

TEXAS ANGLER
EDUCATION PROGRAM**Reel Lines**

Issue Number 17

4200 Smith School Road • Austin, Texas 78744

January 2005

New & NoteworthyANN MILLER – EDITOR
TPWD Aquatic Education Coordinator**New Year's Greetings
to all of you!**

Results from our instructor survey show that the Angler Education program is working quite well for you. With all the details (and paperwork) involved in keeping the program going, I can forget the importance of the smiles you see as you teach youth how to fish and become stewards of our aquatic resources. Your surveys helped me remember that together we are making a difference! But, we still have more work to do, and Aquatic Education staff members are working to implement several of your suggestions.

Last fall, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department was chosen by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) to pilot an integrated angler education and marketing project. This is quite a privilege because we will benefit from the resources and expertise of RBFF's experts who will help us reach our program's goals using the *Best Practices in Boating, Fishing and Aquatic Stewardship Education*. Read more about this exciting pilot project on this page.

Join me in welcoming 53 new volunteer instructors into our wonderful network of dedicated adults. Look on page 11 to see if there is a new instructor in your community that you can team up with to

*Continued on the next page***Best Practices —
Innovation in Aquatic Education**

A year ago, Aquatic Education staff attended a two-day, nationally sponsored training in the "Best Practices for Boating, Fishing and Aquatic Stewardship Education." The training resulted in an increased awareness that TPWD's Aquatic Education program was already implementing many of the "Best Practices," but that it will take the well-planned and evaluated efforts of many partners to determine if we are indeed increasing participation in fishing and aquatic stewardship activities.

From that initial training, Aquatic Education staff introduced "Best Practices" to staff in other TPWD divisions and received enthusiastic support for investigating new approaches to aquatic education. This increased interest sparked a meeting with staff from the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) who wanted to use Texas as a pilot project to evaluate "Best Practices" in an integrated marketing and education project. RBFF's resources and expertise are exactly what TPWD needed to take our aquatic education efforts to the next level. RBFF experts can provide much needed guidance in planning a project with different partners and in evaluating the project.

This spring the groundwork will be laid and partners in the Houston area will be contacted to work with us to implement and evaluate an aquatic education program for youth and their families. We expect to learn many lessons from this endeavor that will serve as a roadmap for creating sustainable aquatic education throughout Texas. The pilot will take about two to three years to complete, but watch for updates in future *Reel Lines* newsletters.



Area Chief Meeting Slated for April 2-3

Angler Education Area Chiefs are instructors who volunteer to help the Aquatic Education team train other AED instructors. If you are interested in providing Angler Education Instructor training to other adults, please consider attending this fun and informative two-day training opportunity. Held at the beautiful Parrie Haynes Ranch near Copperas Cove on the Lampasas River, you will have the opportunity to network with other AED instructors, learn new fishing skills and help increase the ability of our program to provide fishing experiences and environmental education to youth.

For more information, or to sign up for the meeting, contact:

Ann Miller (512) 389-4732 ann.miller@tpwd.state.tx.us
 Brenda Justice (281) 534-0123 brenda.justice@tpwd.state.tx.us
 Steve Campbell (972) 263-0427 stephen.campbell@tpwd.state.tx.us



New & Noteworthy

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

make teaching a little easier and a lot more fun.

Aquatic Education is very pleased to announce a new team member who will join us at headquarters in January! Karen Marks brings to us great enthusiasm for our programs along with expertise that will move our programs forward. Karen will be your new contact for supply orders. For questions about your supply orders, contact Karen at (512) 389-8183 or karen.marks@tpwd.state.tx.us

As always, I enjoy hearing from you! Share your program's successes by writing an article and sending photos for the next *Reel Lines*.

Ann Miller
ann.miller@tpwd.state.tx.us

Update: Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program

There is a significant change to the Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program (MRRP) Web site (<http://mrrp.tamu.edu>). **You may now report your data online.** There will be more changes made to the Web site in the very near future.

But right now, go online, check the Web site and see if your bin locations are in the correct location category. If they are not, please send your bin locations to John O'Connell (see contact info. below). When reporting your bin locations, please number them Bin 1, Bin 2, Bin 3, etc. Eventually, a permanent number will be given to each bin that will identify them, the county and location.

If you are new to the MRRP program or have any questions about it, contact:

John O'Connell
CEA-Marine
2200 7th Street, 4th Floor
Bay City, TX 77414
Phone: (979) 245-4100
Fax: (979) 245-5661
email: jconnell@tamu.edu

or Ann Miller

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

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PWD BR K0700-162 (1/05)

Thanks for Speaking Up

This summer, Aquatic Education staff hired a contractor to complete a phone survey of both active and inactive instructors. Thanks to all of you who participated in the survey. Your ideas and suggestions are directing staff in ways to improve the program. Information about active instructors, their students and programs helped us better understand our audience for angler education and in what context the classes are being taught (sections I – III). Several instructors also wanted new, hands-on activities to teach about fish and fish habitat and about fishing regulations. Read section V below for ways to improve our materials and teaching tools. You also requested opportunities for advanced training (see section IV below). Finally, we need your help in finding ways to meet some of the challenges instructors face when teaching angler education (sections VII and VIII).

I. Who are our instructors?

Angler Education instructors tend to be affiliated with specific groups and use our program to meet the needs of their own programs. Highest on the list of groups to use Angler Education was school groups, then Boy Scouts and 4-H groups, but other groups included: parks and recreation centers, state parks, Girl Scouts, Lions Clubs, one River Authority, fishing clubs, church groups, camps and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Knowing this wide application of the program helps us keep in mind that flexibility is a key. People are using the program in a variety of formats and situations.

II. Who is being taught?

In descending order, our instructors are teaching nine to 12 year-olds, middle school youth, five to eight year-olds and high school youth. A few are teaching other adults. Only one instructor reported teaching children younger than five. This confirmed the audience that we intuitively have been targeting.

One question we didn't ask that is an important factor in whether or not youth actually become involved in fishing, is whether or not the family is included in any of the instruction or fishing activities. We will explore this factor more fully in the future.

III. How is Angler Education being taught?

Instructors reported that a few of their angler education classes lasted more than 10 hours, but a majority lasted from one to five hours or from five to 10 hours, with only four programs

lasting an hour or less. About twice as many of our instructors reported that they do include fishing as part of the class. These results are encouraging because the "Best Practices" research shows that providing fishing opportunities will increase program effectiveness greatly.

Although the instructors reported that teaching knot-tying and casting were more difficult to teach, they also reported that next to fishing, those were the two most popular activities with the kids. Interesting!

Several instructors gave a mid-score to the activities that teach about fish and fish habitats as well as fishing rules and regulations. Our staff is working on your suggestions about developing new activities and teaching aids for these topics (See section V).

IV. How can we improve our instructor training?

Although close to 90% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the instructor training, when asked for ideas to improve the training two people said the training was too basic, two said that they wanted more creative activities and one asked for more hands-on activities.

The range of fishing knowledge and abilities in an instructor class is often very wide and so it is often taught at a very basic level. One idea for us is to offer some advanced training opportunities for our instructors. This is a challenge we hope to meet in the next two years.

Brenda Justice and Larry Hysmith are offering flyfishing instruction to instructors in the

Houston area. Watch for announcements of other advanced training opportunities in the DFW and Austin areas. If any of you want to sponsor an advanced training of any kind, please contact a member of the Aquatic Education staff.

V. Are the materials we provide meeting instructor needs and expectations?

Although 88% of the instructors seem very satisfied with Angler Education materials, instructors suggested some teaching aids that might help them. One idea is to create large flash cards of fish on one side with the name and information on the back so that instructors could quiz their students. This teaching tool will be fairly easy to produce and should be available by the summer. Look for a notice in your next *Reel Lines* about this new teaching tool.

Another idea is to mount the different types of lures so that they are easier to display to the students. Since this is more challenging to do in quantity, we are open to your suggestions. Any instructor is welcome to share lure display ideas with us or put together their own display for their classes. That approach will also apply to another suggestion – that we show different types of rigs for different types of fishing. This will be most appropriate at the Master Angler level. Remember, you are always welcome to improve upon and augment our basic classes. Feel free to bring special rigs to the class and show students how they work.

Continued on the next page

What Kids Want

CHIP GROSS

Reprinted with permission from *Fishing Tackle Retailer* magazine.

JUST WHAT is it that today's kids want? According to a study, lots of kids just want more time to be kids, and many of them yearn to be outdoors doing it.

An organization called the Center for a New American Dream recently posed the question, "What do you most want?" and got back 2,000 answers in the form of essays and artwork. Author Betsy Taylor compiled the responses into a book. "Kids today have 25 percent less leisure time than they did just two decades ago," Taylor says. "They are yearning for more time to just be kids. Many children – from ages five to 17 – say they want to spend more time outside. There's an entire chapter in my book on that subject."

When asked specifically if her research showed that kids want to spend more time fishing, Taylor responded without hesitation. "Yes! I distinctly recall one boy who drew a picture of himself fishing with his dad. In general, kids want a slower pace, and one of the wonderful things about fishing is that it helps us slow down, notice the water, the wind, the current."

What Kids Really Want that Money Can't Buy – Tips for Parenting in a Commercial World, is published by the Center for a New American Dream and is found at www.newdream.org



Thanks for Speaking Up, Continued

VI. Are instructors satisfied with our service?

Ninety-four percent of the instructors surveyed responded that they were satisfied to very satisfied with the service they had been getting when ordering materials. One instructor indicated that he or she had not gotten all the materials requested. Obviously we want to get 100% on customer service and will appreciate being informed of any kind of problem with the service. In recent years, we have asked our instructors to be mindful of when to hand out the more expensive publications. With all of us trying to do more with less, we hope publications go to students according to age level and program exposure (more in-depth publications at the Master Angler level).

VII. What are the challenges in teaching Angler Education?

The most cited challenges were:

1. time constraints

2. dealing with the short attention spans of some children and dealing with different age groups
3. needing volunteers
4. wanting greater parental involvement

VIII. How can we help meet those challenges?

Most adults are feeling time crunches and, of course, keeping the program flexible is one way to deal with that. If you don't have time to teach the entire Junior Angler program, remember that you can teach two or three of the skills and give each child a fish card. If children learn something new about fishing, fish and aquatic resources and have a good time doing it, then you have succeeded.* Of course, to reach a goal of inspiring youth to be safe anglers and good stewards of their environment will take time. Educators and parents know that repeated exposure is the key for children to incorporate any new idea or skill.

To deal with short attention spans and different ages of children, a variety of hands-on activities can help. Getting older kids to help teach the younger kids is also a good idea. Not only will that reinforce the knowledge and skills of the older kids, it will also give them leadership experience, a win-win situation for all.

We can all use new ideas for finding volunteers and for getting parents involved in our programs. Please e-mail your ideas for meeting any of these challenges to Ann Miller (ann.miller@tpwd.state.tx.us). Those ideas will be posted on our Web site in the "Instructor Resources" section so that they can be shared with everyone.

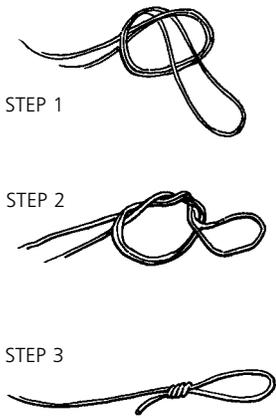
* For angler education activities other than classes, use the "Volunteer Fishing or Aquatic Education Activity Event Form" located on our Web site in "Instructor Resources."



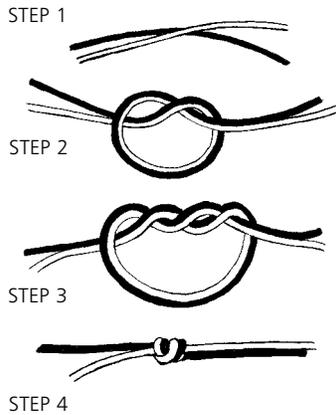
Simple Knots for Budding Fly Fishers

DR. GUY HARRISON

Learning to tie these simple knots will allow the budding fly fisher to meet most of the challenges encountered when fishing.

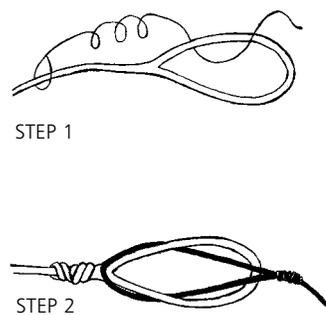


Surgeon's Loop
(also called Double Overhand Loop)
Most fly lines now come with a loop at the end of the line. By tying a loop in the butt section of the leader, the leader can be joined to the fly line by a loop-to-loop attachment.



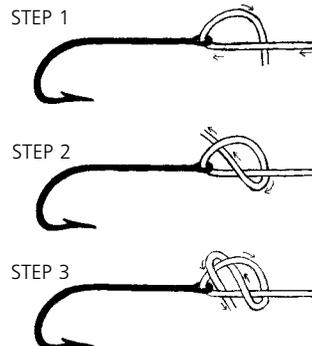
Surgeon's Knot
Often the tippet section of the leader will be broken off or the tippet needs changing. The surgeon's knot is a simple knot that allows the one fishing to do this quickly and easily. This shows how to tie the tippet section of the leader to the main section of the leader.

1. Overlay two lines with the tags facing six inches in opposite directions.
2. With both lines together, make a loop and pass the right side over and around the left side twice.
3. Moisten the knot area and pull on all four ends.
4. Cinch down by pulling on each end separately.
5. Clip close to the knot.



Loop-to-Loop Connection
This illustrates making a loop-to-loop connection between the leader and the fly line.

1. Place the loop of the leader over the loop of the fly line.
2. Thread the end of the leader or tippet through the loop of the fly line.
3. Pull to form a square knot.



Koch Knot
This is my favorite knot when teaching beginning fly fishers to attach the fly. It is easy to tie and can be done quickly. Always remember to lubricate the knot well with saliva or water before "snugging" it down. Doing this eliminates the heat produced by the friction created when you tighten the knot, keeping the monofilament strong.

Oktoberfisch: A Fly Fishing Festival Held on the Llano River

The inaugural Oktoberfisch Fly Fishing Festival was a great success! The festival was held Oct. 15-17 along the Llano River, south of Mason and hosted by the members of the Heart of the Hills Fly Fishers (HHFF) in Fredericksburg. Gene Smith, president of the HHFF, reported about 35 anglers attended the festival. The weather was cooperative – a beautiful warm, Hill Country fall weekend; the water flow on the Llano River was ample and the fish cooperative for the anglers.

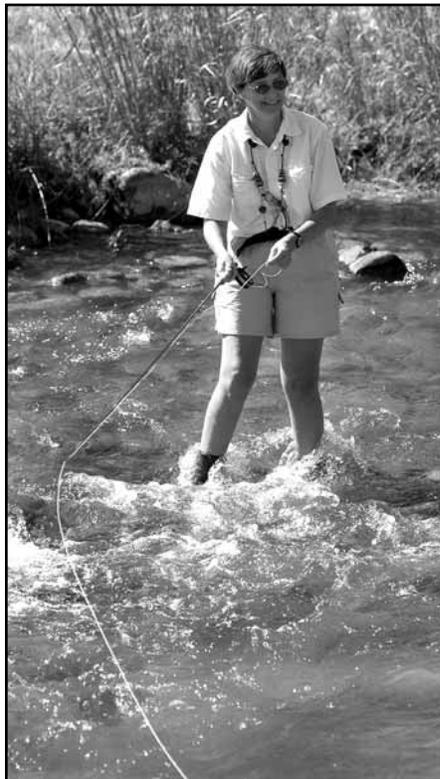
The festival, located at Keller's Riverside Store grounds along the north riverbank of the Llano River, included events such as a shuttle service upstream for those wanting to fish from their kayaks, casting clinics, fly tying booths and vendor demonstrations. Primitive riverside campsites were available to the attendees for the weekend.

On Saturday morning, a number of vendor booths were set up and a large casting practice area was set-aside on the festival grounds. Hot coffee and breakfast tacos were served. Martin Pursch with the Country Flyfisher Shop and Dave Hayward of Orvis organized well-attended casting clinics in both the morning and afternoon. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provided rods and reels. Representatives from Orvis, Fishpond, Okuma and Temple Forks Outfitters had their equipment available to try out as well. A fly tying area, with plenty of flies suited for the Llano River, was set up by HHFF members Lee Livingston, Keith Masters and the Country Flyfisher Shop. Attendees and volunteers spent relaxing time during the middle of the day tying flies, enjoying fellowship and exchanging fish stories.

Anglers with kayaks had available shuttle service upstream to the Simonsville Road low water crossing and were able to float back to Keller's. With the plentiful rain this summer, the Llano River had good flow along this reach. Cut bank grass pockets and deep holes were productive areas for bass and sunfish using top water flies and micro jigs. Wade fishing at Keller's Crossing was productive as well in the riffles upstream for Guadalupe bass. Rick Wilson of B&B Outfitters had his three-person western rivers style raft and provided guided river tours. Hill Country Outfitters provided some Wilderness Systems demo kayaks to try out as well.

The festival was capped off with a great evening meal. Crockett Keller set up the outside patio area beside his restaurant for the group, and served an excellent steak dinner. After dinner, the club sponsored a raffle, with great fishing equipment from Fishpond, Hill Country Outfitters, Orvis and others, as well as guided tours. Steve Rawls, the HHFF event organizer, felt that the weekend was a success and next year's festival will provide additional educational clinics and vendors.

This was a great weekend for anglers attending the Heart of the Hills Fly Fishers' Oktoberfisch festival.



For the Record

MARK CARPENTER, AREA CHIEF

News Flash! Date Line: Dallas.
Make your next Angler Education course
one for the record books!

On the TPWD Web site you can access state angler records (www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fish/infish/records/). These records are posted for the following categories of tackle for both public and private waters: rod and reel, fly fishing, bow fishing and unrestricted (recognition for catching the largest fish of a species from Texas public waters by any other legal method except for nets). Now there is a category for **Junior Anglers**.

Seven years ago I didn't know of the Angler Recognition program. I found it one day while surfing the TPWD Web site. So today I still shake my head and shed a tear at some of the big fish my scouts caught that could have been State Records, like that 19-1/4 inch crappie that became dinner one night with my scouts. Now I always take a stack of Angler Recognition program applications to ALL the courses I teach where fishing is included. I also have on hand First Fish Award certificates and make a big deal when handing them out. The scouts really get excited about these awards.

I'll use a number of recognition awards for each fishing event I lead. To date, my scouts have earned 10 First Fish Awards, seven Big Fish awards, several Water Body Records and a few new Junior State Records. For anglers who don't meet any of the other award requirements but still catch fish and want to send in an application, they can receive an Outstanding Angler award. In the last 12 months I've had two scouts catch Junior State Records only to have those records over taken by other youth anglers. Recently, I've assisted with two additional Junior Record applications. Several Junior Records are still open so there is plenty of room for my scouts to get on the record books. Now my scouts are becoming interested in fly fishing where there are many vacant award categories.

I would like to stress that my fishing contests are not fishing simply to achieve a record. Awards just sweeten the deal for my scouts, making our trip that much more exciting for them, even those who don't send in Angler Recognition program applications. The important



Alex Eddy pulls in a junior state record for the unrestricted category on a throw line.

thing to remember is that we are here for the kids. It makes a difference to them. Had I not brought this program to the attention of the Boy Scouts, not known of the location of the nearest set of certified scales for official weights,* neglected to provide the applications, or not had a camera, then about a dozen current water body records would not be on the TPWD Web site today. I encourage you to learn about and use this TPWD program to make your program the best that it can be.

* Certified scales can be found at grocery stores, some feed stores, and compressed air dealers. Be sure to check with local businesses beforehand to see if they will allow you to weigh your catch. Or call Joedy Gray, coordinator of the Angler Recognition program, at (512) 389-8037 or e-mail at joedy.gray@tpwd.state.tx.us



The week after
Christmas, My True Love
"LET" me have . . .
12 Winter Camp Wishes

A Week with no Injuries
Two State Records
Three Nights of Crappie
Four Full Classes
Five Share a Lunkers
Six Full Days of Sun
Seven Pounders Plenty

Eight Troops Fly Fishing
Nine Dozen Master Anglers
Ten Scoutmasters Fishing
Eleven Big Fish Awards
And Twelve
Out..stand..ing... Anglers

Happy Holidays from Mark and Joanie (True Love) Carpenter

FAMILY FISHING CELEBRATION EVENTS - Trout Stocking at State Parks

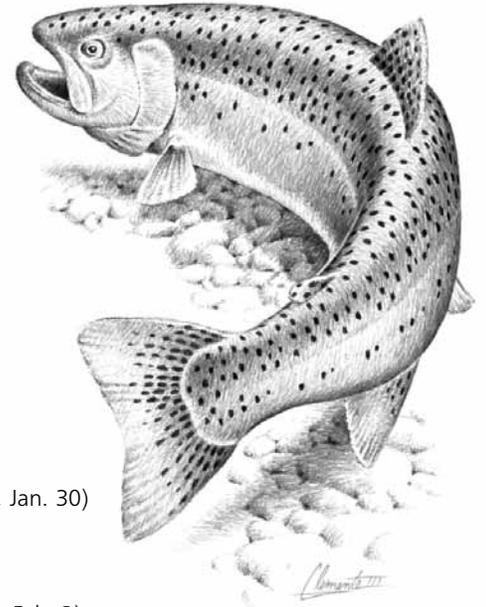
FORT BOGGY STATE PARK near Centerville will host Trout Fishing Day from 8 a.m. to noon on Jan. 22. The free fishing event is open to children ages 4-16 and they must be accompanied by an adult. The fee for adults is \$2. For additional information, call the park at (903) 344-1116.

Pair-a-Trees Pond at **LAKE TAWAKONI STATE PARK** just east of Dallas will be stocked with 500 trout in advance of a Junior Angler Education program and Kids Fishing Day to be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Feb. 19. Participants in the TPWD-sponsored education program will have the first shot at fishing the park pond. The pond will be open to anglers of all ages the following day. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided by Wills Point Kiwanis Club. Call (903) 560-1795 for details.

At **FORT PARKER STATE PARK**, the Mexia Bass Club will be sponsoring a trout fishing clinic providing children with an opportunity to come out and fish Lake Springfield, which will be stocked with 1,200 rainbows. The clinic will be held Jan. 29 and 30. For more information, call (254) 562-5751.

The following state parks will offer trout fishing (starting dates noted) this winter:

- Abilene State Park (Jan. 11)
- Blanco State Park (Dec. 9, Jan. 5, Jan. 20, Feb. 17)
- Buescher State Park (Dec. 16)
- Copper Breaks State Park (Feb. 8)
- Fort Boggy State Park (Jan. 30)
- Fort Parker State Park (Jan. 22)
- Fort Richardson State Park (Dec. 11, Jan. 15)
- Landmark Inn State Historic Site (Jan. 16)
- Meridian State Park (Jan. 9)
- Lake Bob Sandlin State Park (Dec. 27, Jan. 30)
- Lake Tawakoni State Park (Feb. 19)
- Palmetto State Park (Jan. 30)
- Rusk State Park (Dec. 16)
- South Llano River State Park (Dec. 18, Feb. 3)
- Tyler State Park (Dec. 3, Jan. 7)



TPWD launched the Family Fishing Celebration on Labor Day Weekend in 2003 and decided its success warranted continuation for at least an additional year. The promotion has been extended through Aug. 31, 2005. Academy Sports & Outdoors also has come on board as the exclusive sponsor for fiscal year 2005.

TPWD has the authority to grant the license waivers for such events under Texas Parks and Wildlife Code. The waiver will save Texas residents fishing in state parks the \$28 cost of a freshwater fishing license package and non-residents \$55. Park admission fees, as well as fish catch and size limits, still apply during the yearlong event. Any fish requiring a tag, such as oversize red drum and tarpon, must still be tagged. As of Sept. 1, a special rainbow trout stamp is no longer required in Texas.

San Antonio River Authority Values Angler Education

KENNY FLETCHER

Keith Kubena and I, employees of the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), found that Angler Education helped us meet the mission of our program, "to provide outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of future generations." Angler Education provided the framework and the materials to make our summer kids camps a real success.

Through the months of June and July, we offered 21 classes, reaching out to 160 kids between the ages of 6 and 15. After participating in the Junior Angler stations, about 85% of the kids caught fish in Braunig Lake. The biggest fish was a bluegill that weighed about one pound. The most fish caught by one youngster was 25. Besides bluegill, the children caught catfish, Rio Grande perch and other varieties of sunfish.

Everyone had a wonderful time. Even the grandparents and parents had fun watching their kids catch their first fish. Some parents even got involved in baiting hooks.

The rewards as an instructor are irreplaceable. The instructor training course I took helped me to set up an outline for covering the Junior Angler topics in a short time span and hold the attention of kids of different ages. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing that big smile on a child's face after they learn and do something on their own. All these children left with an understanding of how to help protect our environment and enjoy it for years to come.

A Little Competition Is Fun

MARK CARPENTER, AREA CHIEF

I like to conclude my Angler Education classes with a contest of some sort, either a fishing tournament or a casting competition. My first rule of thumb is to make the activity fun for the kids. Here are some tips that may help other instructors with their fishing classes.

ACTIVITY

One never knows how a tournament will turn out; it depends on what species may be biting that day. My students may get strikes from large-mouth bass, catfish, sunfish, crappie or carp. Sometimes turtles and even old tires show up at the end of their lines.

In the competition, I prefer to use the length of the fish as opposed to the weight for a couple of reasons. First, length cannot be altered. Second, fish can be returned to the water more quickly. Finally, I have also found that yardsticks are easier to carry around than scales.

EQUIPMENT

I suggest to my scouts a bring-your-own-tackle policy, but the fact is that there are always those who either forgot, do not own a rod and reel or have never fished before. I generally set them up with simple throw line materials – line, weight and hook; simple yet safe. I sometimes borrow loaner tackle from the TPWD Aquatic Education staff.

Other necessary equipment includes a first aid kit, materials for record keeping, drinking water and shelter from rain or sun. I also have an ample supply of Recognition Awards on hand.

BAIT

I find it best to keep it simple and cheap. If I have a large group I might buy a ten-pound can of whole kernel corn and sliced hot dogs. This can be purchased for less than \$10. If they choose to do so, the scouts might search for grasshoppers, crickets and earthworms for bait.

AWARDS

Generally I keep a stock of ribbons for first through sixth place. Purchase these at awards shops or teacher supply stores, although other businesses sometimes carry these items. I sometime receive trophies that are donated or use hand-made awards such as painted driftwood with the award title. Computer generated certificates work well too.

RESULTS

I held a fishing tournament last October. My two best anglers finished at the bottom of the rung, while one scout, who lacked confidence in



Will Veden and Andrew Miller show off Andrew's bass.

himself, placed first out of a field of 30. His catch proved to be a lunker catfish. The fight for second through sixth place was determined at the very last minute. You just never know these events will turn out.

In other tournaments, my scouts proved themselves quite resourceful. One scout used a length of discarded fishing line with a hook and caught a total of 300 inches in bluegills. Another used a stick with a soda can reel. He even used the pull tabs as eyelets on his stick-rod. Other ingenious substitutions include rock weights tied to string, plastic soft drink bottles attached to throw lines and pieces of wood for bobbers.

At the end I hold an Angler Recognition ceremony where trophies are awarded and everyone walks away happily with a TPWD fish pin. With a little bit of thought and planning, your Junior Angler classes can be just that much more fun.

UPCOMING INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

| SCHEDULED DATE/TIME | TYPE OF CLASS | CITY/LOCATION | CONTACT |
|--|---|--|---|
| Saturday 1/29/05 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Junior and Master Angler Instructor Workshop | Austin McKinney Falls State Park | Ann Miller (512) 389-4732 ann.miller@tpwd.state.tx.us |
| Saturday 2/5/05 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Junior and Master Angler Instructor Workshop | Lake Jackson Sea Center Texas | Brenda Justice (281) 534-0123 brenda.justice@tpwd.state.tx.us |
| Saturday 2/19/05 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. | Junior and Master Angler Instructor Workshop | Grand Prairie North Texas Education Center | Steve Campbell (972) 263-0427 stephen.campbell@tpwd.state.tx.us |



BRENDA JUSTICE
Aquatic Education –
Houston/Galveston

When it comes to fishing, storm clouds and torrential downpours can't dampen a fisherman's fun. A good example could be found at the TPWD Junior Angler Fishing Clinic Oct. 23 in Baytown.

Rain, Rain, Go Away!!

Although it rained most of the day and kept attendance low, around 20 children and their parents learned side by side the basics of fishing and had the chance to practice those skills at a private lake.

Volunteer instructors Chuck Ganze, Bob Jones, James Galpin, Barbara Galpin, Marcos Enriquez and Greg Carrion helped me teach the Junior Angler skills. Parents and their children learned how to tie knots, assemble basic tackle and more. A "Bug Picking" activity introduced them to aquatic ecology and gave them a chance to make observations about the water and habitat where they would be fishing that afternoon.

Although it rained most of the afternoon and only a few fish were caught, the families participating all had a wonderful time and said so more than once. Every family walked away that day with basic fishing knowledge so that they can fish on their own along with a rod and reel donated by Orvis Sporting Goods. One mom later e-mailed me that they were already making plans for fishing together in the future.



Rain didn't spoil the fun for families participating in the TPWD Junior Angler Fishing Clinic held in Baytown.

ANGLER EDUCATION CONTACT INFORMATION

General Information and Records

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karen.marks@tpwd.state.tx.us

Supplies

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Aquatic Education Coordinator

ANN MILLER (800) 792-1112 + 9 + 4732
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Aquatic Education – Dallas/Fort Worth

STEVE CAMPBELL (972) 263-0427
stephen.campbell@tpwd.state.tx.us

Aquatic Education – Houston

BRENDA JUSTICE (281) 534-0123
brenda.justice@tpwd.state.tx.us

Outdoor Learning Programs Coordinator

NANCY HERRON (512) 389-4362
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Urban Outdoor Outreach Branch Chief

ERNIE GAMMAGE (512) 389-4472
ernie.gammage@tpwd.state.tx.us



With Baited Breath

STEVE CAMPBELL
Aquatic Education –
North/Northwest
Texas

Stranger Than Fishin'

In the future, airports could be equipped with beehives to detect explosives! Seaweed and marine shellfish might be used to detect chemical or biological agents released in the ocean! Sound crazy? Read on.

According to a recent Reuters' story written by Caroline Dress*, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is funding a million-dollar grant to employ plants and invertebrates to combat terrorism. Apparently bees can smell trace amounts of TNT and other explosive materials. What would it take to keep bees handy at an airport? Or, say a terrorist manages to release a chemical or a biological agent. The contagion sticks to a blade of grass which is then eaten by a cricket. The cricket mistakenly hops into a spider's web and is then ingested, along with the biological agent, by the spider. Just as with any contaminant, it passes up the food chain. In this way, we can examine free ranging insects and other invertebrates to detect the presence of toxins.

The story also quotes Dr. Karen Kester, an entomologist (doctor of "bugology") at Virginia Commonwealth University, referring to invertebrates as "flying, crawling Q-Tips." Now I watch enough of all four CSI (Crime Scene Investigator) programs currently on television to know that DNA samples are taken routinely by using a cotton swab. These "biological cotton swabs" can be used to detect chemicals more thoroughly, cheaply and reliably than man-made sensors.

At Colorado State University, botanists are looking into ways to genetically alter urban weeds. One such outcome, should it prove possible and feasible, would be weeds that change color when exposed to certain contaminants. One benefit that could be derived from this work would be a visual warning that an area is contaminated and could be used as a biological Keep Out sign. The color changing plants could possibly be tracked from space by satellites.

While this research is unique, it is not necessarily a new concept. Biologists and enlightened anglers have known for decades that a stream's health can be judged by the presence or absence of certain organisms. Collectively they are called biological indicators. Dragonfly, damselfly, mayfly and other insects with aquatic larvae must have clean, highly oxygenated streams to live in. The presence of these larvae is a testimony to the stream's health. Likewise, leeches and aquatic fly larvae do well in polluted waters with little available dissolved oxygen.

So the moral of this story is don't stomp on that spider and don't swat that fly! They could be an early warning system to alert us to danger.

*Caroline Drees, "US Military Taps Bugs and Weeds in War on Terror," Reuters News Service, Nov. 24, 2004.

Welcome New Instructors!

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

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| MARTIN R. WISE | AUSTIN | JESSIE RAZA | DALLAS | JANICE K. GORRELL | MANSFIELD |
| JONATHAN W. SAMMONS | AUSTIN | ARTURO GARZA | EDCOUCH | MYRA C. STANLEY | MCALLEN |
| RUXTON O. WILLIAMSON | AUSTIN | JOE E. GARCIA, JR. | EDINBURG | JUAN A. GARCIA | MCALLEN |
| MATTHEW E. CREIGHTON | AUSTIN | ANTOINETTE M. VANDEPUTTE | EL PASO | ADRIAN IBARRA | MISSION |
| CHARLES R. WILKERSON | AUSTIN | SUSAN L. HO | GRAND PRAIRIE | RACHEL NINO | MISSION |
| MITCH L. HALQUIST | AUSTIN | MATTHEW K. MOUTON | HOUSTON | MICHAEL E. MCCLURE | MISSOURI CITY |
| LAUREN L. MIKULENCAK | AUSTIN | ALEX G. MOUTON | HOUSTON | BRENDA COLLINS | PLANO |
| DANIAN R. TONG | AUSTIN | MICHAEL W. BRANCH | HOUSTON | TIMOTHY G. STRAKOS | POINT COMFORT |
| NICKLAUS P. HEINEN | AUSTIN | HENRY M. POMPEY | HOUSTON | PHILLIP C. STRATTON | SAN ANTONIO |
| DAWN Y. DURST | AUSTIN | VICTOR J. TATE | HOUSTON | STEPHANIE A. BROWN | SAN ANTONIO |
| MICHELLE A. ALLEN | AUSTIN | KENNETH C. ROBERTS | HOUSTON | ELLIS K. WHELESS | SAN ANTONIO |
| KATHERINE N. HAHN | AUSTIN | GREGORY M. TORRES | IRVING | MARK W. TRUE | SAN ANTONIO |
| JUNE M. BENNETT | AUSTIN | KENNETH D. SMITH | KATY | WINDELL C. TRUE | SAN ANTONIO |
| KYLE C. HORNE | AUSTIN | RILEY E. WEBB | KATY | CLINTON R. JONES, JR. | SAN ANTONIO |
| JACK K. JEANSONNE | AUSTIN | JAMES W. HARLE | KATY | STAN LIVINGSTON | SAN MARCOS |
| REX W. SHADDOX | BOERNE | KEVIN P. GLASSER | KATY | BILL KRAUSS | SAN MARCOS |
| TAMARA B. FRANKS | BRYAN | MICHAEL E. WRIGHT | KATY | CAROL E. MORGAN | SUNNYVALE |
| NORMA P. LINCON | CEDAR HILL | GREG DOLL | KATY | BRANDI D. GRIMSLEY | WEATHERFORD |
| LILLY M. JONES | DALLAS | THOMAS N. TWEEDIE | KYLE | | |
| JOHN SANCHEZ | DALLAS | SHAWN ALSUP | MANSFIELD | | |

Organize a Kids Fishing Derby

Qualifying Organizations Receive A Free Derby Kit

Tulsa, Okla. – Jan. 4, 2005. **WANTED: Adult volunteers to sponsor local fishing events for kids. That's the word from the people behind the very successful Wal-Mart Kids All-American Fishing Derby which has launched a program to make 2005 the most successful in its 19-year history.**

In 2004, more than 330,000 kids from six to 16 fished in over 1,800 kids fishing events. They were held in all 50 states and six foreign countries. Obviously, to put on that many local events, the national organizers need help. That's where adult volunteers come in. Civic groups, fishing clubs, churches, parks departments and other recognized organizations provide volunteers to get the word out, sign up the kids, supervise the event, award prizes and generally have a great time.

Hooked on Fishing International, the Tulsa, Okla. organization that oversees the national program for Wal-Mart, has prepared its biggest and best free fishing derby kit to qualifying groups. There is still time for interested groups to beat the deadline for becoming part of the 2005 program. Simply go to the Web site – www.kids-fishing.com – and click on the "Organize a derby" tab. The application requests the location and date of the event, plus the expected number of young anglers.

The fishing derby kit contains virtually everything needed to organize and conduct a kids fishing event, including a how-to handbook, event

promotion materials, fishing items and other goodies for each young angler and even prizes for the winners. Most events are half-day in length, beginning in the morning and ending at noon, with snacks or food items being served.

Throughout its history, the Kids All-American Fishing Derby program has received strong support from state fish and game departments, the U.S. Forest Service, parks and recreation departments, chambers of commerce, YMCAs, fishing clubs, scouting groups, and civic and service organizations such as the Optimists, Lions, Kiwanis and Elks.

About Hooked On Fishing Int'l

Now in its eighteenth year, the program has become the largest youth and family oriented fishing program in the world. To date, over eight million youngsters and their family members have participated in a Kids All-American Fishing Derby event. The goal of the program is a simple one ... to provide the opportunity to bring kids and fish together.

Top Angler Education Instructors of FY 2004

The following instructors taught (and mailed in paperwork) for four classes or more! We applaud your dedication to sharing your love of the outdoors with the youth of Texas!

Jere Anderson
Mark Carpenter
Terry Folts
Lynda Folts
Larry Larson
Mike Petrick
Daniel Raymundo
Brenda Talley
Randy Slayton
Sr. Thomas LaCour
Michael Johnson
Karl Clausewitz

OPPORTUNITIES

Angler Education Classes for Youth

Jan. 29, 2005. Saturday

Houston, Texas
Jesse H. Jones Park and Nature Center
Master Angler (ages 10 & up)
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Registration Required
Contact: Lacey Ogburn
(281) 446-8588

Feb. 5, 2005. Saturday

Victoria, Texas
Junior Angler
Outdoor EXPO
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Contact: Brandon Jenewein
(361) 972-7431
(volunteers also needed to teach
Junior Angler)

March 17, 2005. Thursday

Houston, Texas
Jesse H. Jones Park and Nature Center
Junior Angler (ages eight & up)
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Registration Required
Contact: Lacey Ogburn
(281) 446-8588

April 9, 2005. Saturday

Houston, Texas
Jesse H. Jones Park and Nature Center
Fishing Derby (ages 5 to 15)
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Registration Required
Contact: Lacey Ogburn
(281) 446-8588

OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming Events Open to the Public

COASTAL



EXPO

Coastal Expos

Coastal Expo is a fun, family-oriented event with activities for all ages! Visitors see and touch crabs, sea stars, and other coastal animals; view a glass-bottom stream; solve a mysterious fish kill; learn what washes up on the Texas coast; fish for live catfish; and participate in other great activities. In the process, they learn about Texas coastal ecosystems, why they are important, and how to protect them. www.tpwd.state.tx.us/texaswater/coastalexpo/

FEBRUARY

- 4-5 Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge
- 11-12 Ocelot Festival, Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge
- 26-27 Spring Festival, Weslaco

MARCH

- 11-12 Johnson Park in Marble Falls with LCRA
- 16-17 World Birding Center, Edinburg

Sea Center Texas

SATURDAY, FEB. 26, 2005 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. – NATURE DAY
Fishing, birding and habitat gardening are just a few the activities that will be highlighted at Sea Center Texas' Nature Day. The event will offer many tips on how to enjoy nature in your backyard or at your favorite outdoor get-a-ways. Seminars will be offered throughout the day and youth activities will include a nature scavenger hunt and catch and release fishing from 1-3 p.m. only. Youth planning to fish will need to bring their own rod, reel, tackle and bait. Cut squid or fresh dead shrimp work well fished on the bottom. Barbless hooks are easier to remove and less stressful to the fish to be released. (979) 292-0100 or www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fish/

Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

DEC. 7 - MARCH 15 ANNUAL TROUT HARVEST

It's trout season at TFFC, and no license is required to fish the Center's 1.2-acre pond. Catch-and-release fishing is free with admission to the Center. For an additional \$5 fee, visiting anglers can keep up to five trout.

JAN. 15 SPLASH DAY

Splash, the 121.5-pound world record blue catfish, completes one year of residence at TFFC this week. Free anniversary cake for visitors. Invited guests will include Cody Mullennix, the angler who caught Splash.

MARCH 5 FLYFISH TEXAS

An all-day exhibition for experienced and aspiring fly fishers. Workshops, gear and demonstrations. Free with admission to Center. Youth flyfishing clinic – to register, contact Brent Holubec at (903) 670-2211.

MAY 28 AWARDS BANQUET

Budweiser ShareLunker banquet and induction of this year's nominee to the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame.

Cinco de Mayo is a free community celebration at TFFC featuring fishing, food and dancing. Date is to be determined.

TFFC visitor center is open to the public 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday and Sundays, 1-4 p.m. There is a self guided wetlands trail. Free fishing in Lake Zebco with admission. Tackle is furnished. Offered daily are interactive dive shows and tram tours of the hatchery.

Call (903) 676-2277 for more information about TFFC.

Upcoming Community Events and Volunteer Opportunities

Feb. 5, 2005. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Outdoor EXPO, Victoria
Need volunteers to teach Junior Angler
Contact: Brandon Jenewein (361) 972-7431
Instructors needed to assist in teaching Junior Angler

Feb. 19, 2005. Saturday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program
AED volunteers will be coordinating efforts to remove abandoned crab traps at the Chocolate Bayou Boat Ramp
Contact: Brenda Justice (281) 534-0123

Feb. 26, 2005. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Gateway to the Outdoors EXPO, Spring, TX
Volunteers needed to teach knot tying and pass out program information
Contact: Brenda Justice (281) 534-0123

April 9-10, 2005. Saturday & Sunday
Southeast Texas Great Outdoors Festival
State Fairgrounds, Beaumont
Volunteers needed to assist TPWD staff with touch tanks and program information
Contact: Kirk Blood (409) 983-1104

April 29-30, 2005. Friday & Saturday
Lake Brownwood State Park
Annual Lake Brownwood State Parks Open House with Junior Angler activities
To volunteer, please contact
Steve Campbell: (972) 263-0427 or stephen.campbell@tpwd.state.tx.us
For more information about the event call Lake Brownwood SP at (325) 784-5223

May 14, 2005. Saturday
La Cuenca Cuenta Fiesta (The Watershed Counts/The Watershed Tells a Story)
Mason Park, Houston
Volunteers needed for miscellaneous fishing activities including Bug Picking.
Contact: Brenda Justice (281) 534-0123



Upcoming Community Events and Volunteer Opportunities

CONTINUED

Watch for These and More Free Fishing Day Events, June 5, 2005

Sea Center Texas, Lake Jackson

Kids, start your summer with catch and release fishing on Free Fishing Day. Pack your sunscreen, hat and fishing gear for a morning of fishing at our marine fish hatchery and visitor education center. Young anglers must bring your own gear and bait. Volunteers and staff will be on hand to assist first-time anglers. This event is open to guests 16 years old and younger accompanied by an adult. 8-10 a.m., (979) 292-0100 or www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fish/

Kidd Springs Recreation Center, Dallas

Youth Fishing Activities. Volunteers needed. For more information, contact Steve Campbell at (214) 670-7535 or stephen.campbell@tpwd.state.tx.us

McKinney Falls State Park, Austin

Parents, bring your kids to enjoy a morning of fishing fun to kick off your summer. Youth ages five to 15 can win prizes and learn the basics of fishing. Event is from 9 a.m. to noon. Bring your own tackle, but some loaner tackle available. Volunteers needed. Contact Ann Miller at (512) 389-4732 or ann.miller@tpwd.state.tx.us

Carver Lake Park, Texas City

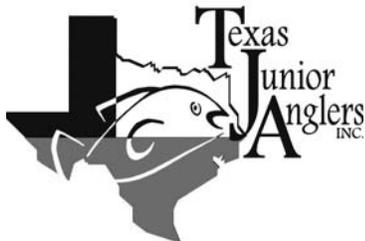
Parents, bring your kids to enjoy a morning of fishing fun to kick off your summer. Youth ages five to 15 can win prizes and learn the basics of fishing. Event is from 9 a.m. to noon. Bring your own tackle, but some loaner tackle available. Volunteers needed. For more information, contact Brenda Justice (281) 534-0123.



Becoming an Outdoors-Woman

(see the Web site for more information)
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/edu/baow/

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| March 11-13, 2005 | Marble Falls, Camp Buckner |
| April 8-10, 2005 | Glen Rose, Riverbend Retreat Center |
| May 20-22, 2005 | Palacios, Texas Baptist Encampment |
| Oct. 28-30, 2005 | Brenham, Camp for All |



Texas Junior Anglers Event Schedule

January - June 2005

Bait, tackle and equipment are provided at all Texas Junior Angler events.

For more information, contact Jeff Scott at jeff@texasjunioranglers.org

*** - Tank Event

DATE

01/29/05
02/05/05
02/11-13/05
02/18-27/05
02/26/05
02/27/05
03/05/05
03/5-6/05
03/13/05
03/18-20/05
04/09/05
04/10/05
04/16/05
04/23/05
04/30/05
05/01/05
05/07/05
05/14/05
05/19-21/05
05/21-22/05
05/21/05
05/28/05
05/28/05
06/4-5/05
06/09/05
06/24/05
06/26/05

CITY

Georgetown***
Victoria***
Lubbock***
San Angelo***
Grand Prairie
Colleyville
Coppell***
Tyler***
Grapevine
Southlake
Colleyville
Cedar Hill
Llano***
Weatherford
DeSoto
Rowlett
Watauga
Hereford
Giddings***
Nacogdoches***
Farmers Branch
Ennis***
Iowa Park
Fort Worth***
Seadrift***
Richardson***
Fort Worth

SITE

Georgetown Elementary School
Victoria Convention Center
Lubbock Boat Show
San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo
Mike Lewis Park
Colleyville Nature Center
Coppell City Park
Tyler Mkt. Ctr. Ducks, Bucks, Boats
Grapevine Hilton
Bicentennial Park
Colleyville Nature Center
Valley Ridge Park
Crawfish Festival
Holland Lake Park
Briarwood Park
Lakes of Springfield Park
City Lake Park
Aquatic Park Pond
Lee County Fair
Outdoor Expo
Gussie Field Park
Polka Festival
Gordon Lake
Wal-Mart
Seadrift Festival
Richardson City Park
Greenbriar Community Rec.

TEXAS BRIGADES



What is Texas Brigades?

The Texas Brigades is a wildlife education and leadership development program. Each camp is 4 1/2 days and is for high school students. The camps are designed to teach life skills and increase knowledge of wildlife and habitat management. It is fun & exciting!

Who puts on these camps?

The Texas Brigades is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in the state of Texas. The camps are put together by a dedicated group of volunteers from various government agencies, non-profit organizations, & businesses, & individuals interested in teaching youth about the great outdoors. Funding for the Brigades is provided by many donations from businesses, foundations, organizations, and individuals.

Why should I go?

You will learn a lot about wildlife and wildlife management, as well as develop your leadership, team-building, and communication skills. This camp will help you no matter where life takes you.



Where are the camps held?

Four of them are hosted by private ranches & 2 are at outdoor education facilities. All of the facilities are set up for large groups & very comfortable. Check out our website for exact locations!

What will I learn?

Everything you ever wanted to know about quail, deer, turkey, and bass! You will study anatomy, botany, habitat management, population dynamics, watersheds, conservation, biology, and a whole lot more. In addition to a heaping dose of ecology, there are lessons on photography, entomology, art, firearm safety, fishing, and leadership, communication, and team-building.



Dates for 2005

Call or email Helen Holdsworth to receive an application and more information.

- Bass Brigade - June 4-9 - Bastrop
- South Texas Buckskin - June 12-16 - Carrizo Springs
- Rolling Plains Bobwhite - June 18-22 - Haskell
- South Texas Bobwhite- June 26-30 - Pleasanton
- North Texas Buckskin - July 17-21 - Albany
- Feathered Forces-July 24-28 - Lufkin

Who is eligible?

Anyone who is 13-17 years of age is eligible to apply and you must have at least a 'B' average. The application deadline is April 1, 2005, so call or email us today to get an application. Check out www.texasbrigades.org!



For more information, contact:
 Helen Holdsworth, Executive Director
 1-800-TEX-WILD or 210-826-2904
 Fax: 210-826-4933
h_holdsworth@texas-wildlife.org



Reel Lines

Angler Education Program
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744