Game Warden Albert Flores took the opportunity to educate the kids about size limits and harvesting regulations. I sat at the end of the boat with the motor but could see the tell tale signs of enthusiasm on my 4-Hers’ faces.

We had been told that fishing would be good early and so we elected to try our hand at fishing first. We hooked into some red and black drum as well as sheepshead. The kids measured their fish and released the undersized fish according to regulations.

My students also got a lesson on endangered species; we released a sea turtle that was snagged by a hook. In addition, we managed to free a stingray that had gotten trapped among the rocks of the jetty.

Eventually, we put away our tackle and began our planned beach clean up, hauling several bags of trash off with us. We had set out a day filled with fun, education, fishing and environmental stewardship and found that we exceeded our goals on many levels.



*With
Baited
Breath*

STEVE CAMPBELL
Aquatic Education –
North Texas/
Panhandle

Becoming an Area Chief (Among the Unfishing)

At a recent social gathering, I happened to mention that I had just attended the Angler Education Area Chief's meeting. I noticed a puzzled expression or two and then realized that they had no idea what I was talking about.

I explained to them that an Area Chief is the highest level of volunteerism one can do for Aquatic Education. I described the vital roll they play in our program – primarily through recruiting and training other instructors. I told them that the Area Chiefs increase the availability of field staff 20 fold.

One of my friends then asked, "How do you become an Area Chief?" Little horns began to sprout from the top of my head.

"Well," I began, "First you have to be bitten by an Area Chief. At that moment all your inhibitions about speaking in public are drawn from you. You are simultaneously injected with a serum that endows you with information about knot tying, casting skills and an urge to share this newly acquired knowledge to the point that you have no time to fish yourself. Three days later you emerge from a stupor and find yourself among the Unfishing."

Seriously ... as you can see from the photos on page 2 and to the right, our Area Chief meeting was great fun and provided new learning and networking opportunities. Next year, we'll have two Area Chief meetings, one at Parrie Haynes Youth Ranch near Killeen and one in the Houston area. Dates are being confirmed and notices about the meetings will be sent out soon. To learn more about what is expected of Area Chiefs, just ask one of our staff.



Walter McLendon teaches flycasting to Ricky Contreras at the Area Chief meeting.

East Texas Angler Ed Instructors Kick off 2005 Season

LYNDA FOLTS – Area Chief

The East Texas Angler Education Team held its 2005 season kick-off event Saturday, Feb. 19 at Lake Tawakoni State Park. Park Manager, Ken "Doc" Watson, his wife Tammy, and Park Host Carolyn Crowder and family, arranged and facilitated the event, which is sponsored by the park annually. The Wills Point Kiwanis Club volunteers grilled a fine lunch for all to enjoy.

Angler Ed Area Chief Lynda Folts and park staff were on hand to assist Ken and Tammy demonstrating casting, fish habitats, fish anatomy, ethics, laws and angler safety. Equipped with all the essentials, our junior anglers enjoyed a great casting exercise using the Backyard Bass to practice.

Once the kids were properly armed with essential skills and a few Kiwanis' hotdogs, we set out for a little old fashioned "Texas fishin" at the Pair O' Trees pond near the park's entrance. Pair O' Trees had been stocked with rainbow trout. We spread out along the bank and a friendly competition began in spite of the chilly, rainy weather. Our young anglers spent a few hours reeling in a rainbow trout, an albino trout, largemouth bass and a few catfish to cap off the day's festivities.

Thanks to our sponsors, Ken and Tammy, we enjoyed a successful day at beautiful Lake Tawakoni. With great teamwork like this, the 2005 season is shaping up to be another outstanding year in East Texas. Thanks to all who participated. See ya at the pond!

FREE FISHING DAY



One of many catfish caught at Carver Lake in Texas City

A first-time caster at McKinney Falls State Park



Fairfield Lake State Park stages a casting contest.



Junior Angler activities at McKinney Falls State Park



Flyfishing Fun on the Llano - Oktoberfisch

Mark your calendars for this year's **Oktoberfisch, Oct. 21-23**. Slated to be even bigger and better than last year, this event, sponsored by the Fredericksburg Flyfishers, offers fun and challenges for both new and experienced fly fishing enthusiasts.

For more information, email oktoberfisch@hotmail.com or call (830) 997-8881.



2005 Angler Education Area Chiefs

MARCUS ARRISOLA	KINGSVILLE	TODD HIERONYMUS	TEXAS CITY
MIKE BAMBELL	AUSTIN	MIKE HOWES	MCKINNEY
DAWN BELLO	HOUSTON	LARRY HYSMITH	COLLEGE STATION
BILL BOST	KILLEEN	LARRY LARSON	AMARILLO
GEORGE BURKHALTER	KINGSVILLE	KEITH MASTERS	FREDERICKSBURG
MARK CARPENTER	DALLAS	WALTER MCLENDON	LUFKIN
DAN CONE	LLANO	MELONIE MILNOR	ROUND ROCK
RICK CONTRERAS	KINGSVILLE	JIM PARKER	MALAKOFF
BILL CRUMRINE	SAN ANTONIO	ROBERT PARKS	HOUSTON
THOMAS DANNER	HOUSTON	MIKE PETRICK	PLANO
GILBERT DURAN	AUSTIN	MARTIN PURSCH	FREDERICKSBURG
BILL ELGIN	KERRVILLE	NOEL RODRIGUEZ	AUSTIN
JOHN FLOYD	FREDERICKSBURG	WALTER SAUNDERS	KERRVILLE
LYNDA FOLTS	MABANK	MERLE SCOTT	ROUND ROCK
TERRY FOLTS	MABANK	TREY SCOTT	ROUND ROCK
BARBARA GALPIN	KATY	MARIA SWEET	MCKINNEY
JAMES GALPIN III	HOUSTON	TONI VAN DE PUTTE	EL PASO
TAD GOSE	WICHITA FALLS	KELLY JO WALDO	LEAGUE CITY
KATY HAMMON	TEAGUE	ROBERT WALL	HOUSTON
DENISE HARMEL-GARZA	COLLEGE STATION	DANIEL WHEAT	KERRVILLE
GUY HARRISON	KERRVILLE	DIANNE WILLIAMS	KERRVILLE
ROY HICKMAN	KERRVILLE	PEGGY YORK	SAN ANTONIO
AL HIERONYMUS	TEXAS CITY		

Area Chiefs at Parrie Haynes Ranch in April



Welcome New Instructors!

Listed are the new instructors. If we have accidentally left someone off, please let us know.
We encourage you to team up to teach. It's fun, easier and a great way to support each other.
Just call the Austin office if you would like to team up with one of these new instructors.

CARDONA, DAVID	ALICE	GEISSEN, ANN	DANBURY	AMAYA, HECTOR	MANVEL
CONTRERAS, RICARDO	ALICE	COX, JEFF	DENTON	GUINN, BOBBY	MCKINNEY
GEORGE, BURKHALTER	ALICE	SMITH, LAKEISHA	DENTON	FLORES, JAIME	MISSION
EOVALDI, JAMES	ALVIN	SMITH, HEATHER	DETROIT	FOSTER, SHALONDA	MISSOURI CITY
PRITCHETT, RICHARD	ALVIN	MCCOMBS, RYAN	EULESS	ROBB, TRINITY	NAZARETH
SMITH, GARY	ALVIN	MCHENRY, JENNIFER	EULESS	KILLIAN, JENNIFER	NEEDVILLE
PAGE, DAHLIA	ARLINGTON	RHODES, JUSTIN	EUSTACE	ERICKSON, BETH	NEW BRAUNFELS
WHITE, MICHAEL	ARLINGTON	LANGSTON, SARAH	FORT WORTH	ERICKSON, JON JEFFREY	NEW BRAUNFELS
WOLVERTON, STEVEN	ATHENS	VICK, BETHANY	FORT WORTH	LAVIN, ANDREAS	NEW BRAUNFELS
COOK, ALISHA	ATHENS	BAUMANN, LOUIS	GALVESTON	STEWART, JOHN	NEW BRAUNFELS
LABELLE, EDMOND	AUSTIN	ROBERTS, GARY	GALVESTON	IBARRA, ELIZABETH	ODEM
REINEKE, LAUREN	AUSTIN	RODRIGUEZ, JOHNNY	GALVESTON	MASON-LEISTER, ANDREW	ODEM
WILLIAMS, TAMESA	AUSTIN	HAGLUND, HANS	GALVESTON	BROOKS, BILL	PAIGE
WOLSEY, JUSTIN	AUSTIN	PEPPER, COOKIE	GALVESTON	ESTOLL, GENE	QUITMAN
HARROD, ANDREW	AUSTIN	POLLOCK, KATHERINE	GALVESTON	MALLON, PAUL	ROUND ROCK
HEADLEY, J. CRAIG	AUSTIN	LATCHAW, ROBERT	GARLAND	URIAS, JAVIER	ROUND ROCK
HERSHBERGER, DAIL	AUSTIN	MARQUEZ, JR, GUADALUPE	GEORGETOWN	COOK, TERIANN	SACHSE
KILARSKI, SHARA	AUSTIN	BALLARD, AMY	GRAND PRAIRIE	BALES, DANIEL	SAN ANGELO
LOOMIS, MINA	AUSTIN	HARTON, EDWARD	GRANITE SHOALS	PATTON, BOBBIE	SAN ANGELO
MCCOLGAN, MARK	AUSTIN	MILLER, CHARLES	HEARNE	DAY, JR, LARRY	SAN ANGELO
SMITH, VICTORIA	AUSTIN	ABDULLAH, FARD	HITCHCOCK	GUFFEY, WILLIAM	SAN ANGELO
SWEET, THERON	AUSTIN	CRNIC, CAROLYN	HOUSTON	TORREZ, ALFRED	SAN ANGELO
FEHRENBACH, IDA	AUSTIN	LEBLANC, DESHA	HOUSTON	BROOKS, ELIZABETH	SAN ANGELO
LEE, JANICE	AUSTIN	RICHARDSON, ERIN	HOUSTON	ROSS-MCNEIL, GAILYN	SAN ANGELO
EAKER, RYAN	AUSTIN	ROBERTSON, CYNTHIA	HOUSTON	MOYER, WILLIAM	SAN ANGELO
DURAN, GILBERT	AUSTIN	YANEZ, DAVID	HOUSTON	JENNINGS, LISA	SAN ANGELO
WILLIS SR, EDWARD	BASTROP	HATCHET, SHELINA	HOUSTON	JENNINGS, BOYD	SAN ANGELO
HENDERSON, JAMES	BELTON	MITCHELL, MARVIS	HOUSTON	WILSON, WILLIAM	SAN ANGELO
TABOR, KRISTIN	BELTON	NIEMANN, EMILY	HOUSTON	SOLIS, ISRAEL	SAN ANTONIO
BOHAHAN, JANET	BERTRAM	DENKHAUS, ROBERT	HUDSON OAKS	MARROQUIN JR, MARC	SAN MARCOS
RADTKE, LEIGHTON	BOERNE	JOHNSON, SHAVONNE	HUMBLE	KELLEY, KRISTINA	SMITHVILLE
NUTT, JOY	BRENHAM	HILL, SAM	IRVING	WILSON, JOHN	SPRING
CAVITT, WALTON	BRYAN	BOST, WILLIAM	KILLEEN	CALVERT, JAMES	SUGAR LAND
JACKSON, JERRY	BRYAN	ARRISOLA, MARCUS	KINGSVILLE	DORNON, KAYLA	TEMPLE
LUND, JOHN	BRYAN	DELA CRUZ, ELIGIO	KINGSVILLE	EVERETT, MARY	TEMPLE
SKINNER, BRENT	BRYAN	SERRANO, MARIO	KINGSVILLE	HENDERSON, PEANUT	TEMPLE
TURNHAM, NICK	BRYAN	HULIKUNTE, KARTHIK	KINGSVILLE	HONEYCUTT, TREY	TEMPLE
SALAZAR, JONATHAN	CANUTILLO	LOPEZ, JEFF	KINGSVILLE	ALFRED, BETTY	TEXAS CITY
BULLARD, DANA	CANYON	TUTTLE, NICHOLAS	KINGSVILLE	JONES, FLORENCE	TEXAS CITY
BULLARD, RANDALL	CANYON	KIMLING, JAN	LA MARQUE	JONES JR, SAMSON	TEXAS CITY
BRUNSON, MICHAEL	COLLEGE STATION	EPPNER, JERRY	LAKE JACKSON	ROUSE, JEFF	TYLER
EWELL, KRISTAL	COLLEGE STATION	GORE, JAMES	LAKE JACKSON	JOHNSON, CRYSTAL	TYLER
RATHEAL, COURTNEY	COLLEGE STATION	MORGAN, ROY	LAKE JACKSON	BUNGE, JEREMY	WACO
SEBESTA, STEPHEN	COLLEGE STATION	LESTER, ROBERT	LANCASTER	WALLACE, JACK	WACO
VENABLE, JOHN	COLLEGE STATION	COGLIANESE, WILLIAM	LEAGUE CITY	WATKINS, CHRIS	WACO
WILLIAMSON, CHRISTOPHER	COLLEGE STATION	CAMP, ROBERT	LEANDER	MCDONALD IV, WILLIAM	WACO
HARRIS, JOHN	COLLEGE STATION	SHELTON, ANTHONY	LEWISVILLE	THORNTON, HARRELL	WACO
ISHAM, JEFF	COLLEGE STATION	GOERNER, DON	LIVINGSTON	TONDU, AUSTIN	WACO
KAHLICH, SARAH	COLLEGE STATION	BELLO, DAWN	LIVINGSTON	TONEY, SKYLER	WEATHERFORD
KIRBY, JAMES	COLLEGE STATION	LONERGAN, ANGELIA	LIVINGSTON	GOSE, TAD	WICHITA FALLS
STOCKS, CHARLES	COLLEGE STATION	SPIVEY, CLAY	LOMETA	HARDEN, JAMES	WICHITA FALLS
VAUGHAN, STEVE	COLLEGE STATION	STRATMAN, PAT	MALAKOFF	SWAGERTY, TIM	WICHITA FALLS
SHIELDS, MICHELLE	CORINTH	RIDGE, JENNIFER	MANOR	DUREN, RUSSELL	WOODWAY
BRIETZ, STANLEY	CORSICANA				

Fishing an Oasis in Terrell County

BROCK MINTON – Area Chief

You may wonder how I teach fishing in Terrell County (average rainfall 14 inches). Luckily, an oasis exists in this desert (see sidebar) and this year, the annual Terrell County Youth Fish and Swim-Out for 2005 attracted a crowd of 55 youth. I'm sure you can imagine how much youth in West Texas appreciate this amazing spring and the opportunity to fish, swim and spend the night at this oasis.

After learning basic fishing skills, the kids got to meet their local game warden, Matt Adams, who discussed fishing rules and regulations. Roy Engeldorf generously contributed a 45-minute show on herpetology including snakes and reptiles indigenous to the Trans-Pecos area. Mike Mecke of the Texas A&M Extension Agency provided information about water conservation and issues currently facing our Texas waterways and the Edwards Aquifer,



which feeds into Independence Creek. Swimming and lunch rounded out the morning.

After a brief rest we went to the main event ... FISHING! As luck would have it, the youth caught several species, including black bass, channel cat and Rio Grande Perch. Then after dinner and another brief rest it was fishing or swimming until just before dark. As the sun set, a thunder boomer rolled in just in time to display a magnificent lightning show that we could see from the safety of the large pavilion located on the grounds.

We rose early the next morning at 6 a.m. to get in a little more fishing. After breakfast everyone cleaned up the grounds and prepared to return home. Many of the kids took home those wonderful "the fish that got away" and "I caught one this big" stories for their parents to enjoy. As they left, there were many thank-yous to the sponsors and volunteers, especially our "Cook" Sonny Adalto.



Corey Wilson caught a 1.5-pound black bass.



Darren Siedel caught a black chichlid with an unconfirmed weight of two pounds.

Independence Creek is the most important, and one of the few remaining freshwater tributaries of the lower Pecos River. Caroline Spring, located at the headquarters of the Nature Conservancy's Independence Creek Preserve, produces 3,000 to 5,000 gallons per minute and comprises about 25 percent of the creek's flow.

Independence Creek's contribution increases the Pecos River water volume by 42 percent at the confluence and reduces total suspended solids by 50 percent, thus improving both water quantity and quality.



OPPORTUNITIES

New Fishing Classes and Events at State Parks in July and August

Bastrop/Buescher State Park	Blanco State Park
Brazos Bend State Park	Fairfield Lake State Park
Inks Lake State Park	Purtis Creek State Park
Tyler State Park	Lake Tawakoni State Park

Please check the TPWD Web site for a complete listing and description of these *free, fun and family-oriented* events. **Contact the park if you would be willing to help out. More volunteers, especially those trained in the Junior Angler program, are needed.**
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/news/tpwcal/a_0166.htm

Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo – Oct. 1 and 2

TPWD headquarters in Austin. Volunteers needed in the Junior Angler tent. Choose a four-hour shift, morning or afternoon, Saturday or Sunday. Contact Karen Marks for more information or to sign up for a shift. karen.marks@tpwd.state.tx.us or (512) 389-8183

Angler Education Instructor Classes

Saturday, July 16	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Junior and Master Angler Instructor Workshop Grand Prairie , North Texas Education Center Steve Campbell (972) 263-0427 stephen.campbell@tpwd.state.tx.us
Saturday, July 16	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Junior and Master Angler Instructor Workshop Houston , Gander Mountain, 19820 Hempstead Road James Galpin (713) 463-5814
Saturday, Aug. 20	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Junior and Master Angler Instructor Workshop Grand Prairie , North Texas Education Center Steve Campbell (972) 263-0427 stephen.campbell@tpwd.state.tx.us

Becoming an Outdoor Woman Workshop

Camp For All Oct. 28-30, 2005
 Located near Brenham, this workshop facility provides the widest array of outdoor courses. The rolling countryside, cool fall weather and easy access from Houston and Austin make this workshop quite popular. (Course offerings subject to change)

Class options include but not limited to:

Mountain Biking	Outdoor Cooking
Fishing	Horseback Riding
Flytying	Shotgunning
Birding	Flyfishing
Archery	Plant ID
Intro. to Hunting	Camping
Outdoor Photography	Backpacking
Land Navigation	Canoeing
Intro. to Firearms	Kayaking



For information about Becoming an Outdoor Woman, see:
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/edu/baow/

ANGLER EDUCATION CONTACT INFORMATION

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Aquatic Education Coordinator

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Aquatic Education – Dallas/Fort Worth

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Aquatic Education – Houston

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Urban Outdoor Outreach Branch Chief

ERNIE GAMMAGE (512) 389-4472
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Reel Lines

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Austin, Texas 78744