

New & Noteworthy

KAREN MARKS – Aquatic Education Manager

The spring and summer seasons have kicked off with a number of fishing events supported by staff and our wonderful group of dedicated volunteers. However, it is with deep sadness and heavy hearts that I let you know of the loss of two very dedicated Area Chiefs. Katy Hammon passed away earlier this year shortly after the last *Reel Lines* was published. And Larry Condra, a regular contributor to *Reel Lines*, passed away this summer. His final article on page 10 was penned a few weeks prior to his death. We will miss them both.

On June 7 we celebrated Free Fishing Day (no fishing license needed to fish anywhere in the state) with numerous events across the state. The Toyota Texas Bass Classic returned to Lake Fork this past May – thanks to the volunteers and Inland Fisheries staff that helped out with the backyard bass "pond" and Take Me Fishing trailer. TPWD's Inland Fisheries Division generously shares a portion of the proceeds with the Angler Education Program to fund the travel of our Take Me Fishing exhibit trailer around the state.

In April we held our annual Area Chief meeting in Junction, TX – read more about the meeting on this page. Our spring and summer Go Fish! Learn-to-Fish at Texas State Parks Events at seven state parks have been a great success too – thanks to all the volunteers who help with these events, we couldn't do it without you!



The eleventh annual Angler Education Area Chief meeting was held in Junction, Texas.

Area Chief Annual Gathering Was a Rockin' Success!

JERRY HAMON – TPWD Angler Education Area Chief, Van Alystyne

This past April a number of TPWD Angler Education Area Chiefs converged upon the Junction campus of Texas Tech University (TTU) for our annual gathering. An Area Chief is a fancy name for a person who "trains the trainer." We are volunteer educators who teach and certify new Angler Education Instructors. It is a labor of love for those who had a dad, grandpa or someone special who took the time to teach them how to fish at some point in their life. It's a way for us to "pay it forward."

We first met in Mountain Home, Texas, at the TPWD Heart of the Hills Fisheries Science Center where we learned all about what they do and enjoyed a wonderful presentation on Alligator Gar in Texas. We toured the entire facility and also had a biologist show us the procedure they use for determining the age of freshwater fish.

Then we traveled to TTU for dinner and the official welcoming by Karen Marks, TPWD Aquatic Education Manager and her staff. Dinner was followed by several of us teaching fly tying, a campfire or fishing.

Saturday we chose from several breakout sessions and then presentations by Tim Birdsong, TPWD Inland Fisheries – Chief of Habitat Conservation; Tom Harvey, TPWD Communications Deputy Director; and Tyler Zaruba, Kerr County Game Warden.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

New & Noteworthy

As we head into the heat of the summer remember to keep a watchful eye on both your participants and fellow volunteers at outdoor fishing events for heat stress. See the 2013 summer issue of *Reel Lines* for more information about the signs and treatment of heat stress.



© MIKE PETRICK, TPWD VOLUNTEER

Zebra mussels, an invasive species, are expanding their range through the rivers and lakes of Texas. Check the new *Outdoor Annual*, published in August, for new rules and regulations that apply to boats. Help us spread the message, "Clean. Drain. Dry." and teach others what to do if they happen to hook a rock or piece of trash covered by these little critters, which is

don't toss it back in the water. As with any aquatic invasive species (plant or animal) you are required by law to destroy it. For information about what to do if you catch something other than a fish, see page 4.

Speaking of spreading the message and things that shouldn't be in the water ... Don't forget to stress in your classes and events, the importance of "Leave No Trace" ethics. You can show the Marine Debris Timeline poster (available from the Texas General Land Office), or do an activity like the Trash Timeline on page 7. Many of our instructors incorporate a litter pick-up at the end of their events.

Be sure to check out the recent survey findings about First-time License Buyers Report on page 8 to see how what you do does make a difference! We are fortunate to have a graduate student intern, Michele Muller, help us evaluate our Go Fish! program, too; results of her research study will be available this winter.

As some of you may know, the TPWD Co-Op Grant program funding was partially restored this spring – unfortunately for the

COMMISSION

AED team, Aquatic Resources Specialist, Cappy Smith, moved back over to her former position. Fortunately, all of you seeking grant funding – you now have a "friend" at Co-Op grants. We wish her the best of luck! For more information about Co-Op Grants, see www.tpwd.texas.gov /business/grants/ (note: the application deadline has passed for the current year.)

Support Gen's paperwork reduction act... send us your online reports at www.tpwd. texas.gov/ volunteer



CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Finally, our fiscal year closes August 31. Please get your summer reports in ASAP so that they can be counted this year. We appreciate all those who have embraced the new online reporting system - you know who you are. A couple of reminders: 1) the online system only has a 45-day window from the date of the event to be able to report online; 2) If you attend an event led by another AED volunteer and plan to report your hours online, please indicate this on the event roster - this will help prevent the reporting of duplicate hours. For more information on how to report online, see the 2014 January issue of Reel Lines. You will need to know your User ID and password before reporting online. We have sent out multiple emails to everyone with this information, but if your contact info is not current, you may have not received the message, so just give us a call or pop us an email to get reconnected. Remember, to receive your annual incentive(s), your mailing address must be current! So sign-in and make sure we have your correct contact info.

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TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

Life's better outside.



Lee M. Bass, Chairman-Emeritus Fort Worth

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT "To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."

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Area Chief Gathering, continued

After lunch we loaded up the yaks and took off to the South Llano River for a little paddling, fishing and lots of camaraderie! The river was beautiful.

Saturday's dinner was a "50's" themed meal based on the fact that it is National Volunteer Month and they wanted to tell everyone that "Our Volunteers Rock." The meal was old fashioned burger and chips followed by root beer floats in old fashioned style glasses with the TPWD logo on them.

After dinner we had our award ceremony and volunteers were recognized for service. The evening wrapped up with the annual campfire and sing-along with the Stink Bait Band, created by Steve Campbell. Area Chief Jerry Weyant, and TPWD staffers Caleb Harris and Tom Harvey played guitars and joined in the fun. Tom even added a few of his own songs. We then retired for the night to get ready for our Sunday morning breakout sessions and wrap up before heading home. Breakout sessions included Kayak Fishing, Coastal Fishing, Fly Casting, Aquatic Ecology, and Computer Training for using the new online Angler Ed reporting system.

We followed up with an opportunity to share all of our own thoughts and suggestions about each teaching unit in order to spread our expertise to one another.

I also became the foster parent for "Teddy" who is the unofficial/ official mascot for Angler Ed. You will see lots of Teddy over the next 12 months. Be watching!!!



Are you a Fishing A'FISH'ionado?

KEIRA QUAM – TPWD Aquatic Education Specialist

Need a way to add some fun to your Angler Ed classes? Here are some fun "facts" that can be used in any class, from Basic to Instructor.

Thanks to our amazing Angler Education instructors, Mary Aigner who developed the idea, Joyce Davis, who came up with question #1; and Dakus Geeslin who contributed question #3.

Do you have a fun fact to share? Please send it to Keira.Quam@tpwd.texas.gov for consideration in future newsletters!

- 1. What is the scientific name of the fin on a Pepperidge Farm Goldfish?
- 2. Where can you fish in Texas without a fishing license?
- 3. At what level in the water do the majority of fish feed? Surface, mid-water or deep-water?

water and 10% feed at the surface. Benthic organisms, 15% in mid-

.(IsunnA roobtuO **GW**9T).

4102-E102 of the 2013-2014 (See page 26 of the 2013-2014)

park or in waters completely fishing from the bank in a state

2. A fishing license is not required if

and bag limits, remain in effect.

fishing regulations, such as length enclosed by a state park. All other

3. 75% feed in deep water due to

1. Caudal Fin ANSWERS

Respect – "The Unexpected Catch"

MICHAEL SCHERER – TPWD Angler Education Area Chief, Houston CALEB HARRIS – TPWD Aquatic Education Specialist, Central Texas

There is an abundance of species that live in the same areas you will be fishing. Some of these species may just be floating on the water, swimming under the water, flying above the water, or walking behind you. As Angler Instructors, you have been taught how to catch, hold, and release fish. You have been instructed what to do before you make your cast. But there may be a time that you catch or hook something not intended. Turtles, birds, dogs, snakes, and even your fishing buddies are targets for the unexpected fisherman's hook! Let's call this, "The UNEXPECTED CATCH."

Anglers frequently catch gulls and terns while trolling; ducks can get in the way of a poorly planned cast; diving birds, such as pelicans, often get the hook stuck in their wings or chest, while going for what they think is food. Dogs often eat bait lying around and if that bait happens to have a hook. Freshwater turtles are commonly caught with trot lines intended for catfish, and it's common for sea turtles to get hooked too. Less frequently, anglers catch water snakes and even small gators! A fly fishing acquaintance posted a picture of the bullfrog that took his fly last summer ... now that's a realistic fly cast!

When a fish is caught and the hook is deep, the fish needs to be released. We DO NOT want to hurt the fish more by trying to remove this hook. It is better to clip the line close to the eye of the hook, and then release the fish back into the water. Here are some things to consider about unhooking the unexpected catch.

Safety First! An ounce of prevention is worth the cure! Always wear a hat and sunglasses when fishing. Your fishing gear should include a small basic first aid kit, some needle-nose pliers or other hook remover tool, and a towel. Know where the closest hospital is to your fishing destination, have a working phone with you and the ability to find a complete list of wildlife rehabilitators: www.tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/rehab/list/.

If bait fishing, consider switching over to circle hooks. Circle hooks are engineered to reduce gut hooking fish and since the point bends inward they are much less likely to snag something during a cast. If using other types of hooks, it's always a good idea to mash down the barbs.

Keep in mind that some species are protected by state and federal laws including dolphins, all sea turtles, diamond back terrapins, alligators and alligator snapping turtles. Remember that the animal may be in pain or in shock. All animals will attempt to defend themselves from perceived danger by whatever means are available.

The Human Catch

- For a minor hook injury: Cut off the barb, before attempting to remove the hook. Follow standard first aid procedures for a wound injury.
- For serious injury, seek immediate professional medical attention or call 9-1-1.

Sea Turtles

Sea turtles are protected by the Endangered Species Act

- DO NOT lift the turtle by pulling the line. If possible, use a dip net to lift the turtle out of the water.
- PLEASE call 1-866-TURTLE-5 (1-866-887-8535) before attempting any hook removals. The number is answered 24/7 and sponsored by the Turtle Island Restoration Network, a Biologist will help you determine the best course of action.
- DO NOT attempt to remove swallowed hooks and avoid the turtle's mouth.

Fresh Water Turtles

Red Eared Sliders, Soft Shell and Common Snapping turtles are actually legal to keep and eat if you have a hunting license (check the limits). However, Diamondback Terrapins and Alligator Snapping turtles are protected by law and must be released.

Hooked in the body or feet

- Before removing the hook, the turtle's face and head should be covered by cloth or blocked somehow.
- Once you are safe from bites remove the hook by hand or with pliers.Remember, don't try to reverse a hook with a barb, cut the hook and pull it out point first.
- If the turtle is seriously injured, take it to a nearest licensed rehabilitator

Hooked in face or mouth

- · DO NOT pull the fishing line to pull the hook out
- If the Turtle has swallowed the hook or is seriously injured, take it to the nearest licensed rehabilitator
- DO NOT place your fingers or hands around the mouth.

Gulls, Terns, Pelicans, Ducks and Other Birds

All birds are federally protected.

- PLEASE DON'T LEAVE BAITED HOOKS HANGING AND UNATTENDED.
- · Reel fishing line in slowly. Do not cut the line yet!
- Ask someone to help this will be a two person job.

- Restrain the bird by covering it with a towel or large cloth, taking care to fold its wings flat against its body and restrain its beak.
 (One person holds the bird while the other works on it.)
- Follow hook removal first aid if possible but if the bird has swallowed the hook or is seriously injured, take it to the nearest licensed rehabilitator

Snakes, Alligators, etc.

- Clearly, safety first! Do not attempt to handle venomous snakes or alligators!
- This is an area to let the experts do the work, contact a local Wildlife Rehabilitator if the animal is seriously injured, or cut the line as close as safely possible and let it go.

Dogs and Other Pets

Pets are commonly hooked by eating baited hooks left unattended.

- If a pet has swallowed a hook, get them to a veterinarian ASAP.
- If the hook is external, such as a paw, follow hook removal first aid if possible or take it to the veterinarian.

As stewards of our natural resources, we all can play a role to protect wildlife. For additional information see the following websites:

NOAA Fisheries: www.galvestonlab.sefsc.noaa.gov/seaturtles/

Sea Turtle Inc: www.seaturtles.org Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary (FL): www.seabirdsanctuary.com/Unhook_A_Bird.php TPWD Wildlife Rehabilitation: www.tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/rehab/list/ TPWD Find a Game Warden: (512) 389-4848, www.tpwd.texas.gov/warden/







Reaching Out to Future Leaders

KEIRA QUAM – TPWD Aquatic Education Specialist. PHOTOS: © Richard Johnson, TPWD Volunteer

An Angler Ed Instructor who teaches at Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School in Dallas expressed an interest in teaching fly fishing to her students. She had already taught her students basic fishing skills including knot tying, casting and where to find fish. Not having much experience in fly fishing, she felt she should leave this unit to those with more experience. I recruited another certified Angler Ed Instructor who is also the Education Coordinator for the Dallas Fly Fishers Club, Richard Johnson, to take a team to work with these students.

Richard and his team gladly went to the school, located right next to Fair Park, for four days to teach the group how to cast fly rods and also tie flies. I was able to join the group for two of those days—I'm not sure who had more fun, the volunteer instructors or the students.

A total of 40 high school girls participated in two, two-day classes. Dressed in their school uniforms, the girls gathered in the gym on the first day. Their teacher divided them into two groups. Half of them learned to cast while the other half tied flies. The next day, the groups switched. The instructors were also divided and half went with each group. Dallas Fly Fishers do a great job of mentoring new instructors and they work with experienced instructors to gain confidence, as well as better learn the material. It was obvious that the girls were excited about this opportunity as they listened intently while the instructors explained what to do. The teacher also participated, one day tying and the next day casting! Dan Montayne led the fly casting and the girls went from very controlled casts to casting with accuracy through hula hoops in no time. Jere Anderson led the fly tying and the girls got to tie a Woolley Bugger and then a Jacobs Fly. Jere stated, "They are a great group of sharp and ready to learn young people. It is a pleasure to teach there!"

The girls graciously sent thank you notes to all those involved. Some of the comments were: "I would like to thank you for the time you put into helping us, the girls of Irma Rangel YWLS, learn the art of fly fishing. I have discovered that I truly enjoy the sport and would love to continue learning more about it." Another girl stated, "I appreciate you and your guidance in our fly fishing instructional class. What I really enjoyed was that you directly helped us practice our casting and by doing so I have become more comfortable and confident."

To me, it always feels like you are truly impacting individual lives and their futures when you teach young people to fish. Some of my past students have gone into jobs in the outdoors, maybe because of their experiences while they were young. Thanks to ALL of our instructors who reach out to the future leaders of Texas statewide!



Longear sunfish by Kealey Yoakum

Texas State-Fish Art Contest Announces 2014 Winners

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, headquarters for the Texas division of Wildlife Forever's State-Fish Art Contest, has announced the Texas division winners.

Kindergarten – 3rd grade	FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE
	Tatyana Panchishna	Isha Goel	Livia Thomas
	Flower Mound	Flower Mound	Coppell
4th – 6th grade	Madeleine Alexander	Sarah Slater	Alina Ponomarenko
	Keller	Coppell	Lewisville
7th – 9th grade	Kealey Yoakum	Savannah Walker	Jacob Litsey
	Village Mills	Keller	Northlake
10th – 12th grade	Brady King	Bryce BonAnno	Nasa Xu
	Livingston	Canyon	Katy

Texas artists and their families will be recognized at an awards ceremony at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens on July 12. First-place winners will advance to the national level and compete against winners from other states. National winners will be announced at an expo to be held August 15 and 16 in Columbia, South Carolina. One outstanding piece of artwork each year is selected for the Art of Conservation Award, and a commemorative stamp featuring the artwork is produced for sale. Proceeds from sales of the stamp are used to fund conservation projects.

Scholarships and financial assistance for Texas winners to attend the state and national awards are provided by the Toyota Texas Bass Classic. Scholarships are \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for second place and \$500 for third place in the grades 10–12 division. Awards in the K–3, 4–6 and 7–9 grade levels are \$100 for first; \$75 for second; \$50 for third. Additional support for the contest is provided by the William E. Armentrout Foundation, Friends of the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center and FishFlops®. FishFlops® provides fish-themed beachwear for the top ten winners in each of the four grade divisions.

To enter, download the free "State-Fish Art Contest Lesson Plan" at www.statefishart.com. Entries must be postmarked by March 31 each year. The State-Fish Art Contest is a project of Wildlife Forever. Located in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, Wildlife Forever is a non-profit multi-species conservation organization dedicated to conserving America's wildlife heritage. Working at the grassroots level, Wildlife Forever has funded conservation projects in all 50 states, committing millions of dollars to "on-the-ground" efforts. Wildlife Forever supports habitat restoration and enhancement, land acquisition, research and management of fish and wildlife populations.

On the Net: www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishart www.wildlifeforever.org/contest

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. This is a nationwide art contest sponsored by Wildlife Forever, a national conservation organization. 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 grades K-3 may also submit a drawing; the essay is not required for this age group.

Entries must be postmarked by March 31 each year and must comply with all rules and regulations. An official entry form must accompany all entries.

Test Your Trash IQ

There are many ways to educate people about the impact of litter on the environment. Some of our Angler Education Instructors also do a litter pickup after the fishing event or class. Here is a simple, fun and interactive way to incorporate the topic into your fishing classes and events for small groups of all ages. It will take about 10-15 minutes and you'll need the following items (note: if conducting this activity outside in windy conditions, use some rocks or paperweights to keep the items from blowing away).

Marine Debris Timeline poster Paper towel Newspaper Wax juice or milk carton Six-pack ring Cigarette butts (in a Ziploc bag) Aluminum soda can Plastic water bottle Styrofoam cup or bait box Fishing line (in a Ziploc bag)



Texas General Land Office

Explain to the participants, "We are going to Test Your Trash IQ!" Explain that on the table is an imaginary timeline. On the participant's left side is the shortest time, for example one week, and the other end of the table is 600 years (or infinity).

Define or ask participants to define disintegrate. Hand a litter item to each of the participants and ask them to guess how long it takes the item to disintegrate and place it on the imaginary timeline.

After all items are placed, review the order of items and ask if any re-arranging needs to be done (rearrange if necessary). Now, ask the participants, "Are you ready to check your Trash IQ? Or do we need to re-arrange some of the items?"

Either read the answers from the table here, or show the marine debris timeline and compare it with the table timeline, ask the participants "*Do we have the items in the right order?*" Rearrange the items if needed.

Remind them about the importance of picking up litter, even if it's not theirs, to protect the habitat and the wildlife.

Item	Time to disintegrate
Paper towel	2-4 weeks
Newspaper	6 weeks
Wax juice carton	3 months
Cigarette butts (in a Ziploc bag)	10 years
Styrofoam cup	50 years
Aluminum soda can	200 years
Six-pack ring	400 years
Plastic bottle	450 years
fishing line (in a Ziploc bag)	600 years

Angler Ed Volunteers Do Make a Difference

KAREN MARKS – TPWD Aquatic Education Manager

As Angler Ed volunteers, we often get paid by the great smiles and excitement of the children and their parents when they learn to tie a knot or catch a fish. So after all the prep work, gathering supplies and gear, spending a long hot day outside, then packing up the gear and submitting your report ... have you ever wondered if what you are doing is making a difference in the long term? Well, "data" indicate the answer is YES!



Texas was one of the 27 states that assisted with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) email survey of "First-Time Anglers."

The goal of the survey was to explore and confirm findings from the first two phases of research (database analysis and focus groups) regarding their motivations for fishing, level of participation, and their expectations and preferences regarding their fishing experiences. In the end, the purpose is to understand what motivates first-time license buyers to purchase a fishing license.

Here are the key findings and recommendations from the report, Insights into First-Time Fishing License Buyers Report:

More than 90% of first-time license buyers had fished as a child, indicating that the recent purchase is a re-entry into the sport of recreational fishing as an adult.

This validates the importance of youth angler recruitment efforts and taking the time to introduce kids to the sport of fishing.

The majority of first-time license buyers looked forward to having a chance to spend some time with family and friends and the opportunity to relax and unwind. Roughly half of first-time license buyers wanted the opportunity to spend some time in the great outdoors.

Campaign efforts and messaging should take these motivations into consideration, recognizing that the benefits of fishing are numerous and complex.

Three out of four, or 78%, of first-time fishing license buyers say that their first fishing trip either met or exceeded their expectations. When asked about factors they liked least, one out of three reported that there were no problems and they liked everything about fishing.

This shows that these new anglers are enjoying the sport, and it is important to keep fishing on the top of their list as an activity choice in their busy lives.

If a first-time license buyer goes fishing more than once in their first year, their likelihood to renew more than doubles. Results show that 70% of first-time license buyers who fished just two or three times in their first year renewed their licenses versus a 30% renewal rate among the group who only fished once. This highlights the importance of engaging with these new anglers to remind them of fishing opportunities and local information to encourage them to go fishing again.

The majority of 2012 first-time license buyers purchased a fishing license again in 2013 and 66% plan to go fishing again in 2014, however nearly one third of first-time license buyers indicate they might fish in 2014. Over half of the first-time license buyers who did not renew indicate they are still interested in fishing.

These first-time license buyers are potential targets for retentionbased marketing efforts as they have shown interest in the sport and are open to the possibility of trying the sport again.

Social characteristics of fishing attracted many of the first-time license buyers, having been invited by family and friends or being asked by a child to take them fishing. And evidence shows that this social factor will continue to influence their future purchase decisions.

Marketing messages targeting this characteristic of the sport can positively influence the decision to renew their licenses.

Results indicate that first-time license buyers are not widely aware of the reliance on fishing license sales revenue by state fish and wildlife agencies as a critical funding source.

This can be a secondary message when encouraging anglers to renew their license.

2014 ANGLER EDUCATION AREA CHIEF AWARDS

Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum 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, 2014.

PLATINUM AWARD (trained 200+)

ALMANZAR, RAUL FOBIAN, MARK RAMIREZ, REY SHAVER, BRENDA VAN DE PUTTE, TONI

BRONZE AWARD (trained 10–24)

BASS, JIM BENAVIDES, JOSE GAMMONS, MARC

GOLD AWARD (trained 50-199)

ANDERSON, JERE CRUMRINE, BILL DAVIS, SHELIA DAVIS, WILLIE DE LA ROSA, FRANK GANZE, CHUCK GEBAUER, TIM JOHNSON, RICHARD

FRKUSKA, AUGUSTINE

KEO, STEVE

LARSEN, THOR

MARTINEZ, OSCAR PETRICK, MIKE PORTWOOD, RONALD RAMIREZ, IRMA THOMAS, MICHAEL WALKER, PAUL YORK, PEGGY

NEW AREA CHIEFS

LECCA, VINCENT LEWIS, NIKIA MCCORKHILL, MICHAEL SIMMS-JUSTICE, MELANIE WATKINS, RICHARD WEYANT, GERALD URBANO, JUAN



Learn-to-Fish Events at Texas State Parks

Families can learn the basics of fishing through fun, hands-on activities. Take away a fishing fun pack and enter the drawing for door prizes. Equipment and bait provided or bring your own. No license necessary. Adults must accompany children. Bring sun protection and water.

Registration and start time for all events is 9 a.m.

Check the calendar for updates or cancellations, www.tpwd.texas.gov/calendar

Volunteers to help at the events are needed, too. Sign-up at www.tpwd.texas.gov/volunteer

Cedar Hill September 13 October 18

Eisenhower September 27 (Learn to fly fish event)

Galveston Island September 13 October 18

Lake Whitney October 4



Buy a fishing license!

Your purchase supports:

- Angler education for youth and adults
- Fish stocking
- Habitat restoration

SILVER AWARD

(trained 25–49)

GARCIA, RODD

GARZA, WILLIE

HAMON, JERRY

NANNA, URSULA

PATERSON, CLINTON

PROTHRO, TRACEY

SCHERER, MICHAEL

VAUGHAN, GERALD WALKER, CARVER



throughout the Gulf, and beyond.

Untangling the Mess

LARRY M. CONDRA – TPWD Area Chief, Abilene

As do most anglers in pursuit of old Bucket mouth or most other species, I usually carry a number of rod and reel combos to the lake. I like to have most of them pre-rigged with the bait or terminal tackle I plan to use, to save time on the water. This helps especially in tournament fishing or conducting youth events.

Often, upon preparing for that first cast, I find several of the rods tangled or inter-tangled. I must spend the first part of prime-time fishing getting the mess straightened out. You can imagine what happens to my temperament during this time. That is, until I learned a better way to transport my equipment. This will work for rod storage, if you are fishing in a buddy's boat or from a pier or bank.

After tying on rig or lure, I attach the hook to the rod at the hook keeper, to the rod handle, or the reel. Then I reel the line taut but not necessarily tight. Grasping the loose line in the middle of the rod, I wrap it around the rod in one direction (usually I spin the rod to accomplish this) until I have used up the slack line and have the line laying flat against the rod and between each set of line guides. When I pick up the rod to fish, I simply reverse the process.

There are commercial products now that help with this but they cost hard earned money and this method has never failed to keep the line in tack and the combos untangled and ready for use. This can be used while transporting, storing in a rod box or at home and can be rigged for almost immediate use.

I have also found that these rigs are even more tangle free if I use a product available at most good tackle shops to wrap the lure and hooks. This wrap has Velcro to hold the sides together. They come in several sizes and are truly handy.

Keep your lines tight and wet, keep what you can use and release the rest (CPR – Catch Photo Release).

Spotlight on Turtle Island Restoration Network's Gulf of Mexico Office



Turtle Island Restoration Network's Gulf of Mexico Office and our Sea Our Gulf office also watches out for the well being of baby sea turtles. Turtle Restoration Project work to protect and restore populations of endangered sea turtles and marine biodiversity on the Texas Coast,

For nearly 25 years, our Gulf Office has safeguarded sea turtles and engaged the public in our conservation efforts through education, outreach, beach nesting patrols, classroom visits and other habitat protection efforts. Major milestones include successfully protecting over 100 miles of Texas coastline for endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtles, educating over 30,000 students and teachers about our unique Gulf ecosystem, and helping make the Kemp's ridley the official sea turtle of Texas.

Just this year our Gulf Office assumed responsibility for volunteer recruitment, training and coordination of the Upper Texas Coast Nesting Beach Monitor Program. The Upper Coast program, initiated by Dr. Andre Landry of Texas A&M University, is one of six patrol units on the Texas Coast that provides vital sea turtle nesting data, first responders when sea turtles are sighted by the public, and crucial training to volunteers.

Tourist-friendly beaches are often cleaned of seaweed by large machines without regard for vulnerable baby sea turtle hatchlings, our office works with authorities and volunteers to implement responsible beach cleaning plans that incorporate careful lifesaving, on-the-ground checks for hatchlings in seaweed.

This summer, we are also looking forward to welcoming the public to our Sea Turtle Action Center in Galveston, Texas. The center will serve as a hub of education, activism and volunteerism.

Turtle Island's mission is to mobilize people in local communities around the world to protect marine wildlife and the oceans and inland watersheds that sustain them. Our work is buoyed by thousands of supporters, volunteers and pro bono professionals, who help us extend our network around the globe.

Get involved at SeaTurtles.Org/Volunteer.

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Fingernail Flies

JOYCE DAVIS – TPWD Angler Education Instructor, Denton Texas Women Fly Fishers

Fly fishers are creative in their use of materials to make flies. I learned of this simple way to create "Redfish Spoon Flies" from an

article by C. Boyd Pfeiffer in the Spring-Summer 2011 edition of *Flyfisher*. Collaborating with fishing friends, we have assembled a varied assortment of "spoon" flies we keep in our boxes for sunfish, bass and redfish.

Materials:

hooks chenille 5 minute epoxy silly legs tail materials nail file an assortment of craft paints or nail polish package of plastic fingernails

(Sources for the materials are fly shops, Walmart and the Dollar Store)

Instructions:

- 1. Match a hook and a fingernail for size. Saltwater and freshwater hooks may be used.
- 2. Place a hook in the vice and tie a thread base. Follow with wrapping a chenille base.
- 3. Add tail materials or silly legs, if desired.
- 4. With a fingernail file, smooth any rough edges on the fingernail. Add epoxy to the concave side of the fingernail and attach to the hook. Keep checking to be sure the fingernail adheres correctly.
- 5. When the spoons are dry, paint the flies using craft paints or fingernail polish. I like the gold or the silver nail polishes with glitter in the bottle and the smooth glossy black for little spiders.

© JOYCE DAVIS



What's New in Regulations for the Next Fishing Season?

Here are some of the new regulations coming up starting September 1, 2014. Keep in mind these are not all the new changes, there are some others — especially to local county specific exemptions, so make sure you check your outdoor annual for specifics.

Note: The Outdoor Annual is the authority on regulations. If this article differs from what is printed in the outdoor annual, please follow what is in the annual.

Clean. Drain. Dry. Statewide Boat-Draining Rule – took effect July 1, 2014

Beginning July 1, boaters must drain all water from their boats and on-board receptacles (including livewells, bilges, motors, etc.) before leaving or approaching a body of fresh water anywhere in Texas. This is to help reduce the further spread of harmful zebra mussels and other invasive species. It applies to all types and sizes of boats, whether powered or not. Live fish, including bait, cannot be transported form the water body where the fish were caught in water from the water body where the fish were caught. Anglers are allowed to transport live bait in water, provided that have a receipt that identifies the source of the bait as a bait show, but if that shop uses water from an adjacent body of water, that bait may not be transported in that water to another body of water.

Texas/Louisiana Border Waters

Toledo Bend Reservoir (Newton, Sabine, and Shelby counties) Caddo Lake (Harrison and Marion counties) Lower Sabine River (Newton and Orange counties)

For these waters, daily bag is 50 fish for blue and channel catfish in any combination, but no more than 5 of them (either species) can be over 30 inches. (It used to be 20 inches.)

Guadalupe River below Canyon Reservoir (Comal County)

The special regulation zone (18 inch minimum, 1 daily bag and only artificial flies for rainbow trout) used to start 4 miles downstream of the dam and extend to the second crossing on River Rd. Now the special regulation zone will start just 800 yards downstream of the Canyon Reservoir dam release and will involve a slot limit, (12-18 inches) a 5-fish per day limit and by artificial fly only, with 1 fish allowed over 18 inches. This new regulation starts 800 yards from the dam and extends to the Hwy 306 bridge. After the 306 bridge the older special regulation still applies.

Alligator Gar

The commissioners voted to allow TPWD to prohibit taking or attempting to take Alligator Gar in any area where conditions such as water temperature and flooding events would be conducive for spawning of Alligator Gar. This, if implemented, would be properly signed along the river/lake in which it was enacted and public notices would be made.

Jugline Floats

Recreational (non-commercial) anglers who fish with juglines will be allowed to use floats of any color now, except orange. Previously, recreational juglines were supposed to be white, commercial was orange.

SALTWATER PROPOSALS

Southern Flounder

The two-bag limit special restricted season for southern flounder used to be only for the month of November. This next season the bag limit will be 2 for the month of November (pole and line only) AND the first two weeks of December (by any lawful means).

Spotted Seatrout

The 5-fish bag and 10 fish possession limit will now extend south of the FM 457 bridge in Sargent, TX, to include the Gulf, to the Rio Grande River. North of FM 457 will remain with the 10 fish bag limit and 20 fish possession limit, again including the Gulf of Mexico.

Temporary Oyster Harvest Closures

Harvesting oysters from East Galveston Bay (including Half-Moon Reef in Matagorda Bay) will not be allowed for two years. They will reconsider the closure then.

Red Snapper

The size and daily limits of red snapper in Texas state waters is not changing, but the department is asking recreational anglers to participate in a voluntary creel survey at www.tpwd.texas.gov/snapper so biologists can more accurately manage the fishery. This is voluntary, but will be very helpful.



KATY HAMMON

TPWD Area Chief, North Texas May 20, 1938 January 23, 2014



LARRY M. CONDRA

TPWD Area Chief, Abilene April 20, 1949 June 24, 2014 Katy Hammon, of Teague, TX, passed away January 23, 2014. She was a graduate of North Texas State University and retired from UT Southwestern Medical School after 31 years as a research scientist. Her career included several years as a part of a team that won the 1985 Nobel Prize for Medicine, and she was an active member and officer of the Texas Society of Electron Microscopy.

Katy is survived by her husband Bill Hammon of Teague, TX; children Bobbie Jean Solis and husband Marcial of Houston, TX, Rebecca Kmak and husband Michael of Garland, TX, and Stan Hammon of Denver, CO; sister Kibbie Stewart of Rowlett, TX; 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Katy spent more than 30 years volunteering and working for the Girl Scouts, and also with Texas Parks and Wildlife, Angler Education and Texas Master Naturalist program – Elm Fork Chapter. She enjoyed square and round dancing most of her life and was active in the East Texas Square and Round Dance Association, holding several key leadership roles. She was a tireless volunteer, and president of the Teague Library Association, and also worked to improve library resources in central Texas through the Texas Association of Librarians. Through the "Stars for Our Troops" organization, she collected retired US flags and created tokens of appreciation for veterans. Her dedication to the central Texas community was also shown through her work with the Red Cross of Texas responding to house fires, and setting up hurricane shelters. Memorial donations can be made to the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas or the East Texas Square and Round Dance Association – Teen Scholarship Fund.



Larry Condra of Abilene, TX, passed away on June 24, 2014. An avid fisherman and dove hunter, Larry retired from teaching high school social studies in Abilene in 2010, and continued to share his passion for the outdoors by volunteering and teaching with several Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) programs, and with Fishing's Future. Prior to his retirement, he bravely chaperoned his high school PALS students across the state several times to volunteer at the annual TPWD Expo. He was an Angler Education Instructor and Area Chief; a Hunter Education Instructor and trainer for the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) and assisted with the state NASP tournaments; and was a regular contributor to the Angler Education *Reel Lines* newsletter — his last article is included in this issue. He often taught fishing classes at the Becoming An Outdoor Woman program.

Larry is survived by his wife, Tevyan Condra and their five children, Timber Condra of Fort Worth, Blake Condra and wife Abbey of Abilene, Brazos Condra and wife Katie of Lufkin, Tahj Mayes and husband Glen of Austin, and Tryon Condra and wife Cassie of Amarillo; and eleven grandchildren. Survivors also include his mother, Doris Kinder and husband Florin of Abilene; sister, Brenda Casey and husband David of Eliasville, Texas; and brother, Mark Condra and wife Becky of El Paso. He was preceded in death by his father.

Fishing's Future has established a high school scholarship fund in Larry's memory. Contributions may be made to Fishing's Future at www.fishingsfuture.org or PO Box 3848, South Padre Island, TX 78597.

Services were held on June 28. Online condolences may be still be posted at www.HamilFamilyFuneralHome.com

Welcome, New Instructors! November 2013 - May 2014

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

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JOSE RIOS, JR.	ADKINS	CARLOS RIVAS	EDINBURG	John van Kampen	HOUSTON
Melissa jaquez	ANTHONY	ANNAMARIA PINON	EL PASO	CHARLES WEST	HOUSTON
ROGER SLAGLE*	ARLINGTON	GILBERT PINON	EL PASO	MICHAEL MAYFIELD	HUFFMAN
JANET BELZ	AUSTIN	MICHAEL GONZALEZ	ELGIN	QUENTON FARR	HUMBLE
JASON BUECHLER*	AUSTIN	KRISTEN CUELLAR	ELSA	ROSEMARY FARR	HUMBLE
CHRIS ELLISON	AUSTIN	JERRY "MARK" BOUCHER	EULESS	RICHARD WATKINS	HUNTSVILLE
ANDREA LOFYE*	AUSTIN	DALE STEINHAUSER	FLATONIA	CHARLES HALTEMAN	IRVING
MANUEL PEREZ	AUSTIN	RALPH BOWERS*	FORT WORTH	BRYAN DANIELS	JUSTIN
RICARDO REYES	AUSTIN	CATHY CROCKER	FORT WORTH	SANDRA BEAUCHAMP	KATY
JOANN SATBERRY	AUSTIN	JAMES CROCKER	FORT WORTH	OLIVER BECKHAM III	KATY
STEPHEN SCHEFFE	AUSTIN	ROLAND HARVEY	FORT WORTH	SHANE BORCHERT	KATY
TINA STOKES	AUSTIN	PHILLIP RIDDLE	FORT WORTH	WENDY COX	KATY
LAJUAN TUCKER	AUSTIN	RAUL RODRIGUEZ	FORT WORTH	STELLA DAVISON	KATY
DIEGO ARAGON*	BASTROP	ELIZABETH WEST	FORT WORTH	DENNIS DEES	KATY
STEVE DARILEK	BRIDGEPORT	MICHELE MULLER	FRIENDSWOOD	THOMAS DEWEASE	KATY
GLORIA ALCARAZ	BROWNSVILLE	BILL FUENTES	GARLAND	MARGO FAULKNER	KATY
ANDRES GARCIA	BROWNSVILLE	LINDA FUENTES	GARLAND	JAMES GIBSON	KATY
EMILIANO GONZALEZ	BROWNSVILLE	DEBORAH PITTMAN	GARLAND	MICHAEL HULEN	KATY
LIANA LERMA	BROWNSVILLE	GARY PITTMAN	GARLAND	PRASAD PATI	KATY
JUNIOR MUNOZ	BROWNSVILLE	MICHAEL TRIBBLE	GARLAND	TIM REED	KATY
ARMANDO ROCHA	BROWNSVILLE	LARRY MOSBY	GARRISON	KHALED SOLIMAN KHALIL	KATY
EDWARD ENRIQUEZ	BRYAN	ERNEST BARLOW	GRAND PRAIRIE	NEIL STILLMAN	KATY
olivia kost	BRYAN	DANNY PRADO*	GRAPEVINE	PAUL STIRRUP	KATY
John de la garza	BUCHANAN	TIM BRAUNEL	GREEN BAY	EUGENE ZIERK	KATY
	DAM	MELISSA CANTU	HARLINGEN	JOSE BENAVIDES*	KELLER
CELIA ESCAMILLA	BURNET	JENNA ORTMEIER	HASLET	CHARLES GANZE	KERRVILLE
MARY MUSSELMAN	BURNET	KARI REISS	HIGHLANDS	JUDY HARALSON	KINGSLAND
LINDA LACY	CHANNELVIEW	KELLY SHAW	HIGHLANDS	LYNN WOLHEIM	KINGSLAND
PATRICK LACY	CHANNELVIEW	BRYAN HEIN	HILLSBORO	ALICE RHEAUME	KNGSLAND
JOHN FLORES	CLUTE	DON CRUVER	HORSESHOE	NATHAN FRIAR	KYLE
ELIZABETH SILVY	COLLEGE		BAY	CHAD JAKEL	LOCKHART
	STATION	JEAN SCHAR	HORSESHOE	MALLORY MITCHELL	LUBBOCK
SCOTT BURLEIGH	CONROE		BAY	BARRY CARTER	MAGNOLIA
MICHAEL JOHNSON	CRAWFORD	ANN STEVENSON	HORSESHOE	ROBIN CARTER	MAGNOLIA
ROBERT VAN	CROCKETT		BAY	AMBER HILLYARD	MALAKOFF
LOUIS BONO*	DALLAS	RICHARD AKIN	HOUSTON	BRIAN HILLYARD	MALAKOFF
ANDREW GRAY*	DALLAS	SAM ALGAWAD	HOUSTON	LINDA BROWN	MARBLE FALLS
Joshua Jones	DALLAS	GENNELL CRUMP	HOUSTON	KAY HERRING	MARBLE FALLS
ROBERT VAN II	DALLAS	JASON GLOVER	HOUSTON	REBECCA NUNNALLY	MARBLE FALLS
JEFF ZIEHM*	DALLAS	PAUL KING	HOUSTON	SANDRA LANDIS	MEADOW
CATARINO PEREZ	DRIPPING	ERIC PLATA	HOUSTON		LAKES
	SPRINGS	PATRICIA RANDOLPH	HOUSTON	JOEY SPEER	MERIDIAN

JESSE SANDOVAL	MICO	DAVID AGUILAR	SAN ANTONIO	DARLENE GUIDRY	SPRING
KARIE FRERICHS	MONTGOMERY	ROBERT AGUILAR JR	SAN ANTONIO	ALLEN PAPE	SPRING
RICHARD MIZANIN	NEW	JOHN ANDERJESKI	SAN ANTONIO	RYAN RODRIGUEZ	SPRING
	BRAUNFELS	ROSEMARY BERNAL	SAN ANTONIO	CAMERON WINKLE	STEPHENVILLE
LYN WHITE	NEW	OMAR CALZADA	SAN ANTONIO	AARON SMITH	TYLER
	BRAUNFELS	GERALD (JERRY)		GARY SCANK	VALLEY VIEW
SONNY MILLS	PEARLAND	CHAVARRIA	SAN ANTONIO	DAVID WADE	WAXAHACHIE
PATRINA THOMPSON	PEARLAND	JAMES DOWLEARN	SAN ANTONIO	PEGGY CARL*	WEST
ROBERT HANKINS*	PFLUGERVILLE	ROBERT DUNCAN	SAN ANTONIO		COLOMBIA
ROY RODRIGUEZ	PHARR	JAMES KENNEDY	SAN ANTONIO	JOSEPH HENDRIX	WICHITA FALLS
JOHN HAUGHTON	PILOT POINT	EDWARD KOST	SAN ANTONIO	FORREST BJERKAAS	
JEFFREY EGGLESTON*	PLANO	MARK MARTINEZ	SAN ANTONIO	DAWN BROOKS	
RANDY JACKSON	RIO HONDO	CYNTHIA MORENO	SAN ANTONIO	JESUS CHAVEZ	
ERICA SWENSON	ROCKPORT	TOMAS RODRIGUEZ	SAN ANTONIO	MIKE GURESKY	
LUIS CANALES	ROMA	GARY SADLER	SAN ANTONIO	DANIELLE KEY	
FRANCES MIDDLEBROOKS	ROUND ROCK	ALBERT SOTO JR	SAN ANTONIO	JUSTIN KIRSCH	
RICK HALL	ROWLETT	CHRIS KOWALESKI	SAN MARCOS	KELLY LAUDERDALE	
BRADLEY PILLOW	ROWLETT	NATHAN REYNOLDS	SAN MARCOS	RODGER LEE	
CHARLIE REILLY	ROWLETT	ERNEST TRIGO	SANTA FE	SELVERIO PACLEB	
JILL REILLY	ROWLETT	PAUL CARDILE	SOUTH PADRE	JO LYNN PITRE	
ROBERT SPANGLER*	ROWLETT		ISLAND	JARED RAMIREZ	
SUE SPANGLER*	ROWLETT	JEFF LAMURE	SOUTH PADRE	HALEY WOELFEL	
LARRY WEYGANDT*	ROWLETT		ISLAND	TAMMY ZELLNER	
Kelsie Adams	SAN ANTONIO	JOSEPH DEGGS	SPRING		
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www.tpwd.texas.gov/anglered/ www.facebook.com/texasanglereducators

UPCOMING EVENTS



September 27, 2014 Bluegill Family Fishing Tournament 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Join us for a fun-filled day of trying to catch the biggest Bluegill here at our center and on Lake Athens.

October 30, 2014

6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Halloween at the Hatchery Local businesses and organizations will hand out free candy, and the

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



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 Texas 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.texas.gov.

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.

August 1, 2014

Sea Center Texas Aquariumania Mini Camp

Take an in-depth look at what it takes to run the Sea Center aquariums. Go on an aquarium scavenger hunt, take a behind-the-scenes tour and dissect a squid! Limit 15 students, age 8 to 12 years. Pre-registration required. \$20 per child for 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. session. Call (979) 292-0100 to register now!

September 20, 2014

Youth Fishing Event

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 from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. is available to guests up to 16 years of age accompanied by an adult. Anglers must bring their own gear and bait with barb-less hooks. No artificial bait, corks or treble hooks. Volunteers and staff will be on hand to assist first-time anglers.

For complete calendar and updates, visit www.tpwd.texas.gov/tffc • www.tpwd.texas.gov/seacenter