

TEXAS ANGLER
EDUCATION PROGRAM

Reel Lines

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January 2013

New & Noteworthy

A new year brings new beginnings and a time for reflection. Have you made your New Year's resolution?

My New Year's resolution is to be fully staffed for the first time in over a year! In our last edition we introduced new staff, Greg Akins and Caleb Harris. We recently conducted interviews for the new Aquatic Education Training Specialist in DFW. Please join me in welcoming Keira Quam who joined our team on January 7.



Speaking of new staff additions, Greg Akins, Aquatic Education Training Specialist – Houston, and his wife welcome the newest member of their family, daughter Addison Alicia Akins born on November 27.

Kudos to Area Chief **Jerry Hamon** who was awarded Educator of the Year and to the **Red River Fly Fishers Club** who received Club of the Year from the Federation of Fly Fishing Southern Council. Area Chief **Charlie Schons** was awarded the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Boater Ed Instructor of the Year.

Reflecting on the past year, our program continued to see growth due to all the great work of our volunteers. As usual, we had several people go above and beyond, reporting more than 100 hours for the year. We even had someone hit 500 hours this year! Read his story on page 11.

(Continued on page 2)



Jerry Weyant shares the secret of hooking the big one at Point Nursing Home.

The One that Didn't Get Away — Untold Stories

GREG AKINS – TPWD Aquatic Specialist, Houston

One of my favorite movies, "A River Runs Through It," tells the story of two brothers growing in different directions who share the common interest of fly fishing and the values taught to them by their father. I have never known an angler that didn't have a story to tell. In fact, most of them tend to parallel each other. As some of the most prolific stories go untold, there are others that inspire, such as stories of anglers reaching out to those with special needs.

At the Baytown Fishing Rodeo you may see TPWD Area Chief **Chuck Ganze** with one of his favorite anglers, Courtney. Ganze has worked with Courtney since she was a toddler and looks forward to seeing her every year. Courtney is paralyzed from the neck down and has never been able to walk, talk or feed herself. Ganze says she will give him the most beautiful smile after catching her fish from the bucket. For this reason, Ganze considers this event one of his very favorite events each year. Chuck Ganze hosts several events on his property annually for kids living in group homes and for those with special needs.

Jerry Weyant regularly goes to Point Nursing Home to teach angler education to their residents. Recently, I tagged along one day to find them entrenched in the lessons and eager to go outside and partake in backyard bass casting. To see the residents with their gigantic smiles, proudly holding their Basic Angler Certificates was a priceless memory for me.

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New & Noteworthy

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The Toyota Texas Bass Classic (TTBC) was wet but successful ... thanks to all the volunteers who came out despite the poor weather. TTBC annually contributes \$250,000 to TPWD for community fishing lakes, conservation education and youth outreach programs.

Our new online volunteer management system has dictated some new processes. We now ask that all new instructors create a profile online prior to attending an Angler Ed Instructor workshop. Area Chief trainers will distribute certificates and instructor pins at the instructor training workshop. Upon completion of the criminal background check, the new instructor, and their trainer, will be notified via email that their certification has been approved along with an instructor wallet card that they can print and save.

All current volunteer instructors have been entered into our new volunteer management system. If you have not already done so, please log on to the volunteer system to verify and update your contact info, and change BOTH your user ID and temporary

password. If you need help, please call one of the staff. We'll be happy to help you.

Visit <http://ec.volunteernow.com/custom/1353/>

Both the Freshwater Fish and Saltwater Fish Identification Pocket Guides have been revised. Two fish species were added to the FW guide, the Green Sunfish and the Guadalupe Bass — the official state freshwater fish. Both guides also include our agency's new conservation messages, "Everything is connected" and "Everyone plays a role."

It's trout fishing time! Check out the latest trout stocking dates and tips at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/fish/management/stocking/trout_stocking.phtml

Got a record catch? We're making it easier to get it certified with a network of official weigh stations across the state. Here are the details: <http://bit.ly/RecordCatch>. Who knows, you may land a spot here: <http://bit.ly/TxFishRecords>.

TPWD Announces New Fishing Accessibility

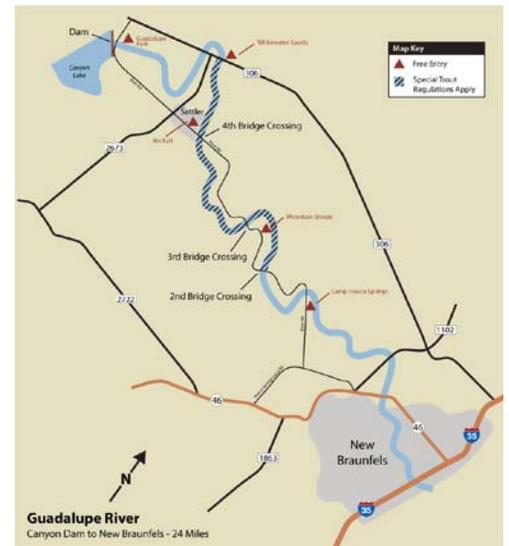
Good news, you've got more places to fish this spring! In a unique new program, TPWD has signed temporary lease agreements with private land owners to expand free public fishing access on the Brazos, Colorado and Neches rivers. Anglers will be able to use the properties for bank fishing and to launch non-motorized watercraft such as rafts, kayaks and canoes for the purpose of fishing. The leases were made possible with grant funding provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program.

The new angler access area, on the Brazos River, is located upstream from Waco and provides excellent fishing opportunities for smallmouth bass, largemouth bass and

catfish. Already a popular fishing destination among fly anglers that target largemouth bass, the Colorado River access area provides increased accessibility for anglers downstream of Lady Bird Lake in Austin. The Neches River site provides access to the popular spring white bass run at the State Highway 31 bridge crossing immediately upstream of Lake Palestine.

Directions to these new angler access areas and information on special conditions on use is available on the TPWD River Fishing webpage: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/fish/recreational/rivers/

The Guadalupe River also offers excellent leased fishing access areas.



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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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www.tpwd.state.tx.us

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The One that Didn't Get Away, continued

TPWD Area Chief **Connie Petruskevich** notes some of her most fulfilling fishing adventures have been with kids and adults with special needs. She states it's a privilege to work with the kids and adults at Morgan's Wonderland. "Last summer I had a 7-year-old boy with autism in a fishing class. He had a hard time with the activities but the other kids were great and helped him. When we started the Backyard Bass casting activity, I noticed he had trouble with the regular fishing rods, so I gave him a travel sized rod to use. I told him it was a special rod just for him. He smiled and said 'special.' He was totally engaged and fished with the help of his parents, and became 'one of the kids!' He now has an activity that he loves and a closer bond with his parents."

Along with her greyhound Ruthie, Petruskevich also visits nursing home residents and organizes several fishing trips, starting a tradition. Men and an occasional woman are fishing again for the first time in years. They are brought back to the days when they fished with their dads or their own kids. Petruskevich says her 'fishing buddies' have even shared some of their 'fishing secrets' with her. "It is great to see the smiles on their faces and the peace that being outside brings."



Photo courtesy of Connie Petruskevich

Since November 2010, TPWD Area Chief and Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) Program Leader **Walter McLendon**, along with the Pineywoods Fly Fishers Club, have been conducting fly fishing classes at the local VA Clinic in Lufkin for our wounded warriors and disabled veterans. www.projecthealingwaters.org/index.html

Through this program, Walter and the club help the veterans, many of them who have very serious problems, readjust to society. Every other Friday they teach fly tying classes and take them fishing at two private Texas Forest Service bass lakes.

In October, thanks to some generous donations, Walter and his wife, Linda, took several vets to Mountain Home, Arkansas, to attend the annual Federation of Fly Fishers Conclave. The vets took advantage of every seminar and class that they could. On the way to and from the conclave, they stayed in a nice warm cabin on the Little Missouri River where they got to fish and enjoy each other's company. Unfortunately, the trout stocking took place after they left. But Walter has vowed to get the vets back up there to catch the fish that he had planned for

them! Walter says, "It is very rewarding to share these experiences with these deserving veterans. Fishing is certainly one of those things that gets better when we share it with others."

In November, TPWD volunteers participated in a Wounded Warrior fishing tournament in Grapevine, Texas. Twenty-five wounded Iraq and Afghanistan vets were taken out by fishing guides to participate in the tournament on Grapevine Lake. Meanwhile, six TPWD Angler Ed volunteers taught a basic angler class to over 30 kids and spouses of the vets while the tournament was in progress. After the tournament and class, there was a short parade to honor the service of these families. TPWD volunteers were happy to provide this small token of thanks to these families who have sacrificed so much. The vets and their families were very appreciative and all the kids wore their new TPWD angler pins with pride!

In Austin, the CORE Health Foundation, a non-profit organization, hosted a fall fishing event on the shores of Lady Bird Lake. TPWD's Angler Education program provided equipment for fishing along the shoreline and backyard bass casting activities at the event. Anglers with a spectrum of disabilities had the opportunity to reel in a bluegill or catch a backyard bass at the event.



The foundation works with individuals who have had traumatic brain injuries, or have complex psychiatric disorders, autism or other special needs. Working with the City of Austin, the foundation will soon begin construction of a wheelchair accessible fishing pier — the only one of its kind on the lake.

One volunteer said afterwards, "Thank you for letting me be a volunteer at the CORE Health 2012 Accessible Fishing Celebration at Town Lake today! I was fishing with kids (and adults) who have never fished. I have been trying to calculate how many times I heard 'hey lady my pole is in the tree again can you get it back' and 'Hey lady I need another worm!' Music to my ears!"

We know that there are many more untold stories like these and we are proud to have these wonderful volunteers in our network. Whatever the case, humanity takes center stage and it seems to me that this example should be followed every day.

- **451,000** of the 8.2 million children and youth under age 22 in Texas have special needs.
Source: www.hhsc.state.tx.us/about_hhsc/AdvisoryCommittees/docs/CSN-5-year-plan.pdf
- **48,000** servicemen and women have been physically injured in recent military conflicts
- **320,000** servicemen and women have experienced a traumatic brain injury while on deployment
- **400,000** additional service members live with the invisible wounds of war including combat-related stress, major depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder.
Source: www.projecthealingwaters.org/html/announcements/wwpg.html

I Took the Class, Now What?

GREG AKINS – TPWD Aquatic Specialist, Houston

Our program goal is to increase participation in recreational fishing, and teach youth and adults how to be safe and ethical anglers. Each year, TPWD staff and Angler Education Area Chiefs train over 400 volunteer Angler Education Instructors, but only a handful find themselves ready to jump in with both feet; and that's okay. The Aquatic Education team and volunteer network consists of many individuals ready to help the new Angler Ed Instructor.

We all understand and remember what it's like to be the new kid on the block. The thought of teaching a bunch of strangers can be very overwhelming. In my former position, I wanted to start teaching Angler Education to the youth in my programs, but I had no clue where to start. I made a few phone calls, sent a few e-mails, and before long, I was signed up for the TPWD Angler Education Instructor workshop. Now I get to teach people about fishing and how to appreciate our great natural resources!

The key for new instructors is not to do too much too soon. Often we try to teach our students everything we've learned all in one course. In most cases that can be very overwhelming for the student, not to mention the instructor. Start out small by just teaching casting skills with the students. Next, maybe you add knot tying to your repertoire. Before you know it, you're a better knot tying expert than your previous trainer.

Another concern for the new instructor might be their confidence in their own knowledge base. When I do training classes, I find that some of the people in my classes are very knowledgeable about fishing or a particular fish species. Use these people as resources and draw upon their knowledge during class. Inclusiveness will help keep your students engaged. Remember to keep it simple and have fun – if you

are having fun, then your students will have fun too!

Here's some helpful advice for the new volunteer to get involved and to continue their personal growth:

- Go to the TPWD volunteer website – <http://ec.volunteernow.com/custom/1353/> Look for fishing events and sign up to help.
- Call your local Aquatic Education Specialist and offer to assist them with courses or events in your area.
- Pick a fishing skill you are comfortable teaching such as knot tying or casting, and offer to teach this skill in a mini-workshop with people you already know, such as your church, school or scout groups
- Offer to go along on a student fishing field trip

Of course, don't forget to send in a report to let us know what you're doing. Who knows, before too long, you may become one of our Top Lures!



At TPWD, our mission is 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.

Volunteers help us accomplish this mission. Some of you may be new to the outdoors, while others have spent their entire lives outdoors and sharing their passion with others. **The future of conservation, stewardship and our waterways is now in good hands thanks to great volunteers like you!**

Networking Across the Nation

KAREN MARKS – TPWD Aquatic Education Manager

Every two years, the Aquatic Resource Education Association (A.R.E.A.) hosts a national conference. The non-profit association was created to foster, promote and encourage aquatic education among federal and state agencies, sport fish educators, park and youth group leaders and other related organizations.



Karen Marks presents the Steve Campbell Outstanding Educator Award to Ti Piper of New Mexico.

In October, the 2012 conference was hosted by the Arizona Game and Fish Department in Phoenix, and TPWD Aquatic Education staff had the privilege of attending. Our new Angler Education team had the opportunity to meet people from the federal level (including our regional representatives and auditors) and from other states.

Hannibal Bolton, Assistant Director of WSFR – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was the keynote speaker. Mr. Bolton asked that we all share with tackle and angler manufacturers how the WSFR tax dollars are being used in our state. Many manufacturers are not aware of how the WSFR dollars are used to support restoration projects and angler education, and how these projects (fishing), in turn, support the local economy. Mr. Bolton also addressed the big elephant in the room – the WSFR Funding “Sequestration.” He stated “The trust fund is protected for now, but Congress is looking to hold back 7.6%.”

For two days, TPWD staff divided up the agenda and attended as many sessions as possible to learn about some very cool teaching tools, best practices and programs. TPWD Area Chief and

Fishing’s Future founder, Shane Wilson, also presented a short session to conference participants about their initiative to expand their program into other states. On the third day, several of us toured some of the small lakes in the Arizona Urban Fishing Lakes program.

On the final evening of the conference, the awards dinner was held. This year the A.R.E.A. Educator’s award was renamed the “Steve Campbell Outstanding Educator Award” in honor of our dearly departed squiggly king, Steve Campbell. Three people from different states were nominated for the award, including former Texas resident and TPWD Area Chief, Kevin Reich (who now resides in Kansas). After the A.R.E.A. board made their selection, I had the honor of presenting the award to Ti Piper of New Mexico.

One of my favorite ideas shared at the conference was that as educators we should impart the idea to kids that ...

“A fishing license should be viewed as a cool thing – like a drivers license and not a ‘have to’ thing – because with a fishing license you’re getting to support fisheries.”

Meet Keira ...

I am Keira Quam, the new Aquatic Education Specialist for TPWD in the Dallas–Fort Worth area. Woo Hoo! As I always told my students, “Life is an opportunity.” I started my new position on January 7!

I was born in California and have always loved the outdoors vacationing with my family on the water, fishing, skiing and camping. When I was very young my dad taught me to fish for catfish in the delta. Growing up I enjoyed the outdoors as a Camp Fire Girl and a BSA Explorer Scout. We moved to Texas while I was in high school and I’ve been here since. I attended Stephen F. Austin State University for my Bachelors and Masters degrees in education and then taught elementary, college and middle school students science and reading. As an adult I volunteered for the Boy Scouts as a Scout Leader, Venturing Crew Advisor, Wood Badge and Powder Horn Trainer, and am proud to have raised four sons who all became Eagle Scouts! In White Settlement ISD, I worked with the Dallas Safari Club and developed an elective called “Outdoor Education.” The program touched the lives of many and I was fortunate to earn awards as District Teacher of the Year, Dallas Safari Club Outdoor Educator of the Year, Dare Officer, Teacher of the Year and Texas Outdoor Education Association’s Outdoor Education Program of the Year. With a great deal of support from staff and parents, I taught students to

love and respect the outdoors through Angler Education and fishing, camping, cooking, Hunter Education and shooting archery, rifles and shotguns, navigating using maps, compasses and GPS, canoeing and back packing using Leave No Trace principles. I most recently worked as an administrator in Temple ISD.



I love spending time in the outdoors and have always been able to renew and reestablish my personal balance there. I take every opportunity to be outside and have made many friends in Texas Women’s Fly Fishing (TWFF), Texas Kayak Fisherman (TKF) and Sisters on the Fly (SOTF). When I camp and fish out of my kayak I often take both my fly rod and spinning reel! Although I will miss building relationships as I have over the years with thousands of young people, I am extremely excited about this new chapter in my life and the opportunity to work with Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Angler Education volunteer network to educate people about the fun of fishing and the responsibility of caring for our land and water. Please feel free to contact me any time.

Get Hooked with the Right Hook

CALEB HARRIS – TPWD Aquatic Education Specialist, Central Texas

Have you ever been to a tackle store and found yourself staring at the wall of hooks, wondering what kind to buy or use? Well, you're not alone.

The first thing to consider is what you're using the hooks for: what type of fishing will you be doing and what kind of fish are you targeting?

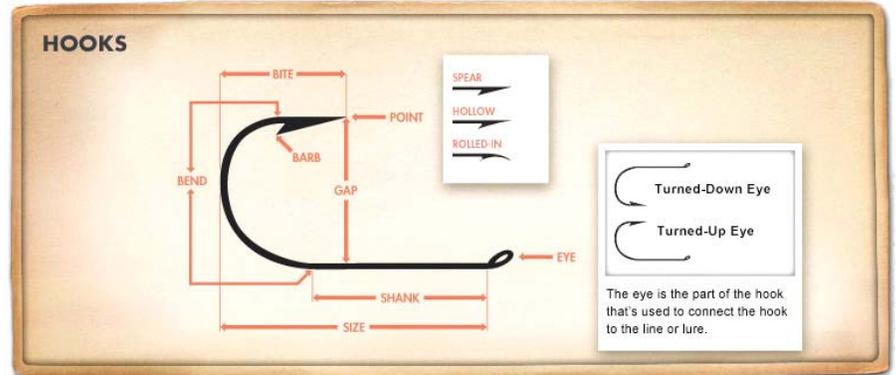
First, some fish hook basics. Hook anatomy includes: the bend or gap, the shaft, the eye and the barb. For the safety of fish and people, we recommend mashing down the barbs on the hooks. Hook sizes can be confusing, but basically for hooks numbered 1-14, the larger the number, the smaller the hook and for hooks numbered with an "aught" (a 0 digit), the larger the number, the larger the hook. For example, a #6 hook is larger than a #12 hook; and a #10/0 (pronounced ten aught) would be a large hook as compared to a smaller #1/0 (pronounced one aught) hook.

Hooks also come in a variety of colors and metals. Color choices may include black, bronze, shiny gold, silver or red. The metal material determines the flexibility of the hook, and the corrosive factor. Some saltwater hooks are designed to rapidly corrode, helpful to the fish if the hook is not retrievable. Other hooks may have a noncorrosive coating or made of stainless steel to prevent corrosion.

Typically, the type of hook should depend on the fish species being targeted, and the type of fishing being done, either active or passive fishing. Active fishing involves effort being excerpted; you're constantly working your rig through the water, and ready to set the hook. Passive fishing means your rig is static or adrift, or can include static gear such as trot or jug lines.

Listed here are descriptions of the various hook types, and when and why to use them.

Image courtesy of TakeMeFishing.org



J-Hooks

The typical J-hook is an all around general function hook. It is best for small bait and active bait fishing. J-hooks come in a variety of shank lengths and eye angles, with extra barbs on the shank to hold bait on, and with the point offset to help set the hook, but all perform about the same. J-hooks can easily be swallowed by a fish into their gut resulting in the likely death of the fish, legal catch or not. So, when targeting small fish like sunfish and smallmouth bass, be prepared to set the hook fast to prevent them from swallowing the hook. Personally, the only time I use a J-hook is when I'm working a live minnow (hooked through the lip or tail) in a river for white bass if artificial jigs aren't working that day.



Aberdeen Hooks

These hooks are similar to the J-hook but are made of very thin metal that is easily flexed and bent. The ease of bending and flexing helps the hook to hold on to, but not hurt, the fish – important if you intend to keep alive and reuse as bait or if you are practicing catch and release. Aberdeen hooks are great for very small fish like bait fish or sunfish. A small (size 10-14) long shank Aberdeen is a great hook for catching blue gill. When I'm fishing with kids just for fun and practicing catch and release, I use a small long shank Aberdeen hook with the barb pressed down – bring on the blue gills!

Circle Hooks

The scientifically designed hook that catches fish well and saves fish lives! This hook is so good for bait fishing and it is now being required by law for some species in certain areas. For example, when bait fishing in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico on the bottom for reef fish, snappers and groupers, you must use a circle hook. Some coastal states have begun requiring circle hooks for their near shore coastal fishing, too, such as North Carolina for bottom bait fishing.

Why do circle hooks reduce fish mortality? Although fish can potentially swallow circle hooks, since the hook point points in toward the shaft it can slide back out of the stomach. Then the hook, typically the circle hook, catches on the lip of the fish, preventing a gut hook. Circle hooks do not need be "set" which makes it a good choice for the beginner angler. If you set the hook like you would with a J-hook or wide gap hook, it can easily be jerked out of the mouth of the fish. It is the slow process of the fish swimming away with the hook that causes the hook to slide into the corner of the fishes mouth. I recommend using circle hooks anytime you are bait fishing with bottom lines, or using trot or jug lines. In scientific tests, a snelled circle hook catches twice as many fish as other types of hooks when using passive bait and doesn't gut hook fish. Circle hooks are typically made of very tough metal so they do not bend easily.



Octopus Hooks

These are also called eagle claw hooks. They look a lot like circles, but with the significant difference that the eye is bent back away from the barb. Instead of the barb pointing straight in toward the shank, it points up to the eye, in line with the pull from the fishing line. They are made of very tough, stiff metal, and are often used for large fish that you actively fish with bait such as red and black drum. Typically octopus hooks outperform normal J-hooks when actively bait fishing.



Wide Gap Hooks

These hooks come in a lot of varieties within their group. A wide gap hook, like an octopus hook, is normally designed with the barb to be pointed in the same direction as the pull of the line to help with setting the hook. Other hooks, like circle hooks and J-hooks, rotate slightly when the fishing line is retrieved. The wide gap or an octopus hook is a good choice when actively bait fishing. I use wide gaps or octopus hooks when casting finger mullet or soft plastics for red drum in the flats. In general, a wide gap is made of softer metal than an octopus hook. If I was going to set out passive bait for drum on a pier, I would switch back to using a circle hook.



Worm Hooks

Like a wide gap hook, worm hooks have a much larger gap than other hooks. It also has an "S" shape near the eye, this allows the hook to be threaded through the head of a plastic worm and then turned so point and barb can then be hidden into the plastic worm this makes the hook nearly "weedless." Fishing worms for largemouth bass is a classic fishing technique that when done properly is very successful.

Multiple Point Hooks

Treble hooks are available in different sizes and are very common for passive bait fishing. Some have springs to help hold soft bait, like dough bait. It's pretty common to miss out on several catches by using a treble hook that is too big for the fish mouth, so go down a size or two (remember that means a higher number!). Use treble hooks with care, if a fish is gut hooked with a treble hook, it will die. I, personally, rarely use them for bait fishing especially if I am practicing catch and release.

Most hard lures have trailing treble hooks. Because the lures are retrieved very fast through the water they are rarely swallowed by the fish and typically become lodged in the fish mouth. This is much less damaging to fish because there's no fear of gut hooking.

A Word About Barbs

The purpose of the barb is obviously to hold on to the bait and the fish. So, it makes sense to have a barb there if you are keeping fish for food. But, if you are intending to catch and release, it is best to mash the barbs down with pliers and keep your fish on by using good angling skills. The fish will come out of the process much more able to get back to his normal life!

Everything Is Connected

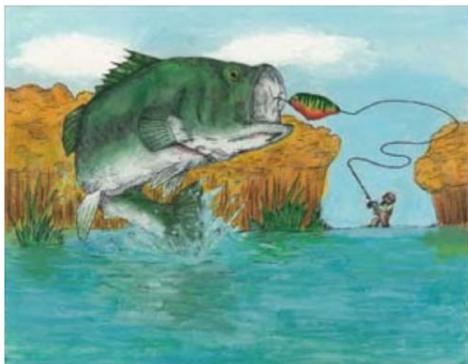
CAPPY SMITH – Aquatic Resource Education Specialist
Community Water Education Program

All life on earth, including our favorite finned friends, depends on water. Yet, water supplies are finite. We can all help protect this critical and precious resource. According to the EPA, the average household spends as much as \$500 per year on their water and sewer bill, but approximately \$170 per year can be saved by installing water-efficient fixtures and appliances. Look for products that carry the Water Sense label which are chosen for their water-efficiency and high performance. By utilizing these appliances and irrigation systems, you'll not only be saving water and money, but you'll be assuring that there's enough water in our waterways to keep our fish wet and happy.

To learn more about the Water Sense program and products visit
www.epa.gov/watersense

State-Fish Art Contest Promotes Conservation

Entry Deadline March 31



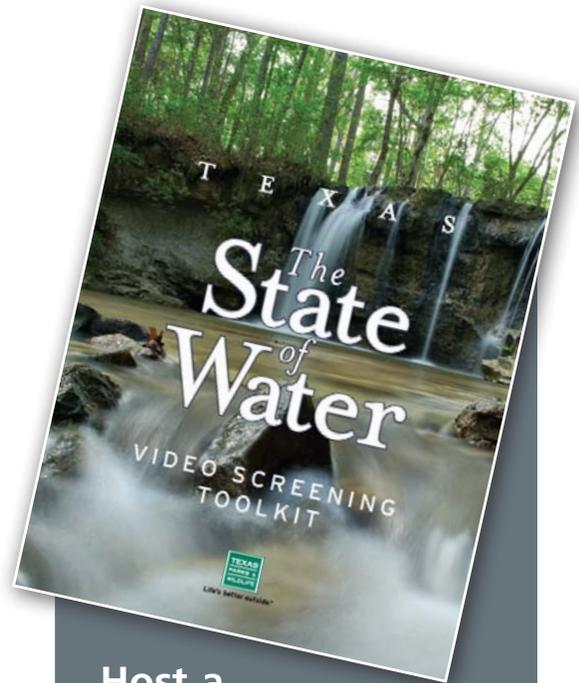
3rd place, grades 7-9 – Josue Montemayor
© Wildlife Forever

The State-Fish Art Contest is part of a conservation education program designed to spark the imaginations of students while providing valuable lessons about fish and the importance of conserving Texas' aquatic resources. Students in grades 4 through 12 in public, private or home schools are invited to submit a drawing of an officially recognized state fish and a one-page essay on its behavior, habitat or conservation. Students in K through 3 may also submit a drawing; the essay is not required for this age group.

A free lesson plan is available (www.statefishart.info) for assisting students who wish to enter the contest. An official entry form must accompany all entries.

The Toyota Texas Bass Classic provides funds for cash prizes for Texas winners and for travel expenses for Texas first-place winners and their families to attend the national event. All Texas entrants receive a Strike King fishing lure and a certificate of participation. The contest is sponsored by Wildlife Forever, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Rapala, The Art Institutes International Minnesota, Mall of America, North American Fishing Club, Minnesota Twins, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bass Pro Shops, Wonders of Wildlife and Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

Wildlife Forever is a conservation organization whose mission is to conserve America's wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat and management of fish and wildlife. Learn more at www.wildlifeforever.org.



Host a Screening Event

Water is a vital natural resource for healthy people, our economy, and ecosystems.

People utilize water for drinking, commercial, agricultural and recreational purposes. In addition to the critical need of water for human consumption, water is also needed for fish, wildlife, and their associated habitats.

Find everything you need to start the conversation about water in your community or organization. It is simple to host a State of Water video screening! Our Screening Toolkit provides all the instructions and some of the necessary items to make your video screening a success.

For more information, contact Cappy Smith at:

cappy.smith@tpwd.state.tx.us
or (512) 389-8060 or visit
www.texasthestateofwater.org



What's in a Line?

JIM BASS – TPWD Area Chief,
Keller, Texas; FFF Certified
Fly Casting Instructor

Much of this information came from a book I recommend, **Modern Fly Lines**, by Bruce Richards. If you can find a copy, purchase it, borrow it, or go to the library and read it. Learn as much as you can about fly lines and their proper use. The line is the core of the cast. Without it we have no weight to cast.

Fly anglers have five pieces of equipment that make up every casting rig we use. The rod, reel, line, leader and the fly are a part of most every fly casting outfit. As an instructor I am asked over and over again, what kind of rod I use.

In my opinion, it is not the rod, reel, leader or fly that makes the biggest difference in the cast. It is the line you use. The line is what provides the weight to load the rod to carry the fly to where you want it to land. So I thought you might like to learn a little more about fly lines.

Most often we use only one or two types of fly lines, not realizing that there are dozens of types we can choose from to help cast or reach the depth we want to fish. Line manufacturers produce over 1,500 types of lines in the U.S. today. I will discuss a little history of the lines, some of the first materials lines were made of and the materials used today. We will investigate some of the manufacturing techniques, as well as tapers. So here goes.

There are references in history that fly fishing appeared in China more than 2,300 years ago. We know that in the centuries that followed, horse hair was used to make fly lines. In the fifteenth century, Dame Juliana Berners discussed the dyeing and weaving of horse hair used in fly fishing. The lines changed little over the next 400 years. During the 1800s, horse hair was mixed with silk to improve fly lines and by the end of that century, lines were made entirely of silk. The silk lines were finished with oil and the makers understood the advantages of tapering and used it to make better lines. The tapering process was very difficult because you had to add and decrease the amount of silk you used to increase and decrease the diameter of the lines.

The next change in fly lines was after World War II when nylon became available. Nylon solved the problems with silk but had a few of its own. The oil finish did not work well and the tapers were still accomplished in the same way as silk – by adding or decreasing the amount used. In 1949, Polyvinyl Chloride (“PVC”) was first used as a coating for the nylon. In 1952, a method for tapering the coating was patented and the basic method is still used today. Today, this tapered coating is applied over a braided level core to give anglers the effect they want.

I have mentioned the coating but let’s first discuss the core. There are five core materials

used today. Braided multifilament nylon is up to 16 strands of very fine nylon “yarn” (made up of microscopic nylon filaments) braided to form a very high quality line with quality parameters higher than surgical sutures. This line is found only in fly line cores. The second core material is braided monofilament. It is like taking fine tippets and braiding them together. This line tends to be stiff and is used mainly for hot weather fishing. The third core material used is single strand monofilament. It was the first to be used as a core and is still used today in lines for tarpon fishing. The fourth material is braided multifilament polyester (Dacron) and is used in some lines to lessen stretch. It is used by tournament distance casters today. The last material is Kevlar. It is used by some manufacturers in Europe and is a “no stretch” type core. Without the ability to stretch, the line becomes stiff and is prone to memory.

What about the coating? I will not go into detail, but PVC is the most common. Polyurethane is not used as much as PVC, but is a good coating. If you have a fly line today it is more than likely coated with one of these two materials.

How do the line manufacturers get the lines to float? They add micro glass bubbles (filled with air) to the coating, making the line buoyant. They use a similar process to make the lines sink. Crushed tungsten particles are added to the coating and down she goes.

We have discussed enough on manufacturing. Let’s discuss how to choose a line. When we choose a rod it will have a weight number on it to tell us what line will load it properly. How do the makers decide on the number and what does it mean? The numbers indicate the weight of the first 30 feet of line, minus any short, level tip section as set up by the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association.

This method was set up to help us choose the proper line weight for the rod without having to try many different lines. The weight of the first 30 feet of a 6-weight line is 160 grains (not grams). Rod makers build their rods to this load standard which makes it easy for you to choose the proper line for a given rod.

Top Water Baits — Better Hold On

LARRY CONDRA – TPWD Area Chief; Fishing’s Future Master Angler – Abilene Chapter

One of my favorite artificial baits whether fishing with conventional tackle or fly rod (okay, you who know me certainly know that does not happen often!) is the top water line of baits. I love buzz baits, poppers, darters ... really any “top waters” when the conditions are right to fish them. Of all these great lures, my all time favorite, especially early and late in the day, is a buzz bait.



If you are not familiar with a buzz bait, it looks similar to a spinner bait with one major departure. Buzz baits are made to stay on the surface, while the typical spinner is made to be fished mostly mid water under the surface. While the typical spinner is oval or spoon shaped, the “spinner” of a buzz bait is made into a buzzer that provides upward lift and holds the lure up at the surface as it travels. Buzz baits come with various buzzer configurations such as single buzzer, two in-line buzzers or two side by side buzzers, etc. The buzzer comes in various sizes and can have two, three or four blades. Each has its purpose and best use but we’ll focus on the most common style of buzz bait which has a single buzzer made of a triple blade.

Buzz baits are too heavy to float and must be fished rapidly enough for the turning buzzer to provide enough lift to keep the bait at or near the surface. Though, typically one does not have to “burn” the reel handle to keep it at the surface; vary your retrieve to find the optimal speed to keep it at the surface, but not too fast. A reel with a faster retrieve makes fishing the buzz bait much easier on the angler. I typically use a 6.1 or 7.3 to 1 ratio reel. Often I put a trailer hook on this bait, especially if I experience a short strike or two. A trailer hook is a single or treble hook that is fashioned onto the lure’s hook to trail behind the lure, this helps catch a few more fish that might have underestimated the lure’s speed and hit behind it. I’ll also trim the skirt to end just behind the bend of the bait’s hook, which achieves the same purpose.

We mostly think of top waters in the shallows early and late but that is not absolute. Buzz baits can be fished all day. In fact, Hank Parker, a

professional angler and TV host, says he has caught his biggest bass on buzz baits near noon. Top waters with lots of noise, such as the buzz baits, can call fish up from fairly deep water accounting for explosive strikes. The splash and travel of the buzzer mimics a struggling creature, wounded and struggling at the surface, which is hopefully an irresistible situation for a hungry big bass!

To improve the catch ratio on most top water baits, do not attempt to set the hook until you feel the fish. As tempting as it might be when you see the strike, do not yank back on old bucket mouth; refrain until you feel the tug. Your catch ratio will greatly improve as you will yank the bait out of fewer fish’s mouths. As wind chops the water I will generally switch to a much larger buzz bait, a large buzzer can overcome the chop of the waves and still be heard by the fish.

While catching fish with any bait, natural or artificial, on the surface or near the bottom, can be exciting and fun. Nothing delivers the heart stopping splashing strike of a top water, in this writer’s opinion. As with most styles of lures, there are many configurations and many color variations to choose from. Also, sizes vary from very small to very large. The species, water conditions and even size of the fish targeted will help determine the size, color and even style of bait.

Go find a top water bait that looks to be productive (or “borrow” one from a buddy’s tackle box), tie it on and go fishing. You’ll never forget that first top water fish and I contend you’ll remember most all of those top water fish! I sure do.



**Texas
Fly-Fishing Retreat
for Men with Cancer**

**April 19–21, 2013
Joshua Creek Ranch
Boerne, Texas**

REEL RECOVERY is a national non-profit organization that conducts fly-fishing retreats for men recovering from cancer. Our purpose is to help men in the recovery process by sharing with them the healing powers of the sport of fly-fishing, while providing a safe, supportive environment to explore their personal experiences with cancer, with others who share their stories. Retreats are offered at no cost to the participants and are led by professional facilitators and expert fly-fishing instructors. Reel Recovery provides all meals, lodging and fly-fishing equipment, and no previous fishing experience is required. A maximum of 12 men are invited to participate.

Eligibility: Men recovering from cancer

For more information: info@reelrecovery.org or call 800-699-4490



Left image: A recent outing with Dallas Baptist University. What's that on the right? The Dallas Flyfishers don Mardi Gras masks at the Halloween fly tying event at Cabela's. The young lady stopped to talk and observe the flytiers. She liked how we taught fly tying, immediately bought a tool kit, and now ties with us on Wednesdays. Photos courtesy of Dallas Flyfishers Club.

A Top Lure's Success Story

JERE ANDERSON – TPWD Area Chief, Plano, Texas

How did I earn 500+ volunteers hours? Well I am a retiree, but I am also a member of a very active fly fishing club, the Dallas Flyfishers.

As the Outreach Chair of the club, along with our Education Chair, TPWD Area Chief Richard Johnson, we have been diligently working on marketing our club's education and outreach capabilities for several years now. In the last several years, together we put in almost 1,000 volunteer hours, and have trained many new instructors, and have met a ton of interesting new people.

Our club has good connections to the Boy Scouts in our region. We are busy most months from November to May teaching and helping these scouts earn their Fly Fishing Merit Badge at weekend trainings. The scout badge requirement includes a successful fishing trip, and thanks to the availability of the TFFC in Athens, that is not hard to do.

We also reach out to local colleges. At Richland College in North Dallas, our club typically teaches four fly fishing classes each year. Using an abbreviated fly fishing education curriculum, we teach three classes that also include a fishing trip over two days at the Dallas Baptist University in south Dallas. These collegiate teaching opportunities give us the opportunity to recruit young adults to the sport.

In addition to the scouts and college students, we teach fly fishing to all ages at multiple locations, including the annual spring TFFC Fly Fish Texas Show, at senior centers and parks and

recreation centers throughout north Texas. Most of these include actual fishing, which is fun for both the students and the instructors.

As Area Chiefs, we assist TPWD Angler Education staff by recruiting and training new volunteer instructors. Our goal is to teach at least two instructor classes a year. At the most recent instructor workshop, we teamed up with TPWD Area Chief Katy Hammon and the Master Naturalist Chapter of Denton. We had 32 school teachers attend and become certified TPWD Angler Education Instructors.

Our outreach is equally well marketed, and keeps our certified instructors and other club members very busy. There are three major fly fishing outlets in the greater Dallas area, and we have fly tiers there meeting the public and doing a little teaching most Wednesdays and Saturdays. These have brought us some new members, and the group I lead has produced five certified instructors and three new fly tiers that are some of our rising stars in fly tying. I am, personally, very happy with being part of this little group.

At the Boat and Outdoor Show in Dallas, we set up a booth and volunteer almost 50 hours, demonstrating and teaching fly tying. We also participate in two or more Eisenhower State Park programs each year sponsored by TPWD Area Chief Jerry Hamon and the Red River Fly

Fishers Club. The Blackland Prairie Raptor Center is the site of a conservation project for our club. We help to improve the fish habitat at their 2-acre lake and picnic area and we assist with a youth fishing opportunity.

We support handicapped kids and wounded warrior fishing events. Club member Diane Blair is a leader in bringing fly fishing to ladies with her support of the Casting For A Cure and other women's events.

In short, we have introduced hundreds of folks to the fly fishing arts and sciences and even helped about half of them catch a fish. Our public relations and outreach to the general public support our vision and commitment to the TPWD Angler Education volunteer efforts.

To learn more about our programs, meeting dates, view our newsletter and calendar of events, visit <http://dffclub.shutterfly.com> or visit us on Facebook. When you visit, be sure to check out the pictures of our Friday Fish events typically held at an urban location as weather and availability permits. You are welcome to come to any of these, and please E-mail me any suggestions, requests for training support, or just comments at jaand75023@cs.com as they are always appreciated.



Angler Education

Year in Review

SEPTEMBER 2011 – AUGUST 2012

Our program continues to grow and be successful because of the dedicated volunteers who share their passion for the outdoors with others. Thank you for another great year!

492

Classes and outreach events held

34 Go Fish ~ Learn-to-Fish at State Park events
92 Fly Fishing classes and events
15 State of the Water Video Screening events

57,605

People reached

38,074 Youth
19,531 Adults
(477 new instructors trained)

20,655

Volunteer hours

TOP LURES – over 100 hours!

JERE ANDERSON, 551 hrs
RICHARD JOHNSON, 392 hrs
JERRY HAMMON, 338 hrs
WALTER MCLENDON, 248 hrs
GREGORY CARNETT, 211 hrs
RONALD PORTWOOD, 204 hrs
JEFF TOMLINSON, 197 hrs
DIANE BLAIR, 195 hrs
BILL SARGEANT, 194 hrs
BRENDA SHAVER, 168 hrs
DANIEL MONTAYNE, 163 hrs
JOHN FULTON, 159 hrs

HAROLD STEARNS, 158 hrs
BLANE RUSH, 145 hrs
DOUGLAS SHIRAISHI, 144 hrs
RAUL ALMANZAR, 142 hrs
RODD GARCIA, 141 hrs
SCOTT METHENY, 140 hrs
CHUCK GANZE, 136 hrs
MARGARET CHRISTIAN, 135 hrs
ELLIE CROCKER, 135 hrs
IRPEL WARD, 135 hrs
JOEY SAYE, 132 hrs
CLINTON PATERSON, 128 hrs

JESUS FRANCO JR, 127 hrs
CAROLYN HARTLEY, 124 hrs
TONI VAN DE PUTTE, 124 hrs
JIM CRUMP, 121 hrs
MARK FOBIAN, 108 hrs
FRANK DE LA ROSA, 107 hrs
ED GERHARDT, 101 hrs
LARRY LAMBERT, 101 hrs
LARRY CONDRA, 100 hrs
SHERI RUTLEDGE, 100 hrs
MELANIE SIMMS-JUSTICE, 100 hrs

Welcome, New Instructors!

July - October, 2012

We encourage you to team up to teach. It's fun, easy, 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. * Indicates Fly Fishing Instructor

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------------|
| DEBBIE HANLAN | ARLINGTON | SHALONDA HUDSON | HOUSTON | RICHARD SLATER | KATY |
| RANTI VALDEZ | AUSTIN | HAROLD JACKSON | HOUSTON | LYNN TAYLOR | KATY |
| DAVID SMITH* | CARROLLTON | SMITH JACKSON, JR | HOUSTON | BRANDI TRAYLOR | KATY |
| EDWARD STRICKER | COLLEGE STATION | VERONICA JENNINGS | HOUSTON | TRACY MCDANIEL* | KAUFMAN |
| AMANDA DIETZ | CYPRESS | MAJOR JONES | HOUSTON | BRANDI WATKINS | KELLER |
| WISTERIA POKU* | DALLAS | DONNA KADIRIFU | HOUSTON | SINDY BARNETT | LA PORTE |
| DANIEL ORSAK | EAST BERNARD | STEVE KEO | HOUSTON | MICHELLE CROWELL | LAKE JACKSON |
| MEAGAN PRUETT* | ENNIS | FRANKIE KIRKLIN | HOUSTON | CANDI GREEN | LAKE JACKSON |
| JOSHUA JONES* | FERRIS | NIKIA LEWIS | HOUSTON | JUSTINA MALONE* | LANCASTER |
| KEITH BAKER* | FORNEY | MIGUEL LOPEZ | HOUSTON | NICOLE BEST | LEAGUE CITY |
| CHARLES DAVIS* | FORNEY | TERRENCE MANUEL | HOUSTON | BRUCE SUBLETT | LUFKIN |
| PATRICIA DYER* | FORNEY | BOBBY MATTHEWS | HOUSTON | CHARLES RODGERS* | MESQUITE |
| TIM LAMONTE* | FORNEY | ROBERT MESSA | HOUSTON | ROBERT DOE* | MESQUITE |
| CODY MOORE* | FORNEY | BEATRICE NEAL | HOUSTON | JEFFREY HOLMES* | MESQUITE |
| JAN NEWLAND* | FORNEY | DONALD NOLAN | HOUSTON | CHUCK NIVEN* | MESQUITE |
| JENNIFER REEDY* | FORNEY | KIMHAIC PECH | HOUSTON | CHELSEA PARKER* | MESQUITE |
| MATT SWAIN* | FORNEY | VATESHA PERRY | HOUSTON | RYAN PORTER* | MESQUITE |
| BJ BAKUTIS* | FORT WORTH | DANIEL REILLY | HOUSTON | PHILLIP RANDALL* | MESQUITE |
| GARRETT ANDERSON* | FRISCO | RUDY RODRIGUEZ | HOUSTON | LANCE WESTPHALL* | MESQUITE |
| CHARLES BRIDGES* | GARLAND | VIVIAN SANDOVAL-GUERRA | HOUSTON | TAYLOR TOMLIN | MINERAL WELLS |
| VAUGHN DUBOSE* | GARLAND | LEANDER SEALS | HOUSTON | MARC ELLIS | MISSOURI CITY |
| JAMES KUROWSKI* | GARLAND | REGINALD SIMPSON | HOUSTON | CHARLES ROBINSON | MISSOURI CITY |
| VICKI CARROLL | GRAND PRAIRIE | JULIA SOTO | HOUSTON | PAUL WALKER | MISSOURI CITY |
| JENNIFER MARTIN | GRAND PRAIRIE | JOE STEWART | HOUSTON | NEIL STAAB* | PARKER |
| DARREL ALDRIDGE* | HIDEAWAY | HOLLI SWICK | HOUSTON | HUGO GARCIA | PASADENA |
| MICHAEL ODLE | HIGHLAND VILLAGE | VALERIE VALERIO | HOUSTON | DEANNA SILGUERO | PASADENA |
| MARCOS ARREDONDO | HOUSTON | ANTONIO VILCHEZ | HOUSTON | MICHAEL DEWITT, JR | PLANO |
| NELSON AYALA | HOUSTON | NATHAN WALTON | HOUSTON | CLINTON FORTENBERRY* | PLANO |
| NICOLE BOLAR | HOUSTON | FELICIA WASHINGTON | HOUSTON | STEVEN LONG | RICHMOND |
| BETTY CANTU | HOUSTON | JAMES WYLIE | HOUSTON | CHARLES GABBARD* | ROCKWALL |
| CHARLES DURDEN | HOUSTON | HENRY YANCEY | HOUSTON | JUSTIN HOLDSWORTH* | ROCKWALL |
| ANGELA ELLIS | HOUSTON | ROSLYN BOYCE | HUMBLE | WESLEY POHORSKY | ROCKWALL |
| ALICE FERRELL | HOUSTON | RICKY POE* | IRVING | MORRIS THOMPSON* | ROWLETT |
| JASON GARNER | HOUSTON | AMBER ALLEN | KATY | GREG WEILER* | ROWLETT |
| CHRISTOPHER GARY | HOUSTON | KRISTEN BRYANT | KATY | WILLIAM MCCRARY | ROYSE CITY |
| SEAN GAY | HOUSTON | ROBERT BRYANT III | KATY | KARAN PORTER | SAN LEON |
| DEBRA GRISBY | HOUSTON | RANDALL DENNIS | KATY | REX WALKER* | SHERMAN |
| CHARLES HERRIGAN III | HOUSTON | KALUM HAACK | KATY | TODD SIMMONS* | TERRELL |
| | | SHANNA MARHOFER | KATY | AL CURRY | TEXAS CITY |
| | | BRENDEN MORRIS | KATY | COREY TODHUNTER* | |

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.

Youth Catch & Release Fishing Events by Reservation

Reservations for group events are available the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month in the mornings. Reservations must be made at least three weeks in advance and require a \$50 refundable deposit. Only groups with 10 to 20 participants between the ages of 7 and 16 are eligible to schedule an event. Sea Center will provide the rods, reels, equipment and volunteers to assist the group. To inquire about available dates contact Patty Cardoza at (979) 292-0100 or by email at seacenter@tpwd.state.tx.us

January 26, 2013

9 a.m. to noon

Fly Tying Class

Spend a day learning the basics of fly tying. You will learn to tie 3 saltwater flies. This workshop, sponsored by the Sea Center Fly Fishers, is open to anyone (ages 12 or above). All fly tying supplies will be furnished. The course will be held at Sea Center Texas, 300 Medical Drive, Lake Jackson, Texas 77566 on January 26, 2013 from 9 a.m. until noon. Accessible for the mobility impaired. Minimum of 6 participants required for the class to make. Maximum class size is 12. Preregistration is required and will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 23. To register, email seacenter@tpwd.state.tx.us or call (979) 292-0100 ext. 21 with the names of each participant, age if under 18, email address and a daytime telephone number. Cost is \$5.00 per participant due at registration.

February 23, 2013

Youth Fishing Event

Pack your sunscreen, hat, lawn chair and fishing gear for catch-and-release fishing at our marine fish hatchery and visitor education center. Open to guests 16 years old and younger accompanied by an adult. Bring your own gear and bait with barbless hooks. No corks, artificial bait or treble hooks. Volunteers and staff will be on hand to assist first-time anglers. Held at Sea Center Texas, 300 Medical Dr., Lake Jackson, Texas. Accessible for the mobility impaired. Contact Connie Stolte, (979) 292-0100.

February 23, 2013

Nature Day

Enjoy educational programs and activities that will introduce you and your family to the wonders of nature. Walk-through exhibits, activities, and crafts will be offered by a variety of nature based organizations. Youth activities will include a nature scavenger hunt from 10 a.m. to noon and catch and release fishing from 1 to 3 p.m. Held at Sea Center Texas, 300 Medical Dr., Lake Jackson, Texas. Accessible to the mobility impaired.

For complete calendar and updates, visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/seacenter

UPCOMING EVENTS

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE



TEXAS FRESHWATER FISHERIES CENTER

January 12 and February 9, 2013

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Beginners Fly Fishing Class

Expert fly-fisher Bob Cappallo will teach fly-fishing for beginners from 9am – 1pm. Open to adults 18 years and older. No fly-fishing experience is required and equipment provided. \$50 fee includes entrance, lunch and an annual pass to the facility. Advance reservations required and the class is limited to 20 persons. Contact (903) 670-2266 to reserve your spot.

March 9, 2013

Fly Fish Texas

Fly fishing clubs and anglers from across Texas come to TFFC to share fly fishing tips and techniques and teach them to others. Aimed at the novice fly fisher, Fly Fish Texas is designed to teach you how to tie a fly, cast it and catch a fish with it—all in the same day. Call (903) 670-2266 to register.

April 6, 2013

Beginners Fly Fishing Class

Learn a variety of outdoor skills and engage in activities such as archery, fishing and kayaking. Members of various divisions of TPWD and representatives of conservation groups and outdoor businesses will lead hands-on activities that will make you a better camper, angler and hunter. Call (903) 670-2266 to register.

For complete calendar and updates, visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tffc

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

Angler Education Instructor Certification Workshops

January 19 2013 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Agrilife Extension office, San Antonio
Contact: caleb.harris@tpwd.state.tx.us

March 2, 2013 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
TPWD Airport Commerce Park
Training Facility, Austin
Contact: caleb.harris@tpwd.state.tx.us

March 11–14, 2013

Tyler Texas: Spring Break Trout Fest

Parents, grandparents and youth mentors: bring your kids to the Tyler Nature Center (11810 FM 848, Tyler, Texas 75707) for a perfect opportunity to make lasting memories and introduce a youngster to fishing. Stocked rainbow trout will be available in a 1.5-acre pond for your angling enjoyment. You may bring your own fishing equipment or borrow rod and reels, bait, and tackle from a Texas Parks and Wildlife staff member. Safe fishing piers and restrooms available. Fish cleaning demonstrations will be provided. No fishing license is required for kids or adult mentors. Free to all participants and no pre-registration is required. Event sponsored by the East Texas Woods and Waters Foundation.

Edgar “Ed” Lewis Gerhardt III, TPWD Area Chief (Houston) passed away on November 28, 2012



Ed was a supporter and active volunteer with TPWD’s conservation education programs including the National Archery in Schools Program (N.A.S.P.), Hunter, Angler, and Boater Education since 2007.

He established, and served as the Executive Director, Junior Anglers and Hunters of America (Jr. AHA) which used popular outdoor activities like fishing, archery and hunting to connect children to nature for a lifetime. Through Ed’s leadership he established partnerships with Houston ISD, the Houston Parks and Recreation Dept., and several corporations to, as he stated, “get our youth outdoors not just for an event, but for a lifetime of outdoor experiences – fostering the stewardship of our nations resources.”

Ed is survived by his wife, Nancy Taylor Gerhardt, three daughters and their spouses, eight grandchildren, and a sister. A memorial service to celebrate his life and his contributions to outdoor education for children was held in December at Brazos Bend State Park. For more information about Ed’s life and a memorial fund established in his memory to ensure that the many Houston children Ed shared the Texas State Parks with will always find a fish on their hook, see www.legacy.com/obituaries/houstonchronicle/obituary.aspx?pid=161576909#fbLoggedOut

ANGLER EDUCATION CONTACT INFORMATION

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