

Issue Number 28

New&Noteworthy

ANN MILLER – Aquatic Education Coordinator

How hip are you? Have you "friended" us on Facebook? If not, it's time to get with the program! Share your Angler Education and fishing stories with our friends on Facebook. Ask for help when you are going to have an event or when you want another instructor to team up to teach with you. Publicize your events for free!! We want to hear from you and we want to share with you news and information that you can use. Go to: www.facebook. com/texasanglereducators to view our Facebook page!

We have new division directors in Coastal Fisheries, Robin Riechers, and in Inland Fisheries, Gary Saul. Both of these outstanding leaders have risen through the ranks of Texas Parks and Wildlife and know all the ropes, including something about what we do in Angler Education. One of my goals is to continue to share with these folks what our volunteers do and look for ways we can compliment the work that they do. Stay tuned to special opportunities to work with Inland and Coastal Fisheries staff and for presentations at our annual Area Chief meeting.

We have six new interactive tabletop exhibits that can be used to introduce fishing to kids. These beautiful and sturdy exhibits are perfect for large public events. Kevin will have one set of exhibits in the Houston area, Steve will have another set in the Dallas area and I'll have a set in the Austin area. They are bright, colorful 3-foot by

(Continued on page 2)

4200 Smith School Road • Austin, Texas 78744

Summer 2010

It's All About the Kids

ANN MILLER

I sometimes wonder if folks outside of our Angler Education family appreciate what motivates our volunteers. At a Go Fish! event at Buescher State Park I met volunteer Dan Hilliard, a retiree who had decided he wanted to teach kids how to fish. His wife, Jenn, decided to join him at an instructor class last fall. By January, they had made all the arrangements to offer three fishing classes as an after school program at T.H. Johnson Elementary in Taylor. And, their classes filled quickly.

Dan and Jenn remind me of stories about my grandparents who died when I was quite young. My uncle was recently at a high school reunion when someone in front of him overheard him in conversation and asked him if he was related to Alfred "Swede" Sorensen. My uncle said, "Yes, I'm the youngest of their 12 children," and the man told him that my grandfather, as vice-principal of the high school in charge of discipline, was one of his heroes. My grandfather evidently gave him guidance when he needed it most. My uncle then began to recall that a number of soldiers and sailors had stopped by my grandparent's small home in San Juan when they returned from the war. They often spent an hour playing horseshoes behind the house. My grandfather was never too busy to spend some time with these young people.

I can't forget one story about my grandmother. She was attending a church meeting of women before the annual Christmas pageant and a request was made for someone to sew a couple

(Continued on page 3)

Dan and Jenn Hilliard teach an after-school program in Taylor.



<u>New & Noteworthy</u>

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

2-foot panels that fit on a slanted stand to place on tables for your audience to enjoy. You may contact one of us to borrow them for special events. Our requirements are that you have someone pick up and bring back the exhibits, have someone overseeing their use and that you take very good care of them while they are in your possession. Our staff will use them as well, so you will have to reserve them ahead of time.

TPWD Extends Redfish Bay Seagrass Protection

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) extended indefinitely the protection of seagrass within the Redfish Bay State Scientific Area (RBSSA) by a vote taken during May's Commission meeting. This ruling removes the termination date of the state scientific area, and also extends the "no uprootingseagrass with a boat propeller" law in perpetuity.

For more information on seagrass and boating in the Redfish Bay State Scientific Area, see www.tpwd.state.tx.us/seagrass/

It is the boater's responsibility to know the depth of the water they are running in and to avoid areas too shallow for their vessel.



As an example, the diagram demonstrates the depth of water (30 inches) this boat should be in to prevent digging into the bay bottom during take-off. This depth includes the vessel's draft (8 inches), skeg depth from the bottom of the vessel (8 inches), plus another 14 inches to account for vessel-tilt during take-off.

Executive Director Carter P. Smith

Editors Ann Miller Steve Campbell

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It's All About the Kids, continued

of angel costumes. There was a long silence and one woman said, "I would do it, but I have two small kids at home and I just don't have time." My grandmother raised her hand and said she would make the costumes. After the meeting, the woman with the two kids spoke to one of the other women and said, "I really wish I had time to sew those costumes." The other woman was one of my grandmother's friends. She replied, "Yes, well Buelah has about six kids at home right now and I guess sewing two costumes was not a big deal to her."

The point of all this is to say that I am inspired by these stories of my grandparents just as I am inspired when I talk to our Angler Education volunteers. They give of their time and talents. No one boasts of lives they change, but if you listen carefully you realize that what keeps our volunteers doing Angler Education is the possibility that they can make a positive difference in the lives of kids.

Katy Hammon, a former staff person and leader with Girl Scouts who is still very active with both Girl Scouts and Angler Education spoke to me at our recent Area Chief meeting. Katy offered to help me at the next meeting. All I had to do was ask. Then she said, "I still have so much I want to do." She brought tears to my eyes.

Dave Murphy, both a volunteer and a contractor for our state park Go Fish! programs, seems to pull support from all over Galveston. According to Dave, those business owners respond positively when he says "If we don't get those kids off of their electronic games and outside fishing, then I don't know what the future will be like!" He has had great support now for four consecutive years.



Harold Stearns teaches casting.

And then there is Harold Stearns of the Ascarate Fishing Club in El Paso. Most fishing clubs are all about fishing and swapping fishing stories, but the Ascarate Fishing Club is different. Harold summed it all up by saying, "Our club isn't about fishing; it's about teaching kids to fish. It's all about the kids."

Dan, Jenn, Katy, Dave and Harold are just a few examples who embody the spirit of our Angler Education volunteers. You are my heroes, because I know you believe, *It's all about the kids*.



Katy Hammon brings joy to kids with disabilities.

Dave Murphy receives the Bronze Award for his area chief service.





Houston Parks and Recreation's Adventure Angler Program

KAY JOSHUA – Houston Parks and Recreation Dept. Recreation Nature Programs Manager

Through a grant from National Recreation Foundation's Take Me Fishing Grant Program, Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) implemented the Parks Adventure Anglers as part of its After School Enrichment curriculum this spring targeting youth and teens, ages 9 to 16. The classes were held over a six-week period from January 25 to March 4, using TPWD's Junior Angler program where children learned and then practiced basic fishing skills through hands-on activities.

Four community centers served as host sites for the Parks Adventure Anglers Program including Edgewood, Denver Harbor, Crestmont and Judson Robinson, Jr. community centers. Children from nearby community centers were also invited to take part in the classes offered at our host sites.

Greg Akins, Recreation Programs Supervisor, coordinated the Parks Adventure Anglers Program after having completed the Best Practices for Boating, Fishing and Aquatic Stewardship Education online National Recreation and Park Association training in 2009 and becoming a certified Angler Education instructor with Texas Parks and Wildlife. With a passion for the outdoors, Greg is a tremendous asset to this program. Greg has also trained 20 HPARD staff members who in turn helped implement the six-week program for 724 youth. All youth and teen participants received a certificate of completion, a Junior Angler pin and a t-shirt.

As a culminating event, participating youth were invited to take part in the 2nd Annual Fishing Rodeo during Spring Break week at Jack Cogbill Lake in Baytown, Texas. This was a great opportunity for youth and teens to continue developing and practicing the skills they learned at the youth centers via an on-water catch and release event. For many, this was a first-time fishing experience and the entire group of youth, teens and staff were very excited about this opportunity. Approximately 160 youth and teens, 27 HPARD staff and 10 adult volunteers participated. Despite the inclement weather on the first day of the Fishing Rodeo, it was a great learning and teaching experience for all.

A special thanks to Junior Anglers and Hunters of America under the leadership of Ed Gerhardt, who has been instrumental in assisting with the recruitment of volunteers from the Houston community. He has gone the extra mile to recruit volunteers for partnership training programs as well as for all scheduled fishing excursions. This leverage of volunteer support greatly enhances youth safety and hands-on angler experience that is welcomed by everyone.





STEVE CAMPBELL Aquatic Education – North Texas/ Panhandle

Whether on the surface in an inner tube or beneath it with mask and snorkel, with its cool waters flowing beneath or around you, it is truly heaven on earth.

Sacred Water Places

It was a rare leisurely Sunday morning a few weeks back. I was at home, flipping through the channels on my television which had little to offer other than paid programming. I continued my hopeless efforts at channel surfing until I ran across an episode of the KT Diaries.

KT, or Kevin Townsend, who is an experienced fishing guide on the Green River, created an outdoors show featuring his various hunting and fishing adventures. I tend to watch his show mostly because of the voice of his alleged assistant and narrator, Ryder. Her Australian accent intrigues me.

In this specific episode, KT and a couple of his friends were fishing for smallmouth bass on the Devils River in Texas. Heck, they even managed to catch a couple.

Toward the conclusion of this broadcast, KT was reminiscing about his days on the Green River and how he felt a spiritual connection with that waterway. He said that he thought that he would never feel the same way about another river until he saw Texas's Devils River, with it spring-fed waters, crystal clear current and impressive smallmouths.

These comments forced me to recall my own sacred water source, the San Marcos River. It, too, is crystal clear, at least for the first few miles, and spring-fed. The source of the springs that feed the San Marcos comes from a tremendous body of underground water called the Edward's Aquifer.

The San Marcos River erupts from beneath the ground through a series of around 200 springs. Prior to its damming in the mid-19th century, leading to the creation of Spring Lake, the headwaters literally gushed up to three feet into the air like a fountain.

Not only is it a great place for swimming, tubing, snorkeling, and lounging college students to hang about, it is the oldest continuously occupied site in Central Texas. Nearly 12,000 years before it became the great place for college students, Texas Native Americans called it home.

Despite the river's past and current fate, it has always seemed a very, very, very, – did I say very? – very special place to me. So very special in fact that it determined where I wanted to attend college, which was Southwest Texas State University (and I refuse to call it by any other name to this day).

The San Marcos is home to no less than four species of endangered wildlife – the fountain darter, the San Marcos mosquito fish, the San Marcos salamander and Texas wild rice. It also holds largemouth bass, Mexican tetras, Rio Grande cichlids, warmouths and rock bass. If you are lucky enough, or really know what you are doing, you might even catch an American eel or a freshwater prawn on a hook and line.

Yet the greatest thing about the San Marcos River is being in it. Whether on the surface in an inner tube or beneath it with mask and snorkel, with its cool waters flowing beneath or around you, it is truly heaven on earth. Sharing the same waters with the above-mentioned wildlife was always special to me. It somehow made me feel whole.

Although I don't get back to my sacred San Marcos River as often as I'd like, I take comfort in sharing my love of nature and fishing with our volunteers and to see the impact they are making on other Texans.



Fishing success at Ascarate Lake

Ascarate Fishing Club: A Jewel in the Desert

ANN MILLER

Needless to say, the highway from Austin to El Paso is long and trips are not planned lightly. Several Ascarate Fishing Club members have been making the trek from El Paso to our Angler Education Area Chief meeting for years, allowing us to get to know some of our most dedicated volunteers.

This past April, Steve Campbell and I returned the favor by pulling the Take Me Fishing trailer to El Paso where the club had arranged two weekday events to introduce fishing to over 400 kids at two elementary schools and to an after school program at Ft. Bliss. On Saturday, the trailer added a visual and educational element to the Ascarate Lake Youth Fishing Tournament.

It was a whirlwind trip, but a good one because we were able to see firsthand the work of Ascarate Fishing Club's amazing volunteers. I watched as they worked with the kids, witnessing patience, laughter and gentleness from folks who truly love kids and know fishing. At one school, we divided each class of 30 to 50 kids into five smaller groups, rotating the kids every twenty minutes through casting, fish identification, stewardship, basic tackle and fishing safety stations. The kindergartners and first-graders were the biggest challenge, but the volunteers

adapted. The teachers and principal were very impressed. Obviously these club members have some teaching experience behind them.

Rain on the tournament day might have discouraged some folks, but with over 600 kids attending the event, managing the registration, the equipment, the verification of catches and safety of all who attended was a big job, taking lots of volunteers. Thankfully, the Ascarate Fishing Club has been able to garner lots of community support. Their community partners include: Kohls Dept. Store; Academy Sports and Outdoors; Fort Bliss Child, Youth and School Services; Price's Creamery; U.T. at El Paso; El Paso County Parks and Recreation; Sargeant Majors Academy at Fort Bliss; Mountain View High School; and New Mexico Fishing Adventures. Coupons for the goodie-bags were provided by Rudy's Barbeque, Cici's Pizza, Dominoes Pizza and Peter Piper Pizza.

Ascarate Fishing Club's can-do spirit and dedication to teaching kids to fish is more than remarkable.

This is what Ascarate means to me:

Amazing Service Club Attracts Really dedicated Anglers to Teach thousands of El Paso Kids to Fish

Volunteer Frank De La Rosa shares with eager kids viewing the Take Me Fishing trailer. Harold Stearns poses with the grand prize winner.

Volunteers prep bait and tackle.

7

Teaching an Advanced Fishing Workshop, Part 2

KEVIN CUNNINGHAM

For Part 1 of this article, see Reel Lines, Winter 2010 at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_br_k0700_162_01_10.pdf

Include Hands-on Activities and Notes for Students

Just as in a basic workshop, participants will get bored with a lecture, regardless of their age. Be sure to include hands-on activities interspersed throughout your presentation to keep things active and interesting.

For example, if your class focus is largemouth bass, and you are discussing baits and lures, pass around lures, have students tie lures onto a fishing pole, thread soft plastics on jig heads or on weedless lures and assemble different lure/leader combinations. When showing how to work the lures, take the students to the water or casting area to practice working different retrieves and to get an idea of how each lure works. In addition, you can demonstrate how to use the lures in different areas of the lake based on water depth, cover and casting distance.

If you are teaching about surf fishing, spend more time teaching how to build leaders with different hook and weight combinations to address different species of fish found in the surf. Take time to allow for casting practice with the open face (spinning) reel or baitcast reel. Many folks don't use those reels as often and the difference between heavier rods, stronger reels, and larger weights used in surf fishing make casting practice a necessity to reduce line tangles and frustration and increase the fun.

You can also incorporate different activities such as a walk around the water body to identify different fishable habitats or using nets to catch and identify bait in the water. Also, at the end of class try to include actual fishing whenever possible.

Prepare preprinted notes on the topics you will cover. Since the information in the intermediate/advanced class is significantly more detailed, printed notes will help people remember what they have learned. Let participants keep a couple of baits or leaders they built from the workshop so they can be used as templates for making more.

Know Your Audience

When planning your workshop consider your audience. Personally, I prefer smaller class sizes to keep the class time manageable and to increase the time I can spend individually helping students. If you have multiple instructors you can have a larger class and do station switching unless the class topics need to be covered in a particular order.

Also, consider the minimum participant age for the type of workshop you plan to teach. For the class examples I provided above, a minimum age of 10 years old would be best. If, however, your target audience consists of only young students who have already done the Junior Angler activities, then you will choose content around that age group, providing them with additional knowledge and skills that build on what they already learned.

Have Fun

Take time to consider your own interests when planning an advanced workshop. Make sure it is either fun for you or (if you are like me) use it to learn more about a type of fishing you are interested in or don't know much about. After all, there is no better reason to become expert in a subject than if you have to teach it.

When teaching an advanced workshop you are providing answers to the basic questions of *how, when and where* you caught fish and then explaining the "*why*" to those important questions. If you are interested and would like to teach an advanced workshop please don't hesitate to contact me. I enjoy planning these workshops and would be glad to help.





Tim Gebauer holds a flounder while Lisa Fobian and kids look on

Greater Houston Area Update

Angler Education in Schools

Katy ISD

On Saturday March, 27 Hutsell Elementary held its annual "Take Me Fishing" Family Fishing Day at Mary Jo Peckham Park. It was a beautiful day. And though only a few fish were caught it was still a lot of fun for everyone. Griffin Elementary and Hutsell Elementary utilized our "Take Me Fishing" Trailer to run their entire schools through the Scavenger Hunt challenge during physical education classes the week of March 22. The Taylor High School Fishing Club held their "Fishing for a Cure" Cancer Benefit Fundraiser Fishing Tournament at Peckham Park on April 25 as a community service project.

Lanier Middle School – Houston ISD

Lanier Middle School completed its second successful year of Angler Education and scheduled four fishing field trips to Mary Jo Peckham Park in Katy. In an attempt to build on their success, Coach Ellie Crocker attended Hutsell Elementary's annual "Take Me Fishing" Event to get ideas to plan one for Lanier. On Saturday,



May 8, Lanier held its first family fishing event at the Sea Center Texas Saltwater Fish Hatchery in Lake Jackson.

Livingston Junior High Field Trips

Also in its second year, Livingston Junior High trained over 200 students in its Angler Education Program and conducted two fishing field trips to Pedigo Park. Thanks to Blair McDonald and Jeff Akers for volunteering to come out to help the school with their field trips.

Grissom Elementary Family Fishing Day – Houston ISD

On Friday, May 7, Grissom Elementary held its 5th Annual "Take Me Fishing Houston" Family Fishing Day at Tom Bass Park. With the help of Game Warden Tim Holland and Angler Education Instructor Jeff Akers, and the support of the Neighborhood Fishing Program, about 90 people or approximately 20 families participated in this popular event.

(Continued on page 12)

Lanier students enjoy fishing at Sea Center Texas.



North Texas Update

STEVE CAMPBELL

Fishing as Therapy

Area Chief Linda Thibault is an Adapted Physical Education (APE) teacher for Denton School District. Linda believes everyone, including her special needs kids, should be able to fish despite any physical or mental challenges. She and her volunteers see the therapeutic value of fishing.

With the aid of a grant to the APE department, Linda was able to purchase fishing equipment and pay for a fishing field trip. Linda has also been able to recruit professional anglers employed by the Grapevine Bass Pro Shop, Mike Lawson and Helen Gordon, to lend their special expertise to assist her APE kids. These two pro anglers have been assisting Denton ISD APE kids since the beginning of this program four years ago and say that they love assisting. They look forward to these fishing excursions every year. Mike Lawson was recognized in the June Bass Pro Shop issue of its online newsletter, Bass Pro Gram, for his participation in Linda's program.

This spring, Linda and her fellow APE teachers and long term Bass Pro Shop volunteers were joined by members from the Denton County Bass Club and some retirees, including her father, Larry. Linda also recruited interns from Texas Woman's University, each trained in a field associated with adapted physical education. These interns see fishing as a way to work in their communities. Linda and her volunteers provided a wonderful fishing experience to 138 APE students and some of their general education peers from 11 different campuses in Denton ISD. The program is growing as many others see fishing as therapy and as something everyone can do.

Happy Trailers to You

Atop the frame of an old bass boat trailer, Plainview Area Chief Kevin Reich constructed a trailer designed to carry items such as rods and reels and an assortment of other items necessary to teach kids how to fish. The trailer was donated by a local marina. Kevin's wife and parents provided the lumber. Daffern Steel donated steel to reinforce the trailer and Lejon Pavlicek did the welding for free. The bright yellow paint was a gift from Covington Body Shop.

Kevin used 2x6 boards to create a shed-like structure. He estimates that it took 82 hours to complete and an additional \$250 of his own money. He feels that it was money well spent. He can now haul everything but the kitchen sink into the field, it's all organized and it saves lots of time packing up to teach a class.

This spring Kevin brought his fishing trailer to the Area Chief Meeting so we could all admire it. And admire it we did.



Adaptive-needs anglers experience the joys of fishing.

Kevin Reich, Angler Education on wheels.



Deaf children learn fishing and the skins and skulls display.

Students learn to tie a fly at a basic flyfishing class.

Central and South Texas Update

KAREN MARKS

Many Central Texas teachers and volunteers have been busy this spring introducing fishing to their students. At Chisholm Trail Middle School in Round Rock, Melonie Milner-Mills continued a tradition of nine years with our program. At T.H. Johnson Elementary in Taylor, Dan and Jenn Hilliard began a very popular after school fishing program. In Austin, teachers at the Texas School for the Deaf received training and provided angler education for their students.

Jimmy Brown with the Texas Bass Federation has reported several outreach events with total attendance of 98 youth and 252 adults. One event was held in conjunction with a tournament at Lake O.H. Ivie. The tournament generated proceeds in the amount of \$11,000 which benefited Hospice of San Angelo. The event also yielded the largest youth turnout ever for the San Angelo Bass Club. See pictures of the event at www.fishtheopen.com

Chuck Koenen coordinated a fishing clinic and derby at Lake Kyle in Plum Creek Preserve located in Kyle (south of Austin). With the help of John McGimsey, Shawn Riggs and Louise Pettigrew, they had 42 kids and their parents participate in the event. Several children caught their first fish and one 5-year-old landed three bass with a total weigh-in of 14 pounds. The Kyle Parks and Recreation Director was so impressed with the event that he wants to make it an annual event.

Dieg

Basic flyfishing classes were held in Austin, Brownsville and in New Braunfels at the FFF Gulf Coast Expo where the Hill Country and Fredericksburg fly fishing clubs hosted a class for 18 youth. Another class was held at South Llano River State Park during a Texas Outdoor Family event.

New Instructors

Central Texas staff and Area Chiefs Laurie Connally, Peggy York and Rey Ramirez hosted six instructor workshops this spring, training 77 new instructors. Workshops were held in Austin, Burnet, San Antonio and Brownsville. One workshop was held at the Texas School for the Deaf campus in Austin where several TSD teachers and staff became certified instructors. Malcom Freeland, TSD Student Life Specialist for Elementary and Middle School Recreation Programs, has been instrumental in getting TSD staff trained as Angler Ed and Archery instructors insuring that their students will have ample opportunities to enjoy outdoor recreation.

2010 ANGLER EDUCATION AWARDS

Gold, Bronze and Silver Awards are earned by Area Chiefs for their leadership and dedication to our Angler Education Instructor training program. The award is based on the number of instructors trained, cumulative from year to year, through January 31, 2010.

GOLD AWARD

(has trained 50+ people)

AKERS, JEFFREY ALMANZAR, RAUL CATCHING, DAMON COCCHIA, NICHOLAS DURAN, GILBERT FOBIAN, MARK FRANCO JR, JESUS GANZE, CHARLES (CHUCK) GERHARDT, EDGAR MARTINEZ, OSCAR MILLER, JOHN MILLER, LYNN PETRICK, MICHAEL RAMIREZ, REYNALDO RAMIREZ, TERESITA STEARNS, HAROLD TAYLOR, DEREK VAN DE PUTTE, ANTOINETTE WREN, SAMMIE YORK, PEGGY

SILVER AWARD (has trained 25–49 people)

CONNALLY, LAURIE DE LA ROSA, FRANK FLORES, EDUARDO GARZA, WILLIAM (WILLIE) HAMMON, KATY KITURE, ANDREA NEYSES, DAVID QUINTANILLA, SAL RODRIGUEZ, AL RODRIGUEZ, NOEL SHAVER, BRENDA SHIRLEY, MICHAEL VELA, ROBERT WARD, IRPEL BRONZE AWARD (has trained 10–24 people)

ANDERSON, JERE CONDRA, LARRY HARRISON, GUY JUSTICE, JASON MURPHY, DAVID SIMMS, MELANIE THUESEN, BRIAN

Thank You!

Greater Houston Area Update, continued

First Volunteer Appreciation Day is a Hit!

In honor of free-fishing day and another year of hard work by Houston Area Instructors, a volunteer appreciation fun-day was held at Camp Bratton on the San Jacinto River on Saturday, June 5. Angler Education Instructors and their families enjoyed a day of relaxing fishing, crabbing, kayaking and conversation topped off by a tasty dinner of fried catfish and trout paired with fries, hushpuppies and a host of desserts and side dishes prepared by angler instructors and master chefs, Rodney Evans and Bill Oaks of Baytown. According to Chuck Ganze, event host and fellow Area Chief, "This was just a small way to say thanks to the guys and gals for all the help they gave us with the kids."

For several years it has been difficult to get everyone together in the Houston area since we are spread out. We were finally able to make this happen when Chuck Ganze offered his Camp Bratton property on the San Jacinto River for the event. Chuck has worked hard to clear the area and make it suitable for youth fishing events.

Camp Bratton sits comfortably on the tail end of the San Jacinto River where it enters Galveston Bay and makes a prime brackish water fishing location where both fresh and saltwater species can be caught. Formerly housing a deepwater barge dock, there are three different fishing habitats in the area. When looking out over the water on the left is a sandy beach area where wading and kayaking can be done with ease. There is also a sunken shrimp boat which makes for excellent fishing structure. Out in front is where the deepwater dock once was. After a storm washed it away all that remains is scattered rocks, pipe and a drop-off great for channeling fish. On the right is a shallow mud flat where kids can crab and baitfish are plentiful.

About 60 people enjoyed our first instructor appreciation event, which we hope to do annually. Once again, thanks to Chuck Ganze and the rest of the motley Baytown Angler Education Instructors, Bill Oaks, Rodney Evens and Damon Catching, for hosting this wonderful gathering.

13

Area Chiefs Share Ideas

Our annual Area Chief meeting is always a highlight of the year. This year, in addition to honoring our Area Chiefs (see the awards list on the previous page), updating everyone on our program's progress, attending fun and informative workshops, and singing around the campfire, Area Chiefs and staff also had time to share some super ideas for enhancing our repertoire of teaching tricks. Below are examples of a few of those teaching tricks.



Doc Harrison uses a 20/0 shark hook, an extra large vise and heavy twine to demonstrate how to tie a fly so that everyone can see.

Kevin Cunningham uses blue painter's tape to create the outline of a pond or river on the floor, then uses rocks, fake plants, wood or anything else handy to represent different structures in the water. Then, Kevin places plastic fish representing particular fish species (or asks the kids to place the fish) where those fish would generally hang out. He might also demonstrate where to cast and how to work a lure to catch a fish.

What is an Angler Education Area Chief?

An area chief is an Angler Education (AED) instructor who volunteers to help the Aquatic Education team train other AED instructors. AED Area Chiefs must have completed Junior and Master Angler Instructor training or Basic and Intermediate Fly Fishing Instructor training and have demonstrated leadership in training youth. Area Chiefs also attend an additional training that will prepare them to hold instructor-training workshops and to support angler education in their communities. Area chiefs are exemplary in their ethics and their ability to represent Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in a positive manner.

Snapshots of Area Chief FUN!

Katy Hammon, Beverly Lyttaker and Toni Van De Putte tie flies with Guy Harrison.

Everyone threw something on the grill!











We were even visited by Giant Salvinia-man. (Kevin highlights our newest public awareness campaign.)

The Flying Pickerel of Fish award for the most Squigglies goes to Kevin Reich!



Red River Flyfishers Provide Fishing Fun on Lake Texoma

JERRY HAMON – Area Chief

The Red River Fly Fishers and Eisenhower State Park started their year "all tied up" with the Texoma Tie In on January 23. In spite of the cold rainy weather, more than 20 professional and expert fly tyers from across the country demonstrated and taught fly tying methods and secrets, wowing everyone who attended with their works of art. In addition, a beginners' fly tying area allowed those who have never tied a fly to sit down at a vise, receive expert guidance and create their very own fish-attracting fly.

While all that activity was going on inside, there were a number of Certified Casting Instructors outside teaching folks how to cast a fly rod for the first time or improve on an old fly casting habit they may have had for years. The sidewalk outside the rec center was lined with a collection of fly rods being demonstrated by our friends from Temple Fork Outfitters and anyone who was interested could choose a rod and reel and give it a "test drive" right there on the front lawn. It was a fun day for all, especially when we topped it off with a huge pot of chicken gumbo for lunch.

On May 1 and June 5 we held our Texoma Family Fishing Events, all part of the Go Fish! state park programs. The events drew children of all ages to the boathouse on Lake Texoma for a chance to catch a fish. Expert volunteers were on hand to help the kids with rigging their poles, baiting their hooks, and landing and weighing their fish.

Most who attended caught at least one fish. Prizes were awarded for the "Biggest" and "Most" fish caught and First Fish certificates were also handed out to those who caught their first fish. A hot dog lunch completed the fun.

On June 19 we held our Annual Texoma on the Fly Event. The event was different this year because we added the TPWD Basic Fly Fishing Course in addition to our regular flyfishing seminars and casting practice. Each attendee doing the Basic Course rotated through five stations. Those stations were: Fly Casting and Basic Fly Fishing Equipment; Fly Tying; Aquatic Ecosystems and Fish Biology; Fishing Knots; and Safety and Fishing Ethics. To top off the fun, a catfish tank stocked with 400+ fish provided an immediate way for those new flyfishers (and those more experienced) to try their luck. Door prizes, certificates and pins were awarded during the hot dog lunch, while many folks stayed through the afternoon to fish, practice casting and talk about flyfishing.

Red River Flyfishers will top off our Go Fish! activities with another Texoma Family Fish Event on July 11. We are excited about the opportunity to be a part of this program where we can share our love of fishing and the outdoors with others. We have great fun ... or we wouldn't be doing it!

"Fishing is my sanity. Catching fish is a BONUS!"



Al Crise Passing on his Passion

JIM BASS – Area Chief



On February 17, 2010, Allen Crise lost his battle with cancer. Al was one of the founders of Fly Fish Texas through which he was able to teach the fundamentals of fly fishing to over 1,500 Texans. But, that was just one of his many contributions. Angler Education in Texas has lost a dedicated friend.

Al, a native of Michigan, moved to Florida as a young man to get away from cold weather. There he increased his love of fishing and fly casting. "Ol' Al," as he called himself, was a gentle soul who was more about what you were doing than about his own accomplishments. Al obtained a Master Certified Fly Casting Instructor (one of only four in Texas) and used it to train any and all who were serious about fly fishing, including youngsters. He taught many Boy Scouts.

One of Al's special loves was to teach fly fishers to become fly casting instructors. He held specialized training sessions for casting instructors and would load up his little Ford truck to travel across the state to teach.

Al was the Director of Education for the Fort Worth Fly Fishers and the Federation of Fly Fishers Southern Council. He received many awards from the FFF Southern Council: Teacher of the Year, Man of the Year, The Don Harger Lifetime Memorial Award. Al once told me that the greatest honor he received was that he had trained more than 70 folks to become Certified Casting Instructors.

We will miss AI with his hat full of flies, broad smile and readiness to share his knowledge about fly fishing. Continue with your tight loops, our friend, when you fish the Jordan.



STEVE CAMPBELL

Scott Metheny is an outstanding Physical Education instructor at Bellaire Elementary School in the Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD between Fort Worth and Dallas. He is also an Angler Education instructor who has worked hard to earn a modest wealth of grants. He has used those grants to create a very successful Angler Education program on his campus.

With grant funds he has purchased all the usual tools that the rest of us employ for Angler Education – rods and reels, Backyard Bass, casting plugs, eye bolts and cotton cordage. Through his planning and instruction, Scott has been successful at incorporating science, math and other curriculum subjects into his program and to involve community volunteers from the Hurst Police and Fire Departments to help him.

Within his gymnasium Scott created an artificial lake and stocked it with Backyard Bass. He also added obstacles, such as trees and sunken logs – the very same challenges any angler might face in the real world of fishing.

According to Scott, it didn't take very long for fishing fever to catch on among his fellow teachers. Soon an unofficial tournament erupted on campus and almost every teacher was involved. During breaks and off periods, those free would assemble at Lake Bellaire and fish for Backyard Bass.

If Scott's planning and organization weren't enough, he added yet another innovation to his program. He purchased a Wii Fishing Game. The Wii Fishing Game demonstrates to the kids where to find the fish near beneficial aquatic plants and various other natural or artificial structures like piers. These structures help to "hold" fish in certain locations whereby anglers might find them more easily. The game provides a nice simulation of fishing.

Although I couldn't catch a virtual fish to save my life, I had to share this potential teaching tool with the rest of my TPWD teaching team and everyone at the Area Chief meeting in April. Scott couldn't attend the meeting to demonstrate Wii Fishing because he was too busy accepting the Elementary Teacher of the Year Award from Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD. Congratulations to Scott!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sea Center Texas

September 18 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Fly Fishing Workshop** – Free workshop; preregistration is required. Sponsored by the Sea Center Fly Fishers, the class is open to anyone (ages 9 or above) interested in fly fishing. Basic elements of the program will include Fly Tying, Fly Casting, Aquatic Ecology, Regulations/Ethics, Saltwater Fishing Tactics, and Actual Fishing Practice. Participants should wear comfortable clothing for outdoor activities and bring a lunch. To register, contact Sea Center at seacenter@tpwd.state.tx.us or (979) 292-0100.

October 16 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. **Youth Fishing** – Pack your sunscreen, hat, lawn chair and fishing gear for a couple of hours of catch and release fishing at our marine fish hatchery and visitor education center. This event is available to guests 16 years old and younger accompanied by an adult. Anglers must bring their own gear and bait with barb-less hooks. No artificial bait or treble hooks. Volunteers and staff will be on hand to assist first-time anglers.

October 31 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. **Halloween Spooktacular** – Sea Center Texas will host its annual Halloween Spooktacular on Sunday, October 31, 2010 at 300 Medical Drive, Lake Jackson. Dress up in your Halloween costume and enjoy a variety of crafts and play spooky games. Costume contest at 2:30 p.m. Free admission. Optional \$5 craft fee. Call (979) 292-0100 for more information.

Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

July 17

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Art's Better Outside – Fish art from Texas and other states will be on display for the National State Fish Art Expo. Artists will be exhibiting their art work and demonstrating their skills, including Texas State Artist Sam Caldwell. The winning artist will be recognized at 1 p.m. in the Conservation Building.



Friday, Oct. 1 – Sunday, Oct. 3, Lake Conroe.

Ticketed activities for fans, including concerts, weighins and expo areas, will take place October 2 and 3 at the Lone Star Convention & Expo Center. The event benefits the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and its outdoor recreation programs.





Organized by Alamo Fly Fishers and Rockport Fly Fishers All 2010 proceeds will be donated to Casting for Recovery

Tournament Date:	July 17, 2010
Location:	Crabman Marina (2400 Hwy 361, Aransas Pass)
Venue:	Fly Fishing, Catch and Release Only
Format:	Separate Divisions for Boats and Kayakers

The Lydia Ann Fly Masters Tournament was created to:

- Bring skilled fly fishing anglers together from all over the State of Texas
- Have fun, and compete for prizes and awards
- · Raise every dollar possible to support Casting for Recovery

Our goal is to create the Premier Fly Fishing, Catch and Release tournament for the Texas Coast, that is fair, fun and open to everybody. Each year a Charitable Organization will be chosen to receive a donation check from all of the tournament proceeds. The tournament was a great success last year, in its first year, raising over \$5,200 for Casting For Recovery! We are looking forward to watching the tournament get better every year!

Please visit the website at: <u>www.lydiaannflymasters.com</u> for more information and to get your applications. We hope to see as many anglers there as possible to support Casting for Recovery's wonderful cause.





17

West Houston Youth Fall Fishing Classic

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Saturday, October 23, 2010, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Mary Jo Peckham Park Lake 5597 Gardenia Lane- Avenue D & Franz Road, Katy, Texas 77493

Youth, ages 4-16, are eligible and must be accompanied by an adult

700 1-3lb. Catfish will be stocked prior to event by TPWD & Precinct 3

1st- through 5th-place Prizes for Longest Fish (In Each Category, Ages 4-10 and 11-16)

Sponsored by the West Houston Scouter Fishing Club, Tim Gebauer, TPWD, and Harris County Precinct 3 No fishing license needed by parents to help kids rig up and bait lines. Kids must set hook and reel in fish. Fishing license is not required for kids, 16 and under. Daily fish catch limit per person will be posted at lake and strictly enforced.

BRING YOUR OWN FISHING EQUIPMENT AND BAIT, IF POSSIBLE

We recommend fishing on the bottom with a #3/0 single hook baited with a chicken heart or a peeled shrimp from HEB, 18" of 20lb. test mono leader, #5 black swivel, and a 1-2 ounce slip weight tied on to reel line. Academy carries these items. Good Luck!!!

Questions, Volunteers or Sponsors for this Youth Fishing Tournament? Call Tim Gebauer at 281-492-2552 or e-mail bigkahuna@swbell.net

Coastal Conservation Association STAR 2010 Tournament Offers Youth Scholarships

It's time to get spooled up and ready for another great season of fishing fun! The 21st Annual State of Texas Anglers Rodeo is set to begin Saturday, May 29 at sunrise and runs through Monday, Sept. 6 (Labor Day). Anglers must be a current member of CCA. Youth may join the CCA as a "New Tide" member for just \$10 and enter the STAR tournament for FREE. Each "New Tide" member must be at least 6 years of age in 2010 to be eligible to fish STAR and under age 18 to enter for FREE.

In addition to the adult tournament division, a youth division with "lunker" scholarships is available thanks to the tournament's generous sponsors. In the past fourteen years, \$3,765,000 in college scholarships has been awarded to fisher-kids across the state. And 2010 continues to offer plenty of reason for everyone to round up their kid(s), a rod and reel and head for the water.

StarKid Flounder Division – This division gives entrants age 6-10 a chance to win a \$50,000 college scholarship for the largest flounder caught throughout the summer.

Fox Sports Houston/Fox Sports Southwest StarKid Gafftop Division – This division gives entrants age 6-10 a chance to win a \$50,000 college scholarship for the largest gafftop caught throughout the summer.

Houston Community Newspapers StarKid Sheepshead Division – This division gives entrants age 6-10 a chance to win a \$50,000 college scholarship for the largest sheepshead caught throughout the summer.

Academy Sports & Outdoors StarTeens Trout Division – This youth scholarship division is open to all New Tide members ages 11-17 and awards a \$20,000 college scholarship for each fisher-teen with the largest trout in the upper, middle and lower coasts. SPECIAL NOTE: The minimum weight requirement for the trout is six pounds, and all fish weighing less than six pounds should be released back into the water.

Time Warner Cable StarTeens Inshore Division – This youth scholarship division is open to all New Tide members ages 11-17 and awards a \$20,000 college scholarship for each fisher-teen with the largest flounder, gafftop and sheepshead statewide.

Runner-Up Prizes – The first through fourth runners-up in all divisions will receive various gift certificates from Academy Sports & Outdoors.

NRG Engergy "New Tide" Member Drawing – The "New Tide" Scholarship Drawing will be offered again in 2010. "NewTide"/STAR participants at least, 6-17 years old in 2010, are eligible for a bonus drawing that will net one lucky youth a \$20,000 college scholarship even if the participant never wets a line or enters a single fish during the entire tournament. Thanks again NRG Texas for making this scholarship offering possible.

For more information, including a list of weigh-in stations, instant-entry registration locations in your area and weekly leader board updates, go to www.ccatexas.org

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BACLIFF

BARRY

BANDERA

BEDFORD

BERTRAM

ATLANTA

Welcome, New Instructors! **January through May, 2010**

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

LILIANA HERRERA

KEVIN WALTER TERRY LOHR LAURIE WATTS WAGNER BLAKE BOREN **KAYLA CECOTTI** ANN CLIFT CLARENCE CONNER JESSICA DURANT MALCOLM FREELAND CARL HARVEY AMY HOOKS HAROLD HOWIE CORTNIE JONES KASSANDRA KNAPP AUBREY LEE CHRIS LEHMAN JOSEPH LITHERLAND FRANK MARTIN LEAH MCGOVERN **KEITH MELROSE** LACEY MICHELSOHN RONALD MILLICAN NATALIE PALUSO AMY PANCAKE PATRICIA PATTERSON JESSICA PEEBI ES DEBORAH PETERSEN AMY PICKHARDT KIMBERLY RAY MARIA REYES JEFFREY RICHARDS SHAWN RIGGS JIM RODGERS CLINT SADLER JAKE SHERMAN RONALD SHIPLEY OTIS SIZEMORE RHIANNON STRACENER AMANDA STRAHLE REBECCA TROWER IORDAN WADF LAUREN WEATHERLY FRANK QUINTERO **RICHARD TREECE** STEVEN CLARY DAVID RYON WILLIAM HUTSON **BELINDA CAVAZOS** ROSA CERVANTES ANALILIA GALLEGOS MISTY HEREDIA

APRIL LICEA MARIA MONTALVO MARY ORTA MAIRE VERA LEE KINARD **KYLE BAYER** IRIS EASLEY HENRY LARA ALICE GRAY RANDY LEE TERESA LEE **BROWNSVILLE** BROWNSVILLE BROWNSVILLE BROWNSVILLE

CYNTHIA PENA TRINIDAD URBINA MARTHA VELASCO **DINORAH ZARATE** ESMERALDA LOZANO CELESTE SANTA ANA **KYLE THIGPEN** HOLLIS NEIER RAYMOND ZENDER JORGE GONZALEZ **RICHARD JOHNSON** SERAFIN RODRIGUEZ **KARIN BROWN BRUCE ADAMS ROBERT JAMES** MICHAEL WILLIAMSON RONNIE KINWORTHY TAD STRICKER AMY BEHLEN HOLLY BLACKMAN MINDY HICKS DONOVAN BENAVIDES DESCHAMPS DESROSIERS **TESSY GONZALEZ** JESSICA MORENO DONALD REID JOHN SHAFFER JORDAN HADDOCK JENNA HANSON MICHAEL HAYNES **BENJAMIN JONES** MARY SCHAPER ZESHAN SEGAL GAYTHA SODERSTROM STEPHANIE TIMKO **DIANE WARE** CAROLYN BARTON

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DAWSON

ROBERT DOWLING	DAWSON
SANDRA DOWLING	DAWSON
DANNY FEUGE	DAWSON
AMY GIBBS	DAWSON
BRANDON LONG	DAWSON
DONALD PHAGAN	DAWSON
ROSEMARY PHAGAN	DAWSON
RONALD TUFTS	DAWSON
BRANDI WILLIAMS	DAWSON
BYRON JACKSON	DEL VALLE
CINDY BAKER	EDNA
SERGIO ACOSTA	EL PASO
DAVID ANGULO	EL PASO
RAYMOND CAMPA	EL PASO
CHRISTIAN CARRASCO	EL PASO
LUIS CORTEZ	EL PASO
MATEO DELAROSA	EL PASO
BRENDA EDWARDS	EL PASO
JOHN GALLESOS	EL PASO
ERIC GONZALEZ	EL PASO
KARINA GRADO	EL PASO
BENJAMIN GRIGGS	EL PASO
JUDITH MACIAS	EL PASO
ADRIAN MARTINEZ	EL PASO
GILBERT MENDOZA	EL PASO
CHARLES MILLER	EL PASO
SAMUEL MONTALVO	EL PASO
CHARLES MONTES	EL PASO
ANTONIO NAJERA	EL PASO
JORGE OROPEZA	EL PASO
LUIS PADILLA	EL PASO
CLAUDIA PAIZ	EL PASO
ISRAEL PENA	EL PASO
ASHLEY PEREZ	EL PASO
THOMAS PROKOPCHUK	EL PASO
MARCO QUINTANA	EL PASO
SALVATORE RAYAS	EL PASO
ARTURO SERRANO	EL PASO
DOUGLAS SHIRAISHI	EL PASO
MATTHEW SOLIS	EL PASO
ALEJANDRA VALLES	EL PASO EL PASO
PAULETTE BOUDREAUX	EL FASO
TODD PENROD DANIEL PRICE	ENNIS ENNIS
	FARMERSVILLE
PHIL BRADSHAW	FLOWER
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JEFFREY CARVER	FLOWER
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LANAE COLCHIN	FLOWER
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CATHERINE THEALL

RODNEY HALL DAVID STALLINGS FLETCHER SHERRARD KIMBERLYNN SHERRARD MICHAFI KMAK HILDA NAVARRO GARY BOYD DAN HILLIARD JENNIFER HILLIARD LINDA MEUTH FREDDIE GOWIN CURTIS WATSON NORMA CLARK SEIDY CAPUCHINES ERIKA GALVAN FELIX RODRIGUEZ FREDI FRANKI SHERLYN ALEXANDER

VFRA BROUSSARD RECO BROWN **RICHARD CHANDLER** CHRISTINA CROCKETT JOSEPH DANZER DEMETRIUS DOUGAR LATASHIA DOUGAR DESTINEE FRANKLIN DRFW FRIFSON CAROLYN GRIMBLE NICHOLE HAWKINS MARSHA JENKINS AARON JOHNSON FRIC IOHNSON P. JOHNSON MARCELIO JULIAN WILLIE KELLEY HENRY KING PATRICIA LEE **KENNETH LEWIS** PATRICIA MARKS **RICHARD MASON** DEBRA MEI ROSE-SPIVEY MICHAFI MOHNKERN RYAN O'NFAL JAMES PAVLOUSKY TREMEL PRUDHOMME NANCY RAMSEY CHARLOTTE REESE CHARLEY RICHARD LISA ROBINS M RODRIGUEZ EZEKIEL SMITH HENRY SOLIS EVAN THOMPSON

FLOWER MOUND FRISCO FRISCO GALENA PARK GALENA PARK GARI AND GARLAND GEORGETOWN GEORGETOWN **GEORGETOWN** GIDDINGS **GRAND SALINE** GRAPEVINE GROVES HARLINGEN HARLINGEN HARLINGEN HIGHI AND HAVEN HOUSTON HOUSTON

RODRICK WILBORN WILLIAM WOOLFY HARVEY PARKER AMBER WOLLARD DEBORAH DEWAAL THOMASINA GATSON **BRENT GUATZIG KRISTOPHER RIVES** SHARON SANDERS CHRISTINE HALPEN SCOTT METHENY SHARYL ARAM CARMEN DIAZ CLAUDIA FERRELL ZAHELY FLAMENCO PATSY FLUECKIGER NUBIA PENA CARRIE SADLER ELDA SUAREZ TOBIAS WHITMAN WAYNE DINSMORE PHILIP WYDF CHARLES "CHUCK" KOENEN JOE SORRELLS KATIE ZIEMANN STORY DAVIS JENNIFER MUNDINE RICKEY MUNDINE CASEY JENKINS MELISSA MULLINS **ROBERT PEREZ** PATRICIA RAMIREZ ANTHONY TORRES **DIERE FRANKLIN KFRRY I FMON** MARY WHEAT SAMUEL KNOX KIM HUNZIKER SYLVIA JOHNSON MATTHEW SMITHSON E.J "DUKE" WALTON TOMMYE WALTON MATTHEW DELGADO ANNA SANDERS IOSHUA DEAN KAREN LANIER **REBECCA MILLER** ANN SCOTT ALMA TOFFER MARLENE URIBE RICARDO ESPARZA

MELISSA ANDERSON

VANESSA DELUNA

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DALE WATKINS

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