

TEXAS ANGLER
EDUCATION PROGRAM

Reel Lines

Issue Number 30

4200 Smith School Road • Austin, Texas 78744

July 2011

New &
Noteworthy

Have you seen our Facebook page with the photos of our new **Freshwater Habitat Mats**? If not, you should check them out: www.facebook.com/texasanglereducators or on the TPWD Flickr page: www.flickr.com/photos/texasparkswildlife/sets/72157626528479155/.

Each year, our staff looks for new teaching tools for our Aquatic Education program. In the past, we developed the smaller laminated fish ID cards, the larger laminated flash cards, the six interactive displays as well as the *Take Me Fishing* trailer. This year's Freshwater Habitat Mats are meant to be versatile enough to be used indoors or outdoors and to cover a number of different topics including:

- Fish ID
- Typical fish locations (where to fish for different species)
- Components of healthy freshwater habitats including lakes and streams or rivers
- Freshwater food chains or webs
- Watersheds
- Human impacts to water resources

(Continued on page 2)

Fishing for Fun in Colorado

ANN MILLER – Former Aquatic Education Coordinator

We've all experienced "mixed emotions." We've been in those situations that are both happy and sad. That's where I find myself. I'm happy to retire and start a new chapter in my life filled with a bit of adventure, but I am sad to leave so many wonderful Angler Education friends and coworkers at TPWD. I feel blessed to have been able to work at TPWD these past 15 years and to enjoy many wonderful friendships.

After I retire this summer, I plan to fish just for fun ... and to explore and volunteer at Rocky Mountain National Park. I have always wanted to live in the mountains. I'm not sure where that came from, but books like *Heidi* that I read as a young child may have left an indelible mark on my psyche. Plus, I've always wanted adventure. In seventh grade when we were asked to research a career, I chose the foreign service. Although some might say that teaching science to hormonal middle schoolers is a definite "adventure," I'm not sure how I veered so far from my original goal, living in Austin most of my life and choosing the relative safety of a teaching career.

Nevertheless, I now have the opportunity to retire and see a bit of the world if all goes well. My retirement plans are to travel, work and fish in some of America's most beautiful places and to get out of the Texas heat. Then I'll come back to Texas this fall and winter to spend time with my kids and grandchildren ... and fish some more!



After a Rocky Mountain adventure, I might be ready to volunteer as an Angler Education instructor, too. That would be a nice turn-around. I'll only be responsible for teaching a class and turning in my paperwork after an event. I'll get to sit back and enjoy the annual Area Chief meeting. Someone else can ride herd on the mavericks in the AED staff. Now, that sounds like a good retirement!

Adios for now!
Ann

P.S. – I really have loved working with my staff. I called them "mavericks" because each one is very unique—and special—and I'll miss them.

My new office. Photo by Ann Miller.

New & Noteworthy

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Each full-color mat is made of vinyl and has a stream on one side and a bird's eye view of a lake on the other side. You can see where the deeper water and rapids are located and which way the water flows. You can use rocks, twigs, Monopoly or Lego buildings and the little toy fish replicas that we have purchased to complete your freshwater habitat. You can let kids suggest where the structures and the fish would most likely be located on your habitat mat and let them help you put them in their proper places.

The mat should be used as an interactive tool, with kids participating by helping build the habitat with the extra items mentioned above. The mat should be the starting point for an engaging question and answer session with the kids.

The feedback so far on using the habitat mats is very positive, with park interpreters, teachers and staff all telling us how well they have worked to engage and teach the kids. Karen Marks developed a food chain/food web lesson plan and used the mat at a water education event for fifth graders in Austin. For specific ideas about using the Freshwater Habitat Mat contact our staff. Plans are also in the works to produce a saltwater version. Stay tuned for that.

If you are teaching Angler Education on a regular basis, we will work with you to provide a loaner habitat mat set in your area. Please contact Robert Ramirez or Karen Marks. Robert2.ramirez@tpwd.state.tx.us or Karen.marks@tpwd.state.tx.us.

SPOTLIGHT

LIVE CHAT

The second installment of a new "Ask An Expert" live chat series took place on Wednesday, April 6. Freshwater fisheries experts answered questions from anglers and "would be" anglers across the state. TPWD experts participating in the live chat included: Mark Webb, fisheries biologist, Houston area; Tom Hungerford, fisheries biologist, Dallas/Fort Worth area; Steve Magnelia, fisheries biologist, Austin area; Randy Myers, fisheries biologist, San Antonio area; Dave Terre, Inland Fisheries chief of fisheries management and research; and Ken Kurzawski, Inland Fisheries fishing regulations coordinator.

Questions ranged from: Where are the best places to take kids fishing? How do I fish for specific species? What can anglers do to help habitat? Small pond management, effects of fishing tournaments, water quality, career inquiries and opportunities for volunteers were also topics of discussion. Participants answered polls throughout the interaction: 42%

fish for Largemouth bass, 64% fish more than 10 times per year, 70% fish in large reservoirs. Review the conversation online on the TPWD Ask An Expert web page.

"CATCH A FISH A DAY"

Keith Miller has entered his fourth month of his "Catch a Fish a Day" year-long personal challenge. His fishing escapades include local fishing trips to the neighborhood pond, to several TPWD Go Fish! events, and out of state to Illinois (where unfortunately his rod became a victim of abuse by the airlines or airport security), and most recently, Florida. He is beginning to garner national attention via radio and TV programs, including Alan Warren's Outdoor radio program and ESPN. Get a daily update of where he's fishing and what he's catching on his Facebook page.

LIFE'S BETTER OUTSIDE EXPERIENCE

The Angler Ed program staff and volunteers continue to support TPWD's Life's Better Outside Experience (LBOE) events

with the Take Me Fishing trailer exhibit, backyard bass activities and more. The most recent event, Mayfest, was held in Fort Worth on the banks of the Trinity River. Mayfest had the largest attendance (3,900+) figures of all events to date. Other events included the Waco Cultural Arts Festival and the Houston and San Antonio rodeos. The goal of the LBOE events is to introduce outdoor recreation to unengaged Texans.

DO YOU TWEET?

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has taken to social media like a redfish to water with over 60 Facebook pages from around the state, six Twitter feeds, a YouTube channel with over half a million views, a Flickr site and a main Facebook page with 45,000+ fans. TPWDFish and TPWDBass are two of the official Twitter accounts that the agency offers. The Texas Anglers Education Facebook page has 358 followers. Our goal is to provide a gateway to the outdoors. Connect with us at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/socialmedia/

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Carter P. Smith

Editors
Karen Marks
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Life's better outside.®

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"To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."

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

www.tpwd.state.tx.us

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Left: These Brownsville families helped achieve an attendance record for Kid Fish.

Right: Junior Munoz, lead maintenance ranger at Resaca de la Palma State Park, loves fishing, kids and teaching.

Photos by
Nathaniel Flores.



Angler Education Volunteers Help Break Guinness World Record

DR. REYNALDO RAMIREZ – Angler Education Area Chief (South Texas)

Angler Education volunteers helped to set the new world record for the largest “Kid Fish” tournament on Saturday, May 21. The new world record set at the Las Huellas Kid Fish Tournament brought in 2,206 youth anglers from around the Brownsville, Texas area. The event was a culmination of the combined efforts of city, county and state officials, police, fire department and the Las Huellas conservation organization.

“Las Huellas is Spanish for ‘The Tracks’—wildlife tracks,” says David Mendez, event organizer. “The Las Huellas organization serves as an advocate for the benefit of South Texas wildlife and for the rights of South Texas wildlife managers, landowners and sportsmen in educational and wildlife habitat-related arenas.”

Among the hundreds of volunteers was a group of Texas Parks and Wildlife Angler Education volunteers including **Dr. Greg Garcia, Emilio Barrientos, Erik Machado, Hector Contreras, Jose Fraire** and several others. The volunteers assisted by parking cars, passing out equipment, registering participants, and verifying that kids were actually fishing. Nearly 900 rod and reel combos were donated to participating children. Junior Munoz, lead maintenance ranger at Resaca de la Palma State Park, who loves fishing, kids and teaching, also volunteered at the event.

The previous record was held by Deportivo de Pesca Manzanillo, AC (Mexico) and it attracted a mix of 769 children and adults. The Brownsville kid fish tournament was truly an event that brought out the best in getting children out of doors. Parents and children lined the resaca (ox-bow lake) near the Brownsville Event Center near Paredes Line Road. David Mendez, the chief organizer and Las Huellas treasurer, believes that it was the combined efforts of volunteers and officials at all levels

that made the event such a successful venture. He is currently planning another event for next year and has already attracted funding to support another ambitious kids fish tournament.

Guinness adjudicator Johanna Hessling was on hand to make certain that the count was verified and accurate. Volunteers were given a stretch of bank to assist children and eventually count those that were fishing at a specified time. Of course, the volunteers spent time untangling lines and offering advice to both children and their parents. Hessling commented about how serious the children were about fishing. Out of the thousands fishing, only a handful were disqualified for not having their lines in the water.

A half-mile stretch of the resaca was sealed at each end by netting to keep the 2,000 pounds of catfish contained for the children to fish. Not only did the event break the record, but four-year-old Maryhan Saleh landed a 27½ inch catfish to take first place. She was one of several winners in one of three age categories: 6 and under, 7 to 11, and 12 to 16 (some of which appeared to be smaller than the fish they caught!). David hopes that next year he can convince fishery and other conservation organizations to deliver 3,000 to 4,000 pounds of catfish for the children. When it happens again, Texas Parks and Wildlife Angler Education volunteers will be there to offer their support.

Check Out the TPWD Fishing Report

There are many things about fishing that we don't know. We use our best theories, hunches, fishing stories and high-dollar electronics to make our best guess on where the fish will be and how to catch 'em. Most of us we are restricted to weekends or other limited times when we can't go on the most optimum days. Moreover, the pressures of work and family life further limit our ability to keep track of fish movements and the season in general. So we rely on one of the most accessible pieces of information to guide us on when to go fishing: The Fishing Report.

Texas Parks and Wildlife publishes an online weekly fishing report — www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishreport.

Reports are updated each week, usually by

Thursday morning.

Fishing reports can be simple or include a host of information that everyone may not understand. To take advantage and best understand the information to make your fishing trip more productive, here is an article submitted to our Facebook page by **Marc Marchand**, also known as "The Fishing Librarian."

Enjoy and
Have Fun Fishing,
Kevin Cunningham



How to Read a Fishing Report

MARC MARCHAND – The Fishing Librarian

A great question was posed to me by an angler regarding what the "poor, fair, good, excellent, etc." ratings mean that are assigned to each species of fish in the Lake Arlington fishing reports that I post weekly. Often there is much more to a fishing report than first meets the eye. Here are my thoughts on how to read a fishing report.

Fishing reports are a general guide for helping anglers to both increase their odds of success when fishing a given body of water, as well as helping them to have a better idea of what the fish are doing. So "poor, fair, good, and excellent" is a rating of what the general bite is like for that particular species. It's difficult to put a particular number to it.

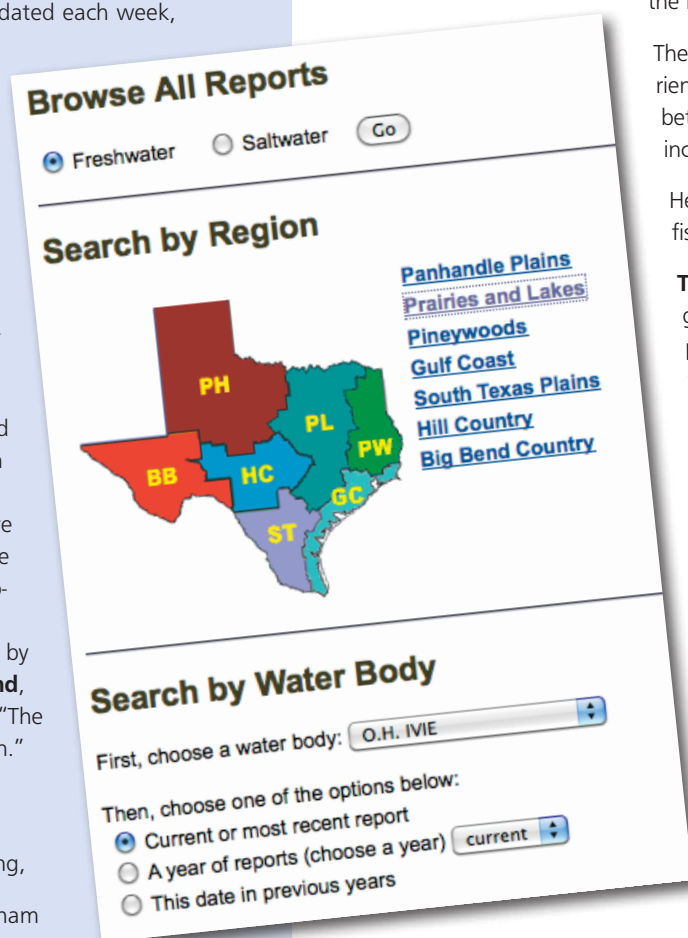
When I do the Lake Arlington fishing reports, there are several factors that I consider when giving a rating: number of fish caught, number and types of bites in a given time frame, weather patterns prior to the report and the predicted weather pattern for the upcoming week, water clarity, moon phase, barometric pressure trends, water temperature, seasonal patterns, and what I'm hearing from other anglers I talk to and how it compares to what I am experiencing out on the lake ... aka, "dock talk."

The goal is to take all of this information, combine it with my experience and post a report that is going to give the weekend angler a better understanding of what the fish are doing and to help them increase their odds of success when heading out on the water.

Here is my advice to anglers at any level on how to read a fishing report:

THE DATE: This tells me if the report is current and within a given region of the country; tells me generally what seasonal phase I can expect to find the species of fish I will be trying to catch. Maybe it's early summer, maybe it's pre-spawn or spawn, maybe it's a deep water winter pattern, etc. I'm a librarian, so many times I am researching old fishing reports and articles to find what the trends in the seasonal patterns are for a given body of water. Maybe it's a lake that traditionally produces a late spawn! That's important to know.

WATER CLARITY: Now that I know when the report is being given, I want to know if the water is clear, lightly stained, stained, heavily stained, muddy, etc. I'm going to be thinking about the seasonal patterns and where fish are, typically, during that time. If the water is heavily stained or muddy, fish may be holding tight to cover, and oxygen may be limited. If the water is heavily stained or muddy I may add rattles to my jig, use spinnerbaits with larger Colorado blades, or use darker colors, etc.



(Continued on the next page)



FISHING REPORTS ARE A GENERAL GUIDE FOR HELPING ANGLERS TO BOTH INCREASE THEIR ODDS OF SUCCESS WHEN FISHING A GIVEN BODY OF WATER, AS WELL AS HELPING THEM TO HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT THE FISH ARE DOING.

WATER TEMP: This is critical. Now that I know the season (date) and the general condition of the water, the water temperature is going to help me determine where in the seasonal pattern I might find fish (pre-spawn, spawn, post-spawn, fall, summer, etc.). Just because it's winter to us, according to the calendar or air temperature, it doesn't necessarily mean that the fish know that. A warm water power plant lake in the winter may have a water temp of 65 degrees, so I may be looking for fish on spawning beds in January! If the water temp is 90 degrees on Lake Arlington in July, I'm going to be looking for deeper and cooler areas that have more dissolved oxygen, more bait fish, and more current.

LAKE LEVEL: With lakes that I have the most familiarity, the lake level is most important to me for two factors: it tells me if some of my favorite spots are in the water or out of the water and to what navigation hazards I should give special attention. For example, I had a favorite catfishing hole on Lake Tawakoni years ago where I knew by looking at the report online down to the inch whether or not I could cross the shallow flat to get to it. Along with the previous factors of date, water clarity and water temp, if the lake is rising I generally expect the bite to be better than if the lake level is falling.

FISH PATTERNS: At this point, you begin to see why some anglers pay very little attention to this section of the fishing report. For some, it's

merely interesting to note that the crappie are good to excellent on jigs over brush piles. But, more experienced anglers probably already knew that just by reading the information above! This section is particularly interesting, because it gives the angler a clearer idea of how the fish are biting and how they are behaving. This section is the least scientific. There are many factors that I consider when assigning a value and a technique to each species — but regardless of how well I did I also consider what the average angler can expect to encounter when they go fishing. The irony is that this can change by the hour, and so it is a snapshot both of what the fish are doing and how they are biting as well as a recommendation of techniques anglers should try over the next several days.

I hope this helps. Please feel free to send me more questions. Being a librarian, I would be remiss if I didn't invite you to visit your local public library to learn more about fish ecology and biology. I have heard professional anglers often say that luck has very little to do with their success. I believe them. The more we understand fish, the more we increase our odds of success on the water. That said, there will always be a place for grabbing a can of worms and a cane pole and trying your luck in a local creek. Be safe and I'll see you on the water!

Am I using the wrong bait?

Bobbers Up!

The deadline to turn in your class/outreach reports for 2011 is September 10.

How many students have you reached? Get credit for your volunteer hours! Let's keep the Angler Education program ALIVE!

Email, fax or mail your reports to:

genevieve.lung@tpwd.state.tx.us Fax: (512) 389-8673

TPWD, Attn: Aquatic Education, 4200 Smith School Rd, Austin, TX 78744



About GO FISH!

KEVIN CUNNINGHAM

"Go Fish!" Learn-to-Fish events are held at selected state parks each year so that families can spend quality time together in the outdoors while learning the joy of fishing through fun, hands-on activities. Actual fishing is also included with all bait and tackle provided, free of charge! Since these events are held in Texas state parks, no fishing license is required for adults to come and test the waters to see if they want to become anglers. Best of all, the fun, friendly and experienced atmosphere that our volunteers provide is irreplaceable and makes everyone who comes feel welcomed and appreciated.

From October to May, 1,509 kids and 872 adults learned to fish at 32 events at 11 state parks through 1,351 contact hours of volunteer instruction (worth more than \$23,000 to the agency). Participant surveys also revealed the following information:

- 25% of kids had never fished before and 40% had only fished a few times before the event.
- 40% of adult attendees indicated they had little experience with fishing.
- Only 26% of adults had their fishing license (52% planned to buy a license soon).
- 44% had not been to the park before.
- 95% of all participants said they had learned new information at the event and that they would like to fish and return to the park again.

Best of all, 71 people caught their first fish ever at one of our events.

So if you know of anyone who would like to learn to fish or if you would like to bring a group, feel free to come to one of our future Go Fish! events. For a list of state parks and upcoming event dates, go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/gofish/



Go Fish! at McKinney Falls State Park

KELLY SERIO – McKinney Falls State Park Interpreter

Summer is upon us but it has already been a banner year for Go Fish! programs at McKinney Falls State Park. Interest and attendance in the Learn-to-Fish programming is strong and continues to improve. Of course a program like this doesn't take off all on its own!

Thanks to **Lisa Roberts**, who runs our park's Go Fish! program, and she always brings donuts. Lisa has fostered relationships with a host of wonderful volunteers. There are so many, I could not name them all and I can hardly express my gratitude to those people for making the most generous donation of their time. Our Go Fish! volunteers bring a passion to angler education that is impossible to disguise.

Having the Tackle Loaner program available at McKinney Falls SP has been a major asset to the success of Learn to Fish programming. For many people this equipment may provide the only opportunity they have to go fishing and to experience the joy of watching their child catch their first fish.

Increasing the odds of making that big catch for many of our visitors, Inland Fisheries has been generous enough to stock Onion Creek for our Go Fish! events. I witnessed one young man and his dad land a channel cat not far from where the fish were released, their excitement was contagious! Everyone nearby wanted to catch one of those!

This March, the Lone Star Dutch Oven Society (LSDOS) Wildflower Chapter joined us for one of our Go Fish! events. They provided an outdoor cooking demonstration that visitors could participate in before or after their fishing. The LSDOS Wildflower Chapter is very popular, not only do the visitors love watching and learning their craft but they fed the rangers and you know that goes a long way! The Friends of McKinney Falls also held a program during the Go Fish! event. We were unsure when coordinating this — I was concerned that it might distract from the angler education, but it was a tremendous success. With so many activities, participation was the highest it has ever been at this site. I highly recommend "piggy-backing" additional programming onto a Go Fish! event.

We concluded our summer Go Fish! season with our special "Mom's Fish, Too" and "Dad's Day" Youth Fishing Derby events. Thanks to Ann Miller for providing the photos, and of course this wonderful program, she will be missed but I know that we all wish her the very best!

Have fun and go fish!

TPWD Recognizes National Volunteer Month

KEVIN CUNNINGHAM

April was National Volunteer Month, and TPWD has plenty to celebrate, with a long history of volunteer support worth millions of dollars in donated labor. In fiscal year 2010, volunteers provided close to 955,000 hours of service worth an estimated \$16.9 million. These estimates were recently compiled by the department's Volunteer Program coordinators and represent many different types of volunteering. State parks and historic sites alone receive volunteer service worth approximately 290 full time employees, saving the division almost \$10 million per year in avoided costs for administrative, maintenance, interpretive and park host duties throughout the state. But volunteers are also vital for wildlife management areas and state fish hatcheries. The agency has entire education programs that are built upon and could not function without statewide volunteers, including hunter, boater and angler education and archery instruction.

In honor of our volunteers in Angler Education and another year of hard work put forth by Houston area instructors, the second annual volunteer appreciation day was held at Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson on Saturday, June 11. Angler Education volunteers and their families enjoyed a day of relaxing fishing on the stocked red-fish ponds, hatchery tours, aquariums and touch tanks, and fellowship with fellow instructors. To top it all off was an exquisite array of fried fish, french fries, potluck side items, desserts, popsicles and drinks.

About 70 people showed up for the fun-filled day and it was a joyful success. Everyone enjoyed the event and looks forward to doing it again next year. It is nice to get together in a family reunion type setting where we can all just meet and greet. In an e-mail we received from the cook:

Just wanted to drop a line and congratulate you on a job well done with the fish fry and fishing event for the volunteers. It looks like a bunch of folks really enjoyed the day. Coming from a volunteer background and having chaired a committee at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, I can tell you the volunteers always appreciate a "gracias." You did a great thing on Saturday and your program is stronger for it. Just wanted to give the kudos it deserved. Thanks again for the opportunity. My family really enjoyed themselves and the kids are still talking about the "giant" fish they caught. As well, I met some great folks, made some new friends and really enjoyed cooking for a most appreciative group.

As you say ... Best Fishes to you.

Mike Martinez

Thank you, **Mike Martinez**, for taking the time to bring all your equipment and cook on such short notice. A big thanks goes to **David Murphy**, as well for providing all the speckled trout. Thank you to **Chuck and Ada Ganze, Sam Salvo, Jerry Weyant, Damon Catching, Lloyd Love, Bill Brown**, Sea Center tour guides and staff, and all the other volunteers who also worked hard to make the event a success.



Catch of the day.
Photos by
Kevin Cunningham.



Mike Martinez
selflessly serves
up some tasty
speckled trout.

Fellow instructors and their families enjoy a fishing family reunion.



VOLUNTEERS ARE A HUGE PART OF BUSINESS AND FAMILY

at Texas Parks and Wildlife. In addition to programming made possible through the Angler Education program, volunteers also make possible TPWD's traveling Life's Better Outside Experience at partner events, Texas Master Naturalists, Texas Nature Trackers, the Texas Youth Hunting Program, Coastal Expos, and more. Links to volunteer opportunities are on the Get Involved page of the TPWD website (www.tpwd.state.tx.us/involved/volunteer/).

A very special thanks goes out to the heart of every volunteer for making life more meaningful for us and all the families we touch.

Growing the Next Generation

KEVIN CUNNINGHAM



Most of the time we are concerned with passing on fishing skills in the hope that kids and their families, in learning to fish, will adopt fishing as a pastime, and through building a connection to the outdoors, will become a steward of the resource for future generations. We are doing our best to achieve that goal and although our best hope lies in future license sales to support conservation it is not something easily tracked or measured.

A larger part of this effort is education. For most of us that immediately means Angler Education. However, overall academic success is also important to ensure that the lessons we teach and that the web of interconnected concepts are accepted and understood. Moreover, academic success through outdoor education contributes to growing the next generation of potential conservationists.

Student scholarships, through fishing and related outdoor education programs, are doing their part to growing the next generation. **Junior Angler and Hunters of America (JrAHA)** are trying to increase student awareness of the outdoors, their role in it, and what they can do to contribute. Recently, JrAHA began awarding scholarships to qualified students in Houston ISD that participated in fishing and archery education activities sponsored by the organization.

Juliette Casa was awarded the JrAHA Female Archer Scholarship Award for 2011. Ms. Casa will be graduating from The High School for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (HISD) and will be attending St. Thomas University Houston in the fall. Her PE teacher is fellow Angler Education and NASP instructor **Elaine Gomez**. Geronimo Hernandez is the JrAHA Male Archer Scholarship Award recipient for 2011. Mr. Hernandez will be graduating from S.F. Austin High School (HISD) and will be attending Houston Community College in the fall. His Ag-Science teacher is fellow Angler Education and NASP instructor **CG Guerrero**.

JrAHA will present these awards on August 8 at their Annual Golf Fund Raising Event at Raveneaux Country Club. The awards will be \$1,000 in cash and it is the recipient's to spend any way they want to that will make going to school next fall more affordable. Congratulations to these students for their participation in the National Archery in Schools Program,

their archery performances in competition at the local and state level, their community service while in their senior year, and their commitment to graduation from high school in preparing themselves for the future through continued education. These are the measures in which they were judged for the award.

Two other categories for JrAHA scholarships that will be evaluated in the fall of 2011 for awards in 2012 will include Best Male and Female Angler Education Student and Best Male and Female Shooting Sports Participant. Details on these scholarship programs are available on their website (www.jraha.com).

Other organizations doing their part to grow the next generation include the The Bass Federation, the Coastal Conservation Association, and the Federation of Student Anglers. These groups utilize variations of competitive tournaments to award scholarship funds to youth. The CCA, (www.ccatexas.org) through their open STAR tournament, which runs from May 28 to September 5, will award over 290 thousand dollars in scholarship money to students that place throughout several different tournament divisions.

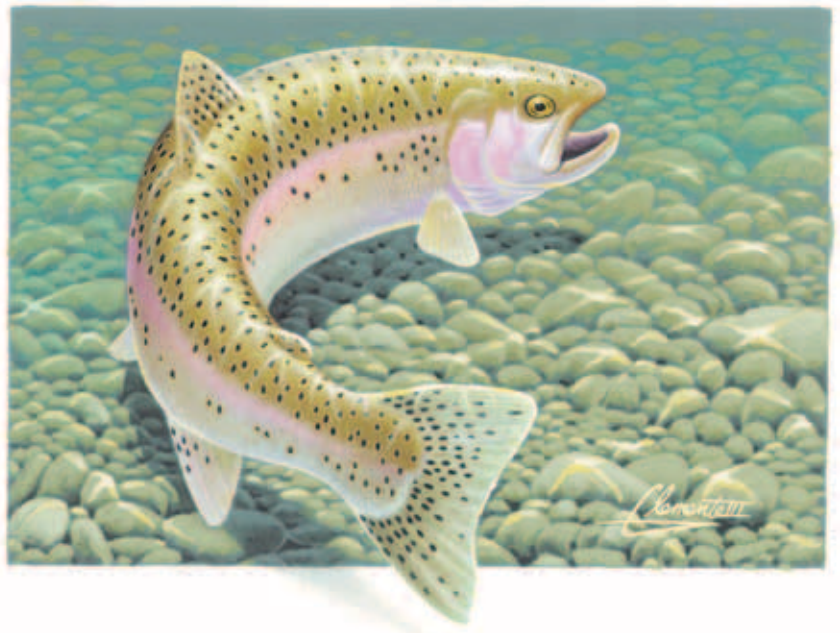
The Bass Federation (www.highschoolfishing.org) is currently making inroads towards the establishment of high school fishing club teams. Their efforts focus on promoting education through fishing as a vehicle in which students can get involved in school through friendly social competition. TBF offers club benefits, support, and fundraising opportunities. This year TBF held its first Texas state championship tournament at Lake Lavon near Allen, Texas on May 21. Several anglers from all over the state of Texas registered to fish the inaugural event. Approximately 16 different schools were represented. Marble Falls High School Fishing Club brought the most teams with six. Willis High School Fishing Club

brought three teams. Many teams came from as far south as Houston to compete in this first ever state championship. Rockwall-Heath High School Anglers Alec Castonguay and Cameron Elder took first; Trent Newman and Taylor Jones of Midlothian second; and Colby Sydow and Nick Kissamis of Katy High School took third.

The Federation of Student Anglers (www.fishingstudents.com) based in Texas, also builds semi-competitive fishing clubs and chapter groups. Fishing primarily from kayaks, their programs focus on angler development, paddling skills, and outdoor education. As members of FSA, student anglers fish in monthly middle and high school tournaments, online tournaments and tagged fish tournaments. They also have the opportunity to participate in chapter and club outings, coast and river trips, and attend boat building, lure making, rod making and fly fishing/tying classes. All anglers fish against other middle or high school teams for trophies, fishing equipment, and up to \$25,000 in scholarships per chapter per school year! Anglers of all skill levels, both male and female, are invited to join.

Growing the next generation of anglers is something we are all striving to do in our own way. Academic success and education are in no doubt an avenue through which our youth will inevitably contribute to society and preserve our natural resources for the future. As we move forward and continue to teach students fishing skills, along the way we should try to let them know of scholarship opportunities available to them. These are some examples of scholarships available but there are more. If you are aware of outdoor education scholarships available in your area please let us know. Let's all do our part to grow the next generation of conservationists.

Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) belong to the Salmonidae family and are cold water fish, preferring water with temperatures below 70°F. Carnivores, rainbow trout feed on a wide variety of prey including insects, crustaceans, mollusks and fish. Since rainbow trout generally do not reproduce in Texas, and are unable to survive through the summer in most areas, the species is primarily used in winter put-and-take fisheries. However, the cold, clear-flowing water of the Guadalupe River below Canyon Dam is able to support the species year-round.



Fly Fishers Reel In New Anglers

KAREN MARKS

TROUTFEST

A new fly fishing event, Troutfest, sponsored by the Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, was held over a span of three days in mid-February. The fly fishing banquet and expo was situated on the banks of the Guadalupe River below Canyon Dam at Rio Raft Resort west of New Braunfels.

Friday evening's banquet featured TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith as the keynote speaker, and a film festival was held Saturday evening. Numerous exhibitors and speakers were on hand and hundreds of people visited the various Angler Education activities where members of the **Hill Country Fly Fishing Club** and the **Fredericksburg Fly Fishing Club** assisted with aquatic entomology ("bug-picking"), fly tying and casting. Inland Fisheries staff displayed trout in an aquarium exhibit. The trout were later released into the river.

"TPWD has supported the winter trout fishery for years" explains Ron Smith, Inland Fisheries Division program specialist. "Each winter, rainbow trout are stocked in community fishing lakes around the state. This year, 200,604 adult-sized fish were released between mid-November and March." Stocking dates and locations are available on the TPWD website.

FLY FISH TEXAS

Fly fishers of all levels descended upon Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens for the annual Fly Fish Texas in March. With attendance over 750 people, the event would not be possible without the generous support from members of fly fishing clubs from across the state, including the **Austin Fly Fishers**, **Brazos Valley Fly Fishers** (Bryan/College Station), **Central Texas Flyrodders** (Waco), **Central Texas Fly Fishers** (San Marcos), **Dallas Fly Fishers**, **East Texas Fly Fishers** (Longview), **Fort Worth Fly Fishers**, **Montgomery County Flyrodders** (Conroe/Spring), **Pineywoods Fly Fishers** (Lufkin/Nacogdoches), **Red River**

Fly Fishers (Denison/Sherman), **Texas Fly Fishers** (Houston), and the **Texas Women Fly Fishers**. Participants learned basic fly tying and fly casting, and attended seminars. Afterwards anglers practiced their new skills and fished for rainbow trout in TFFC's on-site ponds and streams.

FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS CONCLAVE

Many of our Angler Ed program volunteers congregated in San Antonio at the 5th annual Gulf Coast Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) Conclave in May. Kudos to **Guy Harrison**, who arranged for a free exhibit booth for TPWD and to **Walter McLendon** and **Martin Pursch** who helped out at the booth.

CLASSES AND EVENTS

The **Red River Fly Fishers** and Eisenhower State Park hosted the annual "Texoma on the Fly" in June. The event included fly tying demos and classes, casting and exhibitors.

Also in June, the **Central Texas Flyfishers Club** held a basic class. New to the sport, participant John Montez said "The class was really interesting. It was all hands-on. I learned about the different stages of life for an insect, and how to match it up with a fly. In all, I believe I found a new hobby because this type of fishing doesn't need a lot of equipment, and makes you feel more connected to your surroundings."

In addition to working with local Boy Scouts, members of the **Dallas Flyfishers Club** have recently begun to hold weekly fly tying events at the Bass Pro Shop in Grapevine, and at Cabela's in Allen to reel in the general public to the sport.

While the majority of our volunteer instructors consist of conventional tackle anglers, we value the expertise, talents and dedication of the small cadre of fly fishers and appreciate the opportunity to partner with the various community clubs to share the sport with others.

A recent survey of our volunteers indicated that only a handful are fully aware of the vast stringer of education resources available in the Instructor Guide and on TPWD's website. This new page will feature a fun, hands-on activity to use with your fishing students (young or old).

The Story of Freddy the Fish

www.tpwdmagazine.com/ktw/media/february-11-vol.3-issue6.pdf

SUMMARY

You will demonstrate the effects of pollution on fish by reading the story of Freddy the Fish as he travels downstream. To make it interactive, use student volunteers to play the part of Freddy and to pour "pollution" into the water.

TIME

About 10-15 minutes

AGE

K-6th grade.

Grades 2 or older can read the part of Freddy. For older students, add more complex sources of run-off and modify Freddy's comments. There are alternate versions of the Freddy the Fish story on the web to give you more ideas.

MATERIALS

Fish bowl or small aquarium. A few rocks and a small twig for the fish bowl. Water. Stick or rod that reaches across the top of the fish bowl. A fishing lure that looks like a small fish or small plastic fish. String.

Small cups to hold:

- Dirt
- Raisins
- Green liquid – use green food coloring, lime powdered drink mix or powder gelatin mixed in water
- Pancake syrup or soy sauce
- Sand or bits of limestone
- Parts of a styrofoam cup, paper, a broken plastic spoon, etc.
- Script for "Freddy Says" cut apart

DIRECTIONS

Use a fish bowl or small aquarium with clean water, a few rocks on the bottom and a stick in the water to represent some vegetation. Using a rod or ruler and string, suspend the lure about mid-way down in the water. This is Freddy.

Ask for volunteers. You need some who like to read out loud and some who like to be messy. For large groups, use 10 volunteers, two for each stop along the way, with one student playing Freddy and the other pours in the pollution on your signal. Be sure to line the children up in order with their scripts and cups of pollution.

Tell the children that they are about to go on an imaginary journey with Freddy the Fish. (Introduce Freddy). Let them know that the volunteers will be talking for Freddy. Encourage the rest of the children to react as Freddy would react during the story.

SCRIPT

NARRATOR

FREDDY SAYS (CHILD VOLUNTEER)

1

Here he goes! (Wiggle Freddy.)

As Freddy swims downstream, he comes to a place where people will be building new, big houses. Big bulldozers knocked down trees to make way for building.

(Read Freddy Says)

It begins to rain. There are no tree roots to hold the soil in along the river bank and dirt slides down into the water.

(Dump soil in into Freddy's jar.)

Oh, no, Freddy! How is Freddy? ("Yuck!")

It's getting sunny and hot.

What happened?

All the trees are cut down!

2

Freddy swims on down the river. See if you can guess where he is now.

(Read Freddy Says) (Pour raisins into the water.)

Where is Freddy? (pasture, ranch or farm)

Are these good presents for Freddy?

Look! There are some big, brown animals with horns coming down to visit me! One of them said, "Moo!" Oh, look — he's leaving me some presents!!

3

Freddy swims farther on down the river. He comes to a new place.

(Read Freddy Says) (Pour in green liquid)

Oh, no, Freddy!

Where is Freddy? (next to a golf course) Some golf courses put lots of fertilizer on the grass to keep it green. Extra fertilizer runs off into the river, especially when it rains. This hurts our rivers and streams.

How is Freddy?

I see a bunch of people hitting a little ball with a stick! Look at that green, green, GREEN grass! Hey, here's a little stream running off of that grass. Oh, no — it's sticky, green stuff!

4

Freddy swims beside a house. Someone is changing the oil in his car. Wait — is he pouring the oil down the storm drain along the street??

(Read Freddy Says) (Pour pancake syrup into Freddy's jar.)

How is Freddy?

That man doesn't know that storm drains go straight into the river! Anything we pour into the street goes straight into our streams and rivers!

Oh, no! Oil is coming out of that pipe!

The oil is heading right for me!

My gills are getting covered in oil !!!

5

Poor, Freddy! Off he swims.

(Read Freddy Says) (Pour sand or rock dust into the water)

Oh, my! All that sand and rock dust is blowing into the water. What do you think of the water Freddy is in now? How is Freddy?

Wow, there are big trucks digging in the dirt over there. What's all that stuff blowing into the water?

6

Freddy swims past the city park. Some picnickers didn't throw their trash into the garbage can. The wind is blowing it into the river.

(Read Freddy Says) (Sprinkle parts of a Styrofoam cup, paper, a broken plastic spoon, etc. into the water.)

How is Freddy?

Ahh, look. People are having a picnic.

Oh, no! What's all this junk in the water??

I can — hardly — get — through — all — this — litter! Yuck!



Once an angler, always an angler. Photo by Cindy McLemore.

The Forgotten Anglers

CINDY McLEMORE – Angler Education Area Chief
and Lake Texana State Park Interpreter

Are you looking to expand your fishing programs to different groups? One of the often overlooked groups can be the most enthusiastic. I am talking about those living in the nursing homes and assisted living facilities. As these folks arrived their eager faces were a joy to see as they took up their poles for a morning of fishing.

Often the seniors living in assisted facilities spent their younger days fishing but are no longer able to enjoy getting out to go fishing. Others there would love to try fishing for the first time. There may also be those with special needs in this group. One thing they have in common is their enjoyment of the sport of fishing.

Palacios Health Care in Palacios brings a group to Lake Texana State Park every year. They start fishing in the morning out on the pier and then they have a cook out in the day use area.

Every group they bring shows how important fishing is. The first time they came out one lady kept saying, "I'm fishing. No, I'm not ready to eat, I'm fishing." She was overjoyed at being able to fish again. This reflects how most of the seniors view their fishing experience. Many of these anglers spent their younger days fishing and were excited about

wetting a line again. Unlike the children we are trying to get hooked on fishing these are those that are hooked but unable to get out and enjoy their favorite pastime.

Every time they bait a hook, get a nibble, and pull in a fish memories take them back to the good times they had. The group this year went from fishing to catching. They pulled in sunfish, catfish, and even a bowfin. True, they weren't large fish, but each one brought a cherished smile to the faces on the pier. They had a fantastic time and finished off the afternoon with a cook out.

It's amazing how a few cane poles, some bait, and plenty of sunshine can bring such happiness. So let's not forget those who spent their lives enjoying fishing and can't get out on their own to enjoy the great sport of fishing.

It's a Jiggy Thing

LARRY M. CONDRA – TPWD Area Chief and Fishing's Future Master Angler – Abilene Chapter

Artificial bait in freshwater — just what are you talking about? Well, the answer is just about anything you might want to use to "lure" a fish into biting that is not alive or natural. Some are made from metal, some wood, some hard plastic, some soft plastic, some wire, some have hair or wiggly material on them. Some look like flies you might slap with a fly swatter. And colors, well, let me tell you any color you can conceive can be reproduced on artificial baits.

Now, why is this important? Many folks have great success and love to fish live or natural baits. But a lot of fisherpersons love to fool fish with artificial baits. We could discuss many different artificial baits but one in particular is used by bass fisherman, folks chasing crappie or many other pan fish. It is called a jig.

A jig is made using a specially bent hook with a weight built into it. Jigs come in weights from 1/64 of an ounce to several ounces and even heavier for use in salt water. They come with all manner of skirts such as marabou or hair-like material adorning them and hiding the hook. Some come with small fish like tips or wiggly soft plastic trailers. Others come with trailers such as artificial crawfish and even items that are more exotic. Black, white and every color in between and some that are hard to imagine are used on jigs

Jigs can be bounced along the bottom, cast or dropped into heavy cover, swum from point A to B, and they can be fished for suspended fish at any depth. One way to fish a jig is the pendulum technique. The angler casts the jig and engages the reel which stops the outward movement of the bait. As the bait sinks to the desired level it is actually moving through various depths as it "pendulums" back to you.

Of course, heavier weight jigs will sink to the bottom quicker and are easier to fish, by crawling the bottom. Smaller jigs can be fished with more finesse due to their lighter weight. Heavier weight jigs, for sure, come with heavier hooks for really big fish and being able to horse that old bucket mouth out of heavy cover.

Jigs can be fished very quickly or very slowly. Much cover can be touched by the jig to jolt the fish out and to bite. Jigs are used to fish for a wide variety of species of freshwater fish. Largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, and other species can be caught using jigs of various sizes. It takes a little practice learning how to fish jigs properly in various circumstances and for different game fish. They can be made to act differently in different water clarities and depths.

Jigs are found in nearly every angler's tackle box. Don't count the lowly jig out. It is one of my favorite baits and using an artificial bait can sure help on the pocket book ... that is, until you start losing them.



With Baited Breath

STEVE CAMPBELL
Aquatic Education –
North Texas/
Panhandle

A Night at Boudreaux's

Shortly after arriving in Victoria, to assume the mantle of Education Curator at the Texas Zoo, one of my first engagements was to speak at the New Victorians group. This organization helped recent immigrants to Victoria get the lay-of-the-land and help to fit in.

The meeting was held at Boudreaux's, a local Cajun restaurant. I had already fallen in love with the Texas Zoo, which only exhibited animals native to Texas, and Victoria was beginning to grow on me rapidly. But with my first taste of the jambalaya at Boudreaux's, my life-long love affair with the city and this eatery began in full earnest. I had arrived home, and soon began referring to myself as a born-again Victorian, with Boudreaux's as my gastronomic temple.

I spent many evenings there, worshiping, and consuming, at the altar of the omnipresent mudbug, sampling as much Cajun cuisine as my stomach and wallet could support. My favorite dish became the Cajun Shrimp. It was an entrée so spicy it would make your scalp sweat for three days.

On one particular night, Doug, the owner of this fine establishment, decided on a theme for a special evening – oysters on the half-shell and Zydeco music. Now I've never been a big fan, or even a small one for that matter, but I really enjoy oysters, prepared in almost any fashion, but preferring them raw.

As the evening progressed, I found myself really getting into the experience. I took two oyster shells and began to bang them together, over my head, in time to the beat of the music. At the time, I thought that not only was I being entertaining, but that my rhythm was awesome.

Showering the next morning before work, I discovered that my hair was full of gritty chunks of oyster shell. For a moment, I was confused by this and then remembered the previous evening and my bivalved castanet. Then I pondered ways to avoid this from happening in the future.

Wear a hat? No, that's not polite when indoors.

It was at that moment I struck with the solution, swear off Zydeco music forever. And I've made good on that promise.

Fish on! I ger-ron-tee!

Note: Zydeco is a form of American folk music that originated in southwestern Louisiana in the early 19th century. The name itself is taken from either les haricots (pronounced le zarico), French for "snap beans."

Winners Announced for the State-Fish Art Contest Show and Fair at Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center



Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center hosted the 13th annual Wildlife Forever State-Fish Art Expo on June 25. Students from across the nation gathered in Athens to compete for national honors and receive awards for winning their state contests.

Wildlife Forever's 13th annual State-Fish Art Contest was made possible by support from the North American Fishing Club; Rapala; Blick Art Materials; The Art Institutes International, Minnesota; the U.S. Forest Service Eastern Region; and the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

www.wildlifeever.org

GiGi Barker of Village Mills took first place for grades 10–12 in the Texas division of the Wildlife Forever State-Fish Art Contest with her drawing of a bluegill.

© Wildlife Forever



Chiefly Speaking

STEVE CAMPBELL

From every corner in Texas, TPWD Angler Education Area Chiefs descended on Parrie Haynes Ranch this past April for our annual meeting and training. Area Chiefs are a small group of dedicated Angler Education instructors who have volunteered to help the Aquatic Education team recruit and train other instructors. It was also an opportunity to say goodbye to our beloved coordinator, Ann Miller.

For those that arrived on Friday, we held a good old-fashioned cookout. Each participant brought what they wished to eat and cooked it on the Parrie Haynes grill. They say an army marches on its stomach; well, we discovered that Area Chiefs march pretty darn hard themselves.

That evening, a number of Area Chiefs offered mini-workshops. **Charles Schons** held a knot tying seminar while **Guy Harrison**, **Walter McLendon**, and **Rey Ramirez** taught a session of fly tying. Ever heard of a duct tape fly? Of course, the fire ring drew a lot of attention from attendees. There's something to be said about a nice big campfire to sit around and lie about fishing.

Saturday morning, after one of Parrie Haynes' world famous breakfasts, we got to the point. Ann provided the group with a PowerPoint presentation, giving us an overview of the success of our program and volunteer efforts. Collectively, we taught 395 classes, touching over

46,000 Texans. Volunteers contributed over 17,000 hours, the in-kind equivalent of more than \$279,000! And hey, we're on Facebook too!

Next on the agenda was our fearless leader, Lydia Saldaña, Communications Division director. Lydia addressed the state's budget issues, stressing that the Angler Education volunteers will be even more valuable for the future of this program. Dave Terre, chief of management and research for TPWD's Inland Fisheries Division, followed Lydia and spoke of the Inland Fisheries' Neighborhood Fishin' Program which currently has 15 sites in 10 Texas communities.

Twenty-six Area Chiefs were recognized for outstanding achievements (see next page). A new award, Best Facebook Fan, was bestowed upon **Kevin Reich** for his passionate support of our Angler Ed Facebook page. No expense was spared on this unique award! Afterwards, Karen, dressed in a very official looking black robe complete with red, white and blue cords, led the Area Chiefs in an "official federal aid pledge" regarding the timely and accurate completion of Angler Education paperwork. She must have been serious about this; she made them lay their hands on the 2011 TPW Outdoor Annual.

After a prodigious lunch prepared and served by Parrie Haynes staff, break out sessions were offered. **Dr. Rey Ramirez** presented a pro-

gram on how to connect with schools, while Ann led a group on an aquatic ecological excursion, also known as “bug picking.” Karen Marks led a program for those that fear technology and showed participants how it can be our friend. **Walter McLendon** taught folks to cast a fly rod and Kevin held a session for evaluating the establishment of fishing clubs in schools.

With the assistance of Robert Ramirez, our fishing supplies coordinator, and a host of others, Kevin held a mini-session that could be judged not only by the knowledge students obtained, but with their taste buds, as well. They cleaned, filleted and fried the most delicious red drum. I would like to thank **Larry Condra** for sneaking me a doggie bag of redfish; I would have missed out entirely!

After a short recess for napping or fishing, and a very satisfying Parrie Haynes dinner, Area Chiefs and staff began to gather round the old fire pit for what’s become an Area Chief tradition, the Fish-N-Nanny. This is a sing-along of fish music (see *Reel Lines*, July 2007, page 9).

For the past two years we’ve been fortunate to recruit Tom Harvey, TPWD News and Information chief, to be the lead guitarist for what has become known as the Stink Bait Band. This year we surprised Ann with her very own song.

The next morning, after our final Parrie Haynes meal, came the round robin, where Area Chiefs share ideas for teaching tips and products. **Kevin Reich** displayed a converted PVC pipe that is used for outdoor recycling of used fishing line. When mounted near the water’s edge

with attached decals and signs, these receptacles can educate and encourage people to recycle used fishing line.

Shane Wilson (Fishing’s Future) shared his fabric fish. Shane employs seasonal volunteers to make fish-shaped pillows by sewing scrap fabric pieces together. The pillow fish, which range in size from 9 to 22 inches, are used to teach others how to properly measure a fish.

Tim Gebauer (a.k.a. the Big Kahuna) showed us how he incorporates snake identification during the safety discussion in his Angler Ed classes, using a large full color poster of venomous snakes.

Cindy Baker shared images of a compact, sturdy cart that a park volunteer constructed for their Tackle Loaner equipment at Lake Texana State Park in Edna. The rolling cart makes distribution and storing the equipment a breeze.

Next, new and experienced Area Chiefs were divided into small groups. Each group was given a target audience (special needs, scouts, schools, etc.), an Angler Ed topic (knot tying, habitat, etc.) and tasked with demonstrating how to teach the topic. Everyone also received the recently updated Area Chief Manual, complete with sample instructor class agendas. Be sure to request a copy if you have not received one.

If this sounds like a lot of fun, it is! After you check out the photo album on TPWD’s photostream Flickr page (TPWD Fish), perhaps you will consider becoming an Area Chief.

Angler Education Area Chief Awards

Bronze, Silver and Gold 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, 2011.

GOLD (has trained 50+ people)

JEFFREY AKERS	KATY HAMMON
RAUL ALMANZAR	OSCAR MARTINEZ
DAMON CATCHING	DAVID NEYES
LARRY CONDRA	MICHAEL PETRICK
FRANK DE LA ROSA	REYNALDO RAMIREZ
GILBERT DURAN	NOEL RODRIGUEZ
EDUARDO FLORES	BRENDA SHAVER
MARK FOBIAN	HAROLD STEARNS
JESUS FRANCO, JR	TONI VAN DE PUTTE
CHARLES (CHUCK) GANZE	

SILVER (has trained 25–49 people)

WILLIAM HAMMON
ANDREA KITURE
BEVERLY LYTTAKER
JAMES PELLOWSKI

BRONZE (has trained 10–24 people)

JERE ANDERSON
JASON JUSTICE
WALTER MCLENDON

UPCOMING EVENTS



Aquarium and Hatchery Tours – See saltwater aquariums showcasing the diversity of the Texas coast and tour the redfish hatchery. Accessible for the mobility impaired. View aquarium fish feedings every Wednesday and Friday at 10:30 a.m.

September 24

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.

Fall 2011 (Date TBA)

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Fly Fishing Workshop – This event 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.

October 30

1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Halloween Spooktacular – 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 PARKS AND WILDLIFE



TEXAS FRESHWATER FISHERIES CENTER

September 24

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bluegill Family Fishing Tournament – Join us for a fun-filled day of trying to catch the biggest Bluegill here at our center and on Lake Athens. The tournament awards prizes for the heaviest stringers of sunfish, but the event is really about adults and children having fun fishing together. Call for details or to pre-register.

October 27

6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Halloween at the Hatchery – Local businesses and organizations will hand out free candy, and the center will be decorated throughout with a Halloween theme.

UPCOMING EVENTS



October 14 – 16

8th Annual Oktoberfisch Fly Fishing Festival

Morgan Shady Park, 600 South 6th Street, Junction

For more information, email oktoberfisch@hotmail.com

or call (830) 997-8881 or (830) 997-8388

<http://fredericksburgflyfishers.org/oktoberfisch/>

October 28 – 30

Toyota Texas Bass Classic

Lone Star Convention and Expo Center, Conroe

For more details:

<http://toyotatexasbassclassic.com/featured>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – contact Karen Marks,
karen.marks@tpwd.state.tx.us or (512) 389-8833



NEW FISHING REGULATIONS FOR 2011-2012

The recent legislative session brought about several fishing-related regulation changes. These changes will become effective on September 1, 2011. Share this information with your classes and students.

Hand fishing (sometimes known as “noodling”) is now legal for catfish. That includes the game species (channel, blue and flathead catfish.) Existing bag and size limits for those catfishes will apply to hand fishing just like any other method.

For many decades noodling has been illegal (legal in Oklahoma and Louisiana). For those of you that may not know, “noodling” is the act of wading around in the water and sticking your hand blindly into holes where catfish are and enticing them to bite down on your arm.

Fraud or cheating in any fishing tournament (freshwater or saltwater) is now an illegal crime in Texas. Before this, cheating acts were not illegal and only violated tournament rules. Violation of Texas’ fishing tournament fraud law is considered a Class A misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of a \$4,000 fine and a year in jail. If the violation occurs in a tournament offering a prize of \$10,000 or more to an individual angler or team of anglers, the violation escalates to a third-degree felony with a respective rise in penalty thereof.

Red Drum or Redfish have now been designated as the official state saltwater fish of Texas. Up to this point the State Fish of Texas has been the Guadalupe Bass, which will now become the official state freshwater fish.

Texas residents born before January 1, 1931 do not need a fishing license or stamps. (Previously it was September 1, 1930. They added 4 months to the “grandfathered” population.)

Effective immediately, Boater Education Safety Courses are now mandatory to persons born on or after September 1, 1993 who operate a PWC, a boat with a motor more than 15 horsepower, or a wind-blown vessel measuring more than 14 feet in length. You can operate a boat with a legal operator on board if you don’t have the course and there will be an exemption for people renting or trying out new equipment, etc. Previously, the law stated that boater education was mandatory if you were 13 to 17 years of age and wanted to drive a boat independently without a legal adult on board.

Welcome, New Instructors!

January 1 - June 1, 2011

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.

CHRISTINA DOWNUM	ARANSAS PASS	ELIZABETH VALDEZ	BROWNSVILLE	MARC GAMMONS	HOUSTON
ANDREW WALLS	ARANSAS PASS	CRYSTAL VALLEJO	BROWNSVILLE	ERIC GARDINER	HOUSTON
COLETTE WALLS	ARANSAS PASS	MARIA VELA	BROWNSVILLE	DANIEL GARZA	HOUSTON
STEPHEN WALLS	ARANSAS PASS	VALERIE CLARK	CEDAR PARK	MATTHEW GARZA	HOUSTON
MICHAEL DEBRECHT	ARLINGTON	BYRON STEPHENS	CEDAR PARK	BETTY HAYTER	HOUSTON
CHRISTOPHER STINSON	ARLINGTON	JOHN FULTON	CELINA	ANDY JANES	HOUSTON
DONALD DALLAS	AUSTIN	WILLIAM SHAVER	CLEVELAND	JONAE JOHNSON	HOUSTON
ERICK OLIVARES	AUSTIN	AMANDA SUTTERS	CLEVELAND	ANGELA KNIGHT	HOUSTON
ARTHUR SAYRE	AUSTIN	VICTOR SHEFFIELD	CONROE	KIMBERLY KUCHERKA	HOUSTON
JULIA SAYRE	AUSTIN	SALLIE WATKINS	CONROE	HUBERT LEOPARD	HOUSTON
ROBERT WOJCIK	AUSTIN	MELONIE GALLEGOS	CONVERSE	MARBLY MATATHIA	HOUSTON
JENNIFER POOLE	BACLIFF	JOHNNY JACKSON	CYPRESS	RUSSELL MCDANIEL	HOUSTON
NATHAN POOLE	BACLIFF	KEVIN WOODS	DALLAS	CARLOS MERCADO	HOUSTON
ANTHONY EASLEY	BASTROP	PAUL KISEL	DENISON	LAURO MUNOZ-DAVILA	HOUSTON
CAROLINE EASLEY	BASTROP	MELINDA MCPHERSON	FLORENCE	JEFFREY PEREIRA	HOUSTON
REYNALDO ARIZMENDEZ	BAYTOWN	GERALD SAVARY	FLORENCE	KEISHUNN REED	HOUSTON
CHRISTINA BUTCHER	BAYTOWN	JUAN GUERRA	FLORESVILLE	MICHAEL SCHERER	HOUSTON
MARY CITIZEN	BAYTOWN	PAMELA WILSON	FORNEY	CHRISTOPHER SCHMIDT	HOUSTON
CARLA EPPLER	BAYTOWN	ELIZABETH SURPRENANT	FRISCO	CHUNG VU	HOUSTON
SARAH GRAHAM	BAYTOWN	LONNIE TAYLOR	GEORGE WEST	DAVID WEAVER	HOUSTON
KATHERINE MILLER	BAYTOWN	MYSTI TAYLOR	GEORGE WEST	MICHAEL WEBB	HOUSTON
SUSANNA HOFF	BELLVILLE	SUSAN BLACKLEDGE	GEORGETOWN	DANNETTE WILLIAMS	HOUSTON
JOHN PEIPER	BOERNE	WINNIE BOWEN	GEORGETOWN	DENISE ZIFER	HOUSTON
BRYAN TAYLOR	BOERNE	KATHRYN HENDERSON	GEORGETOWN	RON ZIFER	HOUSTON
MAE TAYLOR	BOERNE	WALTON HENDERSON	GEORGETOWN	JACK ARMSTEAD	HUNSTVILLE
MARIO AGUILAR	BROWNSVILLE	ALBERT KIRCHNER	GEORGETOWN	JAMES GROVES	HUNTSVILLE
GRISELDA ARRIAGA	BROWNSVILLE	BEN MARROU	GEORGETOWN	ROBERT BELHASER	INGLESIDE
EFREN CHAVEZ	BROWNSVILLE	SHELDON RHODEN	GEORGETOWN	BRITTANY FIGUEROA	INGLESIDE
HECTOR CONTRERAS	BROWNSVILLE	TIM KOSAR	GRAND PRAIRIE	MELISSA POORC	INGLESIDE
JOSE FRAIRE	BROWNSVILLE	ARTURO APARICIO	HARLINGEN	STEVE MARTIN	IRVING
GRISELDA GALVEZ	BROWNSVILLE	DORELIA BARAJAS	HARLINGEN	DONNA MCCORMICK	IRVING
LIDIA GARCIA	BROWNSVILLE	CARLOS DE LEON	HARLINGEN	ZACHARY THOMAS	JUNCTION
ALYSSA GOMEZ	BROWNSVILLE	GRACIE GONZALEZ	HARLINGEN	TRAVIS BAILEY	KATY
VERONICA LOPEZ	BROWNSVILLE	NORMA GONZALEZ	HARLINGEN	LISA LOVE	KATY
MARBELIA LOZA	BROWNSVILLE	JESSICA HRUSKA	HARLINGEN	ELIZABETH OLLRE	KATY
LORENA LOZANO	BROWNSVILLE	THOMAS MARLOW	HARLINGEN	DEBRA SOSA	KATY
MARIA MARTINEZ	BROWNSVILLE	JORDAN MCNUIT	HARLINGEN	MICHAEL STRANGE	KATY
MARIA MARTINEZ	BROWNSVILLE	SYLVIA RENDON	HARLINGEN	MARIA VARGAS	KATY
JUDITH NAVARRO	BROWNSVILLE	CESAR ALVAREZ	HOUSTON	WILLIAM BISHOP	KELLER
VANESSA RANGEL	BROWNSVILLE	SANDRA AYALA	HOUSTON	TAMMY MAST	KEMP
ERIKA RIOS	BROWNSVILLE	WALTER BAILEY	HOUSTON	GEM ABE	KINGWOOD
MARISELA RIVERA	BROWNSVILLE	MARILYN BRAGG	HOUSTON	MICHAEL MCCOY	KYLE
MIRIAM RIVERA	BROWNSVILLE	CARL CADIS	HOUSTON	SIERA HOGUES	LA MARQUE
DAISY RODRIGUEZ	BROWNSVILLE	ANTHONY DIAL	HOUSTON	VERONICA HENDERSON	LA PORTE
REBEKAH RODRIGUEZ	BROWNSVILLE	CHRISTOPHER DIAL	HOUSTON	ANGIE ESCAMILLA	LAGUNA VISTA
HILDA SOTO	BROWNSVILLE	JOHN DOBBINS	HOUSTON	CARLA MAZA	LAGUNA VISTA

MARSHA RADER	LIBERTY	MARIA PRATT	PFLUGERVILLE	ERIK SILVIUS	SEGUIN
MICHAEL STEVENSON	LOCKHART	LEJON PAVLICEK	PLAINVIEW	GREGORY CARNETT	SHERMAN
MARICELA CASTILLO	LOS FRESNOS	RANDY WARRICK	PLAINVIEW	JOE PARKES	SHERMAN
VICTORIA WEST	LOS FRESNOS	PATRICIA KALE	PLANO	WALTER YEAGER	SHERMAN
JOHN CARPENTER	LUFKIN	LUCILA VEGA	PORT ISABEL	SHANE WILSON (*FF Instr)	SOUTH PADRE
RANDY ENGELKE	LULING	CLARISA ZAMORA	PORT ISABEL		ISLAND
AMANDA FANGMAN	LULING	RHONDA CUMMINS	PORT LAVACA	DANIEL SKEEN	SPRING
ROLANDO ARIZMENDEZ	MISSOURI CITY	JAMES RUNNELS	POTTSBORO	KEITH RANKIN	STAFFORD
PAMELA MILLS	MONTGOMERY	ROBERT RUEDIGER	RANCHO VIEJO	SATURNINO JAMERLAN	SUGAR LAND
SONYA SATCHELL	MONTGOMERY	AUDULIO GARZA	RAYMONDVILLE	JAMES TESCH	SWEENEY
LEROY BRADLEY	NEW BRAUNFELS	EMILY LUSK	RICHMOND	BETTY JACKSON	TAYLOR
PAUL BATCHELDER	NEW CANEY	EDWARD SMALL	RICHMOND	BONNIE SLADEK	TAYLOR
LAUREN CARLEY	NEW CANEY	MATTHEW MCCLENNAN	SAN ANTONIO	APREIA BOOKER	TEXAS CITY
RICHARD ROBINS	NEW WAVERLY	JARED MOORE	SAN ANTONIO	NICOLE CARRILLO	TEXAS CITY
ELLEN DACY	ORANGE	DAMASO TORRES	SAN ANTONIO	MEGAN CHOATE	TEXAS CITY
GABINO BUSTAMANTE	PASADENA	VALERIE VELA	SAN ANTONIO	SHAWN DAVIS	TEXAS CITY
TOAN NGUYEN	PASADENA	MELISSA CRUZ	SAN BENITO	CARL DICKEY	TEXAS CITY
JIMMY PHILLIPS	PASADENA	TIRSO CRUZ	SAN BENITO	JORDAN DOTSON	TEXAS CITY
JERAL CAZIERE	PEARLAND	DENISE MOLINA	SAN BENITO	ROBERT ESTELL	TEXAS CITY
JUSTIN GRIMES	PEARLAND	LORI MOLINA	SAN BENITO	MERCEDES FILOTEO	TEXAS CITY
BO HAHN	PEARLAND	PEDRO ORTIZ	SAN BENITO	CHANNING HOLMAN	TEXAS CITY
MARK MCKINNEY	PEARLAND	IRMA RAMIREZ	SAN BENITO	WADE LYNCH	TEXAS CITY
TYLER MCKINNEY	PEARLAND	RAYMUNDO ZAPATA	SAN MARCOS	ERIC ROMERO	TEXAS CITY
CHRISTOPHER WARNICK	PEARLAND	TAMMIE THOMAS	SEABROOK	MERRILYN BARTON	THRALL

Stump the Teacher Question? Call on Your Inner-Einstein

KAREN MARKS

"Wow, that's a great question. I have no idea. Does anyone else know? I'll have to look it up and get back to you."

I'm a firm believer in Albert Einstein's theory, "Never memorize what you can look up in books." I guess today his statement might end with ... or look up on the Internet! But sometimes that's easier said than done.

In almost every Angler Ed Instructor class I have taught, someone asks a question that "stumps the teacher." Does that happen to you?

The most recent inquiry came about when teaching knot tying—someone asked about the origins of the Palomar knot. Was it named after a person or a place? No one in the class of 20 Master Naturalists knew the answer, nor did I. Channeling my inner

Einstein, I told them I would have to look it up and get back to them.

A search of Dictionary.com produced this definition: a mountain in S. California, NE of San Diego: site of observatory. 6126 feet (1867 meters) high.

A search of Wikipedia only produced a description of the fishing knot. So I turned to our knowledgeable corps of volunteers and posted the question on our Angler Ed Facebook page—still no one knew.

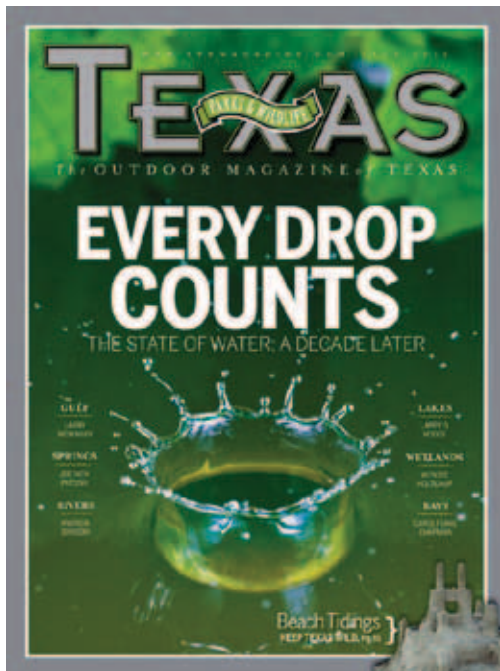
Next, I posted the question on the AREA listserv. The Aquatic Resource Education Association (AREA) is an organization made up of representatives of state, federal, industry, fisheries and educational professionals involved in aquatic resource education programs.

Ti Piper, Sport Fishing Education Contractor, for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish quickly responded to my inquiry and pointed me to a 1985 Boy Scouts of America *Boy's Life* magazine issue.

The article included directions for tying three knots: the surgeon's knot, the improved clinch knot and the Palomar knot. The author stated that a fisherman named Chet Palomar, from California, devised the knot in question. For a link to the original article, go to <http://bit.ly/eqa2xY>

Whether it's at a family fishing event, a basic angler class or instructor class and you get one of those "stump the teacher" questions, just channel your inner Einstein and look it up.

A DECADE OF WATER ISSUES



Every Drop Counts

The July 2011 issue of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine celebrates 10 years of examining the state's most precious resource, water. Ever since the premiere in 2002, *Texas Parks & Wildlife* has devoted the entire July issue to this topic. During the early years of the series, each issue focused on one body of water: bays, rivers, springs, lakes, wetlands and the Gulf of Mexico. For this special 10th anniversary issue, we've assembled some of Texas' best writers and water experts to discuss the progress made during the past decade. We also take a look at the future of water, including available clean drinking water, declining marshland and the after-effects of oil spills in the Gulf.

"The State of the Gulf – America's Sea"

Volume V is the final program in this DVD Collection. Texas Parks and Wildlife's one-hour documentary explores the rich diversity of the Gulf's unique ecology, diverse flora and fauna and important habitats.

Run time approximately 58 minutes.

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To view "The State of the Gulf – America's Sea" online and for resource links visit www.texasstateofwater.org.

For DVD copies of the previous documentaries, contact Robert2ramirez@tpwd.state.tx.us.

