

TEXAS ANGLER  
EDUCATION PROGRAM

## Reel Lines

Issue Number 25

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Winter 2009

## New &amp; Noteworthy

ANN MILLER –  
Aquatic Education Coordinator

**2009 — Anticipate the Best!** A new year with new teaching tools, new ways to communicate and new partners added to our Aquatic Education family! I hope you are starting out 2009 with lots of enthusiasm and a resolution to find new ways to reach out to your community through fishing and aquatic education.

At TPWD, we are geared up to help you. Here is what we have:

- An opportunity to join a blog set up by Rey Ramirez, area chief in Brownsville. This online community will give you the opportunity to learn from others and share your ideas, successes and questions or problems as you teach others how to fish. Read Rey's article on page 5.
- A new video series called "Take Me Fishing," which was produced to air on our TPWD public TV show. This new video series, which is focused on the beginner angler, will also be available to our volunteers on a DVD. You can use it to publicize your upcoming Angler Education programs or to teach a skill if the situation requires some indoor time. Although it will never take the place of hands-on instruction, our volunteers who teach in schools might use it to review or introduce a concept or skill. We should have the series completed and ready to send to you by mid-March.
- A new opportunity to distribute our newsletter online. This will allow us to

(Continued on page 2)

Summer Fun with  
Bass Brigade

SHELBI PERRY – Bass Brigade Cadet, 2008

For me, it all started two years ago when I attended my first Texas Brigades summer camp, the South Texas Buckskin Brigade. The Texas Brigades is an organization that promotes conservation of our natural resources through today's youth. The Texas Brigades conducts five-day camps throughout Texas each summer with each camp having a special emphasis such as deer, quail, turkey and yes, bass!

I had such an amazing and fun learning experience at the Buckskin Brigade camp that I wanted more. And, since I enjoy fishing, I applied for and was accepted to attend the Bass Brigade. Here they taught us about freshwater fish and conservation techniques. To make the camp more interesting, the instructors divided all 20 cadets into different "schools," as in a "school" of fish. Each school consisted of one adult leader, one assistant leader and four to five cadets. The Bass Brigade instructors had us do various activities throughout the week to teach us more about fishing, wildlife, conservation, leadership and teamwork. Every activity we did was in some way a competition against the other schools. At the end of the week, the instructors

(Continued on page 2)



## New&Noteworthy

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

produce it in color and with an option for more articles while saving time, money and paper. What we need from you is your updated e-mail address. Anyone who DOES NOT want to view their *Reel Lines* newsletter online will need to contact us and let us know. The Summer 2009 newsletter will primarily be online. We will print and mail only a few newsletters for those who don't use the Web. See the note about the newsletter on page 15.

- We have added three new parks to our state park fishing event program. (See article on page 11.) These parks are: Goose

Island State Park on the coast near Port Aransas, Lake Casa Blanca State Park near Laredo, and Cedar Hill State Park in the DFW area. With fishing event coordinators working at each park, you might want to volunteer at a park close to you. That's a good way to volunteer without being the organizer of an event or class.

With our "Take Me Fishing" trailer being scheduled for spring and summer, a raft of upcoming state park fishing events, and all the wonderful fishing activities that YOU, our volunteers, are planning, 2009 is going to be BUSY. Join us in the fun!

## Bass Brigade, continued

would tally up the points, and the school with the most points would win a special prize. I was in an all-girl school, which we named the Trophy Bigmouth Anglers, and our school won! We could not wait until we got our award. It turned out that our prize was a guided fishing trip to Fayette Lake! We were so excited! A month or two later, all of the details were arranged and we set off to spend quality time together.

My dad usually goes on Brigade outings with me, but this particular weekend he was busy, so my mom went on the fishing trip with me. We left Tyler right after school on Friday, and after six hours of driving, we arrived at the hotel late that night. The next morning we woke up early to find my friends and Lake Fayette. As soon as we got there, the guides put us in a boat and we drove around the lake to find the perfect spot to fish.

Some might say that fishing is either boring or stressful, but to me it was just plain relaxing. I would fish for awhile, take a nap and then fish some more. I think it was also relaxing for my mom and sort of a vacation for her. My mom actually caught the biggest fish of the day, which weighed nearly 6 pounds! We had a great time and made a lot of memories, which is what I feel fishing is really all about.



Being part of the Texas Brigades has provided me with numerous opportunities that I normally would not get to do. Through the Brigades, I have made awesome friends and had tons of fun. If you would like to be a part of the Texas Brigades or find out more about it, you can visit [www.texasbrigades.com](http://www.texasbrigades.com)

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# The “100 Club” Expands

Our volunteers ROCK! In fiscal year 2007, we had 13 volunteers who documented over 100 hours of volunteer time. This year we want to honor 20 individuals who have made a huge contribution to folks in their communities as well as to our program. The folks listed below have made our Angler Education “100 Club.” The number of stars by their names indicates the number of years they have made the “100 Club.” It is also important to note that Harold Stearns and Keith Martz both documented over 300 volunteer hours, and Ed Gerhardt and Jesus Franco documented over 200 volunteer hours from September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008!

HAROLD STEARNS

KEITH MARTZ \*\*\*

EDGAR GERHARDT

JESUS FRANCO, JR.

JIMMY BROWN \*\*

JACK JANCO

MARY JANCO

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DAN MANNERING

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ALICE LONDON

IRPEL WARD

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MICHAEL HOWES

JEFF TOMLINSON

## What drives these folks to do what they do?

**See these personal notes from three amazing volunteers.**

### From Harold Stearns, El Paso Area Chief and Treasurer of Ascarate Fishing Club

What a pleasure it has been over the past few years to volunteer my time to our (Ascarate Fishing Club) youth fishing programs. I have fished for over 65 years. I guess I could say that I was probably born with a fishing pole in my hand. Once that fishing bug bites, it stays with you forever. I noticed how few kids have the opportunity to learn and enjoy this outdoor sport. If you could see the excitement on their faces when that first fish is reeled in, you would understand my feelings for them. I am especially happy to assist the “special needs” kids. You see lots of smiles. Life has given me so much and it was time to give back. Retirement has given me the time and the opportunity to do just that. What better way to serve than by bettering the lives of children. With 25 members of the Ascarate Fishing Club, we have been able to extend our time and classes to adults as well as to other organizations. And you know what? I have learned a lot from both the children and the adults I have encountered. I know of nothing else which could give me such pleasure.

### From Keith Martz, teacher at Briar Hill Middle School in Highland Village, TX

I teach a middle-school class called Outdoor Trails now, but I was a science teacher the first 10 years of my career. When I was teaching science, I used to do a week-and-a-half-long suburban wildlife survey with my classes before and during TAKS test week. One or two of those days I would bring my fishing rods to school, and I would let my eighth-grade students try to catch fish in the two ponds nearby. I was astounded that out of 150 students I had each year, only about a dozen or so knew how to bait a hook, cast a line, or reel in a fish. I realized I was taking for granted the experiences I had in my childhood and saw how little some of my students knew of the outdoors.

At that point I pushed to be allowed to teach an elective at my school that dealt with outdoor education. Over the years it has grown from two half-semester-only classes a year to 12 full-semester classes per day, and requires two teachers to cover the load. Our curriculum covers Hunter Safety Certification, Boater Education Certification, Archery (NASP and Olympic Level 1), Outdoor Cooking, Survival, Compass/GPS/Orienteering, First Aid/CPR (American Heart Association Certification), Camping, Hiking, SCUBA and of course, Angler Education/Fishing. In addition, our classes also host other schools for “fishing days” with loaner equipment and peer-to-peer tutoring so that other students in our district can experience firsthand the fun of angling and my students get a chance to share their newly acquired knowledge. We take trips to hunt, fish, camp and hike, and the students’ friends and family are always included.

## from Ed Gerhardt, Houston Area Chief and Executive Director of Junior Anglers and Hunters of America

I was raised to participate in philanthropic endeavors and have honored my parents by continuing to do so and encouraging my children and grandchildren to do the same. Volunteering is a way to be "hands on" in making a difference for a cause or meeting a need in our society. You don't have to be wealthy, just committed. On the other hand, the reality is that volunteers are like seasons; they come to an end at some point, according to their own lives' demands or cycles. And that is okay, because after all, it is "volunteering."

I found several causes that could be addressed in one mission with the organization (Junior Anglers and Hunters of America) we founded. One cause is to make an effort toward continuing the heritage of fishing and hunting, which I feel is in danger of being lost. A second cause comes from living in Houston (which I love, but it does have its challenges). I have observed that many inner-city youth (who lack direction and often find themselves in trouble) have never gone outdoors for their recreation and don't know about vocational choices associated with managing our natural resources. These same young people will be voting very soon on issues that will impact how our natural resources are utilized in the future ... and that's scary! A third cause is that there are few special after-school programs for teens, as most

emphasis is placed on kindergarten through sixth grade. Teens are either in team sports or not. For the large number of individuals that aren't team-sport standouts, fishing and hunting can be just the solution for their positive development.

It is my opinion that anglers and hunters provide stewardship of our natural resources better than those who have no experience in the outdoors! Therefore, volunteering to teach fishing and hunting knowledge and skills, and providing access to productive fishing and hunting to teens and their parents, is my way of doing good for humankind in support of a heritage I want to protect.

I continue to receive comments from the high-school teachers and community center counselors we work with in Houston that our programs have made very positive impacts on many of their students in many different ways. Besides, it is a lot of fun! Also, the other volunteers I work with become some of my very best friends as we find so many things in common while volunteering. Lastly, at my age, volunteering keeps me going outdoors doing something others are depending on being done ... and it gets me out of the house!

*Ed gives awards to Houston ISD anglers.*





# To Blog or Not to Blog

REY RAMIREZ – Angler Education Area Chief in Brownsville

**A couple of months ago, I was at a Communities of Practice workshop and I learned that e-mail was for “old people.” I’ve tried to stay young by blogging and I’ve kept a Yahoo group for about six years. I have over 100 members in my Yahoo group. The number of individuals who actually participate is really only a handful.**



The purpose for this post is to give you an idea of the difference between online groups and blogs. The two are very useful and important, but each has its purpose.

An online “group” is best suited for sharing information. For example, the Old Salts Fly Fishing Club group has many participants who view the posts and learn a little about fly fishing in saltwater.

Only a few people participate in

discussions. The local fisherman are the ones who participate on a regular basis. Additionally, I have also had others who are traveling in the area and want to learn about our local venues. After they have come, you usually don’t hear from them until the next trip to South Texas. However, they continue to view posts.

Blogs are for individuals who want to contribute and participate in discussions. Again, the percentage of those who actually contribute is low, but I believe the percentage of folks who view the blog is higher. Of course, this is dependent on how the blog is actually structured.

If a blog targets a specific group with like interests, the contributions are higher. Blogs that have open formats have a lower percentage of contributors. Blog participants prefer a narrower, like-minded focus. The discussions center around specific categories, and the discussions can later be grouped and archived.

We have an opportunity to participate in two communities. If you want to contribute to discussions on improving angler education, then the blog is the format; however, if your interest is to find out about what is going on in the Angler Education community, then the group is the format.

I have set up a blog at: <http://reyramit.wordpress.com/> You can go to this Web site and view the articles I have already posted. To add comments or post an article of your own, you simply double click on the article title that you would like to respond to and scroll down to the box that lets you add a comment.

The link to the Old Salts Fly Fishing group page is in the Web sites section. We could create a link to an Angler Education group here as well. This group and the blog will also be linked from our Angler Education page on the TPWD Web site.

Choose one or the other, or both, and stay young!

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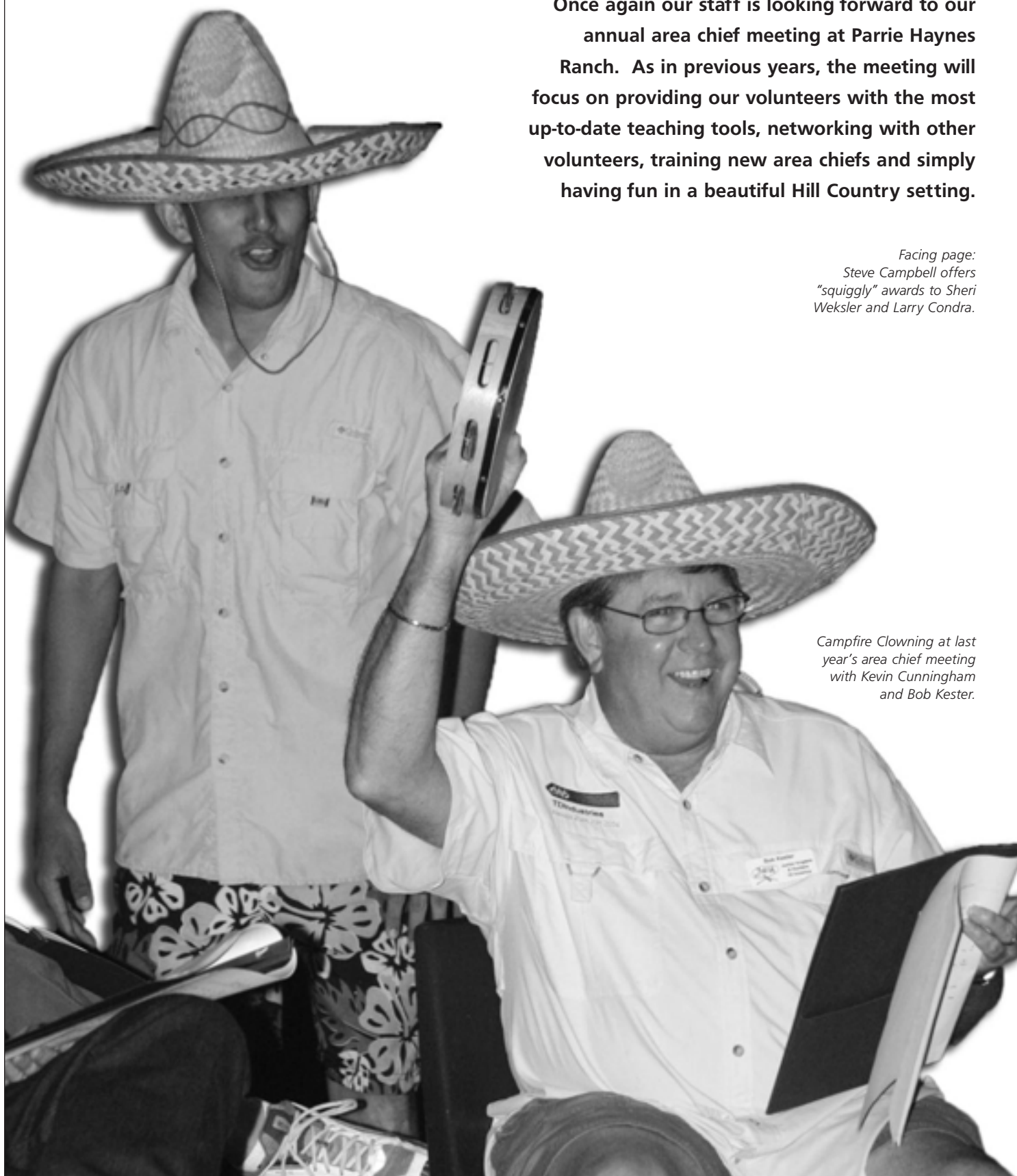
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# Area Chiefs to Meet April 24-26

Once again our staff is looking forward to our annual area chief meeting at Parrie Haynes Ranch. As in previous years, the meeting will focus on providing our volunteers with the most up-to-date teaching tools, networking with other volunteers, training new area chiefs and simply having fun in a beautiful Hill Country setting.

*Facing page:  
Steve Campbell offers  
"squiggly" awards to Sheri  
Weksler and Larry Condra.*

*Campfire Clowning at last  
year's area chief meeting  
with Kevin Cunningham  
and Bob Kester.*



In addition, we'll honor our "100 Club" members (those who volunteered over 100 hours) and our Gold, Silver and Bronze Award winners (based on the number of other instructors the area chiefs trained). Without our area chiefs helping us certify other volunteer Angler Ed instructors, we couldn't bring the joys of fishing to nearly as many Texans. We thank our area chiefs for their dedication.

If you are interested in becoming an Angler Education area chief and would like to attend our meeting in April, please contact Ann Miller at [ann.miller@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:ann.miller@tpwd.state.tx.us), Kevin Cunningham at [Kevin.cunningham@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:Kevin.cunningham@tpwd.state.tx.us) or Steve Campbell at [Stephen.campbell@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:Stephen.campbell@tpwd.state.tx.us)



Rey Ramirez



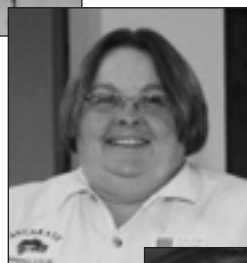
Chuck Ganze



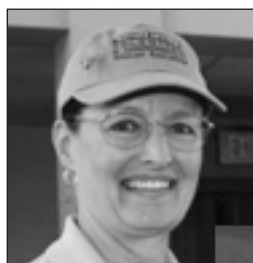
Larry Larson



Ed Gerhardt



Mike Petrick  
Toni Van DePutte



Peggy York



Bob Vela



Molly Cunningham



Walter McLendon



Harold Stearns



# Fishin' Impossible? Not for Our Kids!

LINDA THIBAUT – Adapted Physical Education Teacher, Denton ISD

**Fishin' is not impossible for anyone! At least that's what our students with disabilities and special needs have shown us. So far, we have taught and fished with over 70 students. There have been no hooks in anything but worms and fish (knock on wood).**

As adapted physical education (APE) teachers in the public schools, our job is to teach physical education skills and activities to students with disabilities and special needs. It is also important to expose them to lifelong and community-based activities since they are expected to become productive members of our community just like their typically developing peers.

Fishing is a wonderful activity to teach since it fulfills many objectives that we have for our students and it gets us all outdoors. For Denton ISD, it began when I met Steve Campbell at one of our state physical education conferences. He joined us for a staff development day for our middle-school PE, adapted PE and classroom paraprofessionals, certifying us as angler educators. A district grant awarded to our department allowed us to purchase all the equipment we would need to teach fishing to our students.

Our students are middle-school kids with a great diversity of disabilities that include autism, cognitive disabilities, physical disabilities, learning and emotional disabilities, visual impairments, seizure disorders, Down syndrome and cerebral palsy. These can be stand-alone disabilities or can occur combined in any student. So how do we do it in Denton?

We have developed a curriculum following TPWD's Junior Angler certification but have modified it a bit to allow our students to meet the qualifications for certification. After collaborating with the classroom and physical education teachers, we spend about four hours teaching the basics of angler education. Of course we teach casting, but we also teach about the aquatic environment. What else is in the lake we are fishing in? What kinds of fish might we catch and release? What do they like to eat? How can we be responsible anglers? How can we take care of ourselves while outdoors? These are all a "must" since many of our students lack the fine motor skills to tie knots in fishing line and we don't allow them to handle the hooks.

Our students learn about the basic setup we use: bobber, sinker, hook and bait. We use large Styrofoam balls painted like a bobber and a sinker and some thick copper wire that can be formed to look like a big hook. The bigger visuals are very helpful as many of our students are visual learners.

**When they fish,  
they are able to  
remember some  
happy family  
times while being  
independently  
successful in  
catching fish.**



*Linda explains her fishing program to other teachers.*

Plus, these are also safe to handle. We teach casting in the gym with the help of some backyard bass. "Thumbs Up" is our cue for stressing the importance of the thumbs to push the button on the reel. They learn to cast as we would throw a ball overhand, a basic PE skill. When teaching kids with disabilities, it is easier to get them to relate to the skills they already know and can perform.

After successfully catching many backyard bass and answering our questions about the equipment and aquatic environment, it is time to go fishing, for real. One great asset to our program has been the help of professional anglers like WBT pro, Helen Gordon, and her fellow professionals who volunteer to spend the day with our kids. We have also been able to get some assistance from retailers like Bass Pro Shops in Grapevine. Networking can get you anywhere!

Fishing has been a wonderful addition to our curriculum for our students with disabilities. It has been wonderful to see quiet little girls talk nonstop about the big fish they caught and ask about when they are going again. The kids talk about the times they have gone with their families when they were little. When they fish, they are able to remember some happy family times while being independently successful in catching fish. They love to learn about all the things nature has to show them and, even if it is a wonderful haul of fish salad, they have done it themselves.



# Fly-Fishing Park Projects in Montgomery County

MARK RIDDELL – Montgomery County Flyrodders Parks Project, Spring

**Fly fishing continues to grow in popularity but more outdoor areas designed for fly-fishing education and practice are needed in southeast Texas. These areas will increase public participation in the lifetime sport of fly fishing.**

## Montgomery County Flyrodders



Montgomery County Flyrodders, Inc. (MCF) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization formed by local fly-fishing experts and enthusiasts. The 25-year-old club attracts well-known national fishing experts for demonstrations and educational sessions.

The club meets monthly at Gander Mountain (IH-45 at Cypresswood) and frequently holds educational events in the local community. Many members maintain Texas Parks and Wildlife Certified Instructor status.

MCF education programs serve every segment of society. Fly fishing is a skill that may be learned by anyone, including people with no prior fishing knowledge and people with a variety of disabilities. Membership is open to anyone interested in fly fishing.

## MCF Park Projects



In order to promote local participation in fly fishing and deliver educational programs, appropriate public venues offering real fishing conditions are needed. In 2007 MCF initiated several fly fishing area, or "park" projects, to develop new venues for fly-

fishing education, practice, and potentially organized competitions. Some are in or near the Spring Creek Greenway, which upon completion will be a continuous conservation easement on both sides of Spring Creek for 33 miles from Magnolia to Humble.

## Spring Creek Greenway



MCF has collaborated with Montgomery County to develop plans for public fly-fishing education and practice areas along Spring and Panther Creeks in the Spring Creek Greenway. At each "station" there will be wooden park benches and sig-

nage with fly-fishing information appropriate for the area. In all cases, the design preserves the natural setting in accordance with the conser-

vation easement restrictions. Stations provide an educational site for teaching and for the public to learn and practice fly fishing.

## Mussel Pond Preserve



MCF has assisted Legacy Land Trust and the Montgomery County Parks Department in assessing a 21-acre conservation easement near Conroe. Montgomery County wishes to develop the area for fishing including fly-fishing-compatible areas. The property contains a 10-acre pond and a unique, endangered species of freshwater mussel called

the spectacle case mussel. MCF conducted surveys with the assistance of TPWD and the County Extension Service. Currently this is private, undeveloped land and there is no public access allowed.

## Bear Branch Park

In conjunction with Woodlands Parks and Recreation, MCF has offered Introduction to Fly Fishing and Fly Fishing Tackle courses at Bear Branch Park in The Woodlands. The park offers the opportunity to combine classroom instruction with an outdoor education venue. Panther Branch and Bear Branch creeks flow through this area and offer unique opportunities to learn about stream ecology. Our TPWD-certified instructors are scheduled to deliver these courses again in 2009.

## Casting Parks

MCF has been promoting the establishment of a casting park in Montgomery County. We are working with The Woodlands and Montgomery County to find suitable locations for casting education programs and competitive events. A casting park would be a significant asset for the community and southeast Texas. There are just 14 active sites with American Casting Association (ACA) sanctioned competition casting events in the U.S.; see the Golden Gate Angling & Casting Club site ([www.ggacc.org](http://www.ggacc.org)) as an example of an established, well-designed park. ACA supports the U.S. casting team which competes in worldwide events.

If you would like to learn more about MCF's projects, please contact Mark Riddell at [mriddell@tmgadvocates.com](mailto:mriddell@tmgadvocates.com). Or for more information on MCF membership, education programs and other scheduled activities, visit our Web site at [www.montgomerycountflyrodders.com](http://www.montgomerycountflyrodders.com).



## With Baited Breath

STEVE CAMPBELL  
Aquatic Education –  
North Texas/  
Panhandle

# Steve vs. the Toilet: A Love Story

By any and all definitions, I am mechanically declined. I was born with two left hands. Even opening a jar of peanut butter can become a day-long calamity. Nor am I mechanically minded. Household repairs are a nightmarish ordeal, as I discovered the day my toilet decided to go into business on its own.

The affair began quite innocently as a minor inconvenience. Water continued to flow through the toilet after each flush without abatement, even after the tank was full.

The quickest temporary fix was to shut off the flow at the pipe once the tank was filled, which I did. This arrangement worked well for several months. Well, until the cutoff valve ceased to work altogether.

I was back where I started. The only thing I could do to avoid an excessive water bill was to cut the flow to the entire house. Fortunately for me, I've broken enough PVC pipe in my lifetime to know well in advance that a special wrench is needed to shut off the water, and I had already invested in one.

I drove to a major lumber/hardware store in search of those items I would need for this repair. Once there, not only did I buy the one needed part but an additional \$75 in tools I may never use again.

I will not bore my reader by explaining that I had to repurchase the guts for the toilet two additional times because I kept misplacing the new parts. I cannot tell you about the working parts I broke accidentally, thus compounding the repairs and my frustration. Nor tell you about additional one-time-use tools I purchased ... or that it took me seven weeks to correct the problem. It was the first time in my life I've ever experienced hand-to-hand combat with a commode. But fix it, I did.

Now, dear reader, no doubt you are wondering how I managed to go seven weeks without running water. Well I had to make a few overnight business trips and spent two weeks housesitting for friends. I can tell you

that you can take a shower with bottled water, but it is best to heat said water beforehand. As for the rest, some things should be left unanswered.

However, the last little detail of my foray into home repair was solved, at least by my way of thinking, rather cleverly.

The last process of refitting the innards of a john is the handle. As luck would have it, the parts were incompatible. So, in a moment of inspiration and as a monument to angler education, I solved the dilemma by simply attaching a fishing bobber to the chain. It ultimately proved both functional and decorative.

Again I can read the mind of the reader: "OK Steve, your story has been somewhat amusing, but what, if anything, does this have to do with fishing?"

I thought you would never ask!

Water is among the most crucial things to life itself. We use it to grow food, cook, clean and manufacture things. We send probes to Mars in search of it. Our bodies are made mostly of water. Depending on gender, that figure ranges from 55 to 60 percent water and even higher when we were babies! Yet we treat it so casually and never seem to give it a second thought. We unconsciously downplay its vital importance to us.

In the ensuing years, as the population of Texas and the rest of the world continues to climb, clean, fresh water will be a major economical-political crisis. The United Nations estimates the world population will reach 9.1 billion by 2050! Not only may drinking water be compromised, but this could result in the loss of habitat for that all too important organism—fish.

We should learn now, before it is too late, how to conserve water and develop water-friendly practices and technologies. Below are some graphs that indicate how much water we use around the house performing ordinary, everyday tasks.

Leaks and unattended drips can lead to a terrible waste of water and a very expensive water bill.

DRIPS/MINUTE	GALLONS/MONTH	GALLONS/YEAR
10	43	526
30	130	1,577
60	259	3,153
120	518	6,307
300	1,296	15,768

APPLIANCE	GALLONS PER
Vintage Toilet*	4–6 flush
Conventional Toilet**	3.5 flush
Low Consumption Toilet***	1.6 flush
Conventional Showerhead*	3–10 minute
Low-Flow Showerhead	2–2.5 minute
Top-Loading Washer	40–55 load
Front-Loading Washer	22–25 load
Dishwasher	8–12 load

\* Manufactured before 1978

\*\* Manufactured 1978 – 1993

\*\*\* Manufactured since January 1, 1994

Turn off that drip and save water for fish and wildlife!

So, in a moment of inspiration and as a monument to angler education, I solved the dilemma by simply attaching a fishing bobber to the chain.

# State Parks Offer Great Fishing, Family Events, Volunteer Opportunities



State parks have some awesome events scheduled for this spring and summer, all organized by Fishing Event Coordinators that are part of our Angler Education family. See the schedule below (and contact information) if you would like to volunteer to help at one or more of these events. And, don't forget that you don't need a license to fish within the boundaries of a state park! The fishing can be awesome!

PARK	CONTACT	E-MAIL	DATES					
Bastrop/Buescher	Bill Brooks	bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu	3/16	6/13		7/11	7/18	8/1
Blanco	Mary Alice Partain	maryalice.partain@tpwd.state.tx.us	3/7	3/14	3/21	4/11	5/23	
Bonham	Don McCommas	don.mccommas@us.army.mil	3/21	4/18	5/9	5/23	6/13	6/27
Cedar Hill	Teri Stewart	teri@cowboyfaith.org	4/4	5/23	6/13	8/8		
Choke Canyon	Dar Klontz	kz642@yahoo.com	3/14	4/25	6/13			
Eisenhower	Jack Janco	jackjanco@sbcglobal.net	1/23	5/2	6/6	6/19	7/11	
Galveston Island	Dave Murphy	davemurph07@yahoo.com	4/18	5/9	6/6	7/11		
Goose Island	Bob Gordon	bobwgordon@yahoo.com	5/30	6/20	7/18	8/22		
Huntsville	David Neyses	proudamerican@att.net	3/21	4/18	5/16	6/13		
Lake Ray Roberts	Dan Gist	dangist@pilotpointisd.edu	3/28	4/18	5/16	6/13		
McKinney Falls	Lisa Roberts	lwroberts@att.net	3/7	4/4	5/2	6/20		
Palmetto	Don Desch	fishpalmettopark@sbcglobal.net	3/17	4/18	5/9			
Tyler			tba					
Lake Casa Blanca			tba					

## Increase Your Catch – “Over and Under” Fishing

JOHN DONNELLY – Angler Education Instructor, Galveston

**I have fished most of my life and thought I knew everything about fishing. Seven years ago I moved to the west end of Galveston Island and learned how much I didn't know. I thought the best times to fish were early mornings and late evenings. Now that I can fish anytime, I noticed that most of my fish were caught at different times of the day. I soon discovered why after installing an underwater light off the end of my dock.**

One evening around 9 p.m. after my underwater light came on there were several large redfish and trout in the light along with hundreds of menhaden swimming on the surface. I quickly got my rod and made several casts working my lure through the light. The trout would follow the lure back to the dock just inches behind the lure but would never take the lure. The redfish did the same, but at times would nip the end of the lure. Frustrated, I went back into the garage to finish what I was doing. Around 10 p.m. I heard popping noises from the dock as if someone were shooting a BB gun into the water. I looked out onto the water. The menhaden had scattered and the few remaining menhaden were being eaten by the trout and redfish. I got my rod again and cast just beyond the light. As soon as the lure hit the water, a trout swallowed the lure.

Without going into too much detail, this is what I learned. Regardless of the sun's position or the

moon's phase, wildlife eat according to the position of the moon. The moon's position is used to calculate the major and minor feeding times of fish and other wildlife. This is sometimes referred to as “over and under.” A major feeding time comes when the moon's position is directly overhead, which should be six hours after moon rise. Another major feeding time occurs with the word, “under.” This occurs when the moon is overhead on the other side of the world (or “under” us), which is six hours after moonset. The minor feeding time occurs during moonrise and set. Plan your fishing trip one hour before to one hour after your calculated feeding times.

To calculate major and minor feeding times, you must know when the moon rises and sets in your location. As an example, let's figure out what the feeding times were on Galveston West Bay, on Saturday, January 10, 2009. I was able to get the moon rise and set for Jamaica Beach

at <http://66.135.8.10/tideserver/index.asp>. On the morning of January 10, the moon set at 6:55 a.m. and rose at 5:20 p.m., the minor feeding times. Fishing an hour before and after makes the minor fishing time slot between 5:55 and 7:55 a.m. or between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. To calculate the major feeding times, the moon “over and under,” for January 10, add six hours to your moon rise and set. So, the major feeding times for January 10 were at 12:55 p.m. (moon set 6:55 a.m. + 6 = 12:55 p.m. or moon rise at 5:20 p.m. + 6 = 11:20 p.m.). Fishing an hour before and an hour after, the major feeding time slots will be between 11:55 a.m. and 1:55 p.m. and between 10:20 p.m. and 12:20 a.m.

You can increase the odds for your best fishing trip ever in fresh or saltwater by planning ahead and fishing with the proper moon phase during the major or minor feeding times.



Frank Robinson (center) demonstrates teaching techniques.



Area chiefs Guy Harrison (left) and Danny Wheat (not shown) provide flyfishing expertise.



Katy ISD educators promote community partnerships through fishing. "It's all for the kids."

## TPWD Hosts National Meeting in Corpus Christi

Your TPWD Aquatic Education team hosted a national meeting of the Aquatic Resource Education Association in Corpus Christi in October. With folks traveling from as far away as Puerto Rico, Alaska and Hawaii, the meeting was well-attended despite state travel budget cuts.

In addition to aquatic educators from state governments, we also hosted some of our own volunteers, who participated in sessions or presented what they are doing to teach Texans about fishing and aquatic resources. A team from Katy ISD, Mark Fobian, Keiko Davidson, Carrie Lowery and Jacki Keithan made a presentation about their fishing program, which is now in seven elementary schools, one middle school and one high school in the district. The Katy team explained that Angler Education is an integral part of their curriculum. The program helps them link their faculty, students, parents and their community together to support their educational goals for the kids. A high-school fishing club's members help elementary teachers teach fishing several times a year. Regular announcements about upcoming fishing events and family fishing days help instill some excitement among students and faculty. Monogrammed faculty "fishing" shirts add to the fun and create a team feeling. There was a truly inspirational presentation, followed by many questions from the audience.

Guy Harrison and Danny Wheat of the Hill Country and Fredericksburg Fly Fishers, and Frank Robinson of the San Marcos club, also attended the conference, participating in the fly-fishing session. They described how their fly-fishing clubs work together to reach out to youth in particular through camps and public classes. They also highlighted their innovative teaching methods, which are part of the TPWD fly-fishing program.

Guy said, "We were gratified that our program covered a greater range of age groups and was more comprehensive in scope than other fly-fishing programs. We not only cover the "nuts and bolts" of basic fly fishing instruction but we also include stream ethics and knowledge of aquatic organisms (macro invertebrates) and their habitats. We also picked up some worthwhile new ideas, experiences and gadgets that will be helpful in organizing and conducting our future programs."

Although we may not offer to host the meeting again any time soon (months of work!), our staff gained friends, insights, some new teaching tools and ideas to improve on what we are already doing. Look for some aquatic education innovations in the upcoming year!

## 2008 - A Bonanza for the Guadalupe Bass

GUY HARRISON – Area Chief, Kerrville

Whether it was the weather or the generous supply of forage fish placed in the Guadalupe bass rearing ponds this year, the result was a banner year for the production of fingerlings. A total of 196,317 fingerlings were stocked in the Guadalupe River (both the North and South Forks) and Johnson Creek near Kerrville. For background on the Guadalupe Bass restocking program, see *Reel Lines* issues July 2006 and July 2007. ([www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/newsletters/reel\\_lines/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/newsletters/reel_lines/))

What does a banner year mean for the Guadalupe bass restocking program? Obviously, that means we will probably reach our goal of stocking 225,000 fingerlings in 2009. We will also be able to re-establish a healthy and stable population of our Texas state fish in the Guadalupe River watershed within our five-year goal.

As always, a team effort is making this program possible. Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists at the Heart of the Hills Research Station in Ingram have partnered with the National Fish Hatchery in Uvalde, the Hill Country Flyfishers (who have solicited support from other flyfishing clubs along with the Federation of Flyfishers), and the Upper Guadalupe River Authority. When completed, this project will be an important success story for rare species in Texas, a gift for future generations.





# Tying the Bug-eyed Nymph

GUY HARRISON – Area Chief, Kerrville

This artificial nymph, while not representing any specific nymph in our Hill Country streams, is just buggy-looking enough that it will account for a great number of strikes from fishes who inhabit these streams. I have taken a variety of sunfishes, both Guadalupe and largemouth bass and even a few channel catfish during the summer months. In the winter when trout are stocked in the areas, it has proven to be an effective attractor pattern. It is worth while to have a number of this pattern in your fly box.



- Origin:** unknown
- Hook:** Mustad 9480 size 10 to 12
- Thread:** black
- Ribbing:** thin silver wire
- Hackle:** grizzly
- Head:** silver or black bead chain
- Tail:** a tuft of grizzly fibers (a few blue crystal flash strands may be added)
- Abdomen:** 3 to 4 peacock herl fibers mixed with a strand of blue crystal flash (black dubbin may be used instead)
- Thorax:** same as abdomen

## TYING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Secure thread to shaft of hook behind eye.
2. Tie on the bead chain behind the eye with figure-eight wraps and cement wraps.
3. Advance thread to bend of hook.
4. Tie on a tuft of grizzly fibers (mix in the blue crystal flash strands if you wish)
5. Tie on the silver wire.
6. Tie on the peacock herl fibers mixed with a strand of blue crystal flash.
7. Advance thread forward to about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " length of the hook shaft.
8. Twist the peacock herl fibers and the strand of crystal flash into a rope.
9. Wind the rope you have created clock-wise around shaft of hook to where the thread is, and secure the rope with several turns of thread.
10. Wind the silver wire counter clockwise over the herl, giving a segmented appearance to the herl abdomen, and tie in wire and clip the excess wire.
11. Tie in grizzly hackle in front of the abdomen by the tip.
12. Reattach peacock herl and crystal flash rope to the shaft of the hook. Wind rope around shaft of hook, creating a thorax slightly larger than abdomen and tie off herl.
13. Wind grizzly hackle 3 or 4 turns over the thorax, giving a segmented appearance to the thorax, and tie off hackle behind bead chain eye. Clip excess hackle.
14. Bring thread forward of the bead eyes and tie off. Make whip finish. Cement head.
15. Your fly has been tied and ready to be fished.

# State-Fish Art Contest Aims to Draw Student Interest

ATHENS, Texas – Deadline for entering the Texas State-Fish Art Contest is March 31, and students and teachers should take time now to review the contest rules and regulations.

Texas students who enter the contest can win prizes of up to \$1,000. Entries are judged in three grade-level divisions: 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. Thanks to funding from the Toyota Texas Bass Classic, the three first-place winners from Texas receive financial assistance for travel to Minneapolis, Minnesota, to compete in the national competition.

"It's important that entries be prepared in the format specified in the rules," said Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Zoe Ann Stinchcomb, Texas coordinator for the contest. "For example, artwork must be the proper size and have the entry form glued to the back. The complete set

of rules is posted on our Web site, [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishart](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishart). Links on that page contain everything you need to know to prepare entries and enter the contest."

Stinchcomb noted that a poster teachers can use to promote the contest to students can be found on the contest page as well. "However, home-schooled students are also eligible to enter the contest," she said.

The State-Fish Art Contest is a program of Wildlife Forever, a multi-species non-profit conservation organization that works to preserve America's wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat and scientific management of fish and wildlife species. Working at the grassroots level, Wildlife Forever has funded more than 800 conservation projects in all 50 states, Canada and Mexico.

# Welcome, New Instructors!

## June–December, 2008

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.

If we have accidentally left someone off, please let us know.

BRADLEY ZONKER	ABILENE	SHERRI NICHOLS	CROSBY	JENNIFER GARRETT	HOUSTON
KAREN FERNANDEZ	ADKINS	JAMES KARCHER	CROSSROADS	ERIKA GILBEAUX	HOUSTON
HENRY HERNANDEZ	ADKINS	CHARLES MCKINNEY	CYPRESS	AMANDA GRADNEY	HOUSTON
MONTE WILLIAMS	ALTAIR	JAMES HORTON	DARROUZETT	CECARIO GUERRERO	HOUSTON
DUSTY CALDWELL	AMARILLO	JUSTIN LEICHLITER	DECATUR	BRETT GUILLORY	HOUSTON
DAVID JOHNSON	ARGYLE	RODNEY (LANE) BOHANNAN	DENISON	TESS HANATH	HOUSTON
PEDRO CAAMANO	AUSTIN	TONI WALTON	DENISON	LESLIE HARRIS	HOUSTON
STEPHANIE CAMPBELL	AUSTIN	CASSIE COX	DENTON	DONNA HURLEY	HOUSTON
SHANNON CARTER	AUSTIN	RAMON (RAY) KETCHAM	DENTON	ASHLEE KANE	HOUSTON
YUNG FOLLIS	AUSTIN	KIM NEW	DICKINSON	CHARLES KEYS	HOUSTON
PATRICK GILDART	AUSTIN	RICHARD NEW	DICKINSON	MARCUS LATHAM	HOUSTON
SARAH HAMMONTREE	AUSTIN	EDIE DUNN	DRIFTWOOD	CARY LINDLEY	HOUSTON
CAROL HENDERSON	AUSTIN	LINDA SCALES	EULESS	ANDRE MATHEWS	HOUSTON
JULIE JENKINS	AUSTIN	JAMIE COX	FORT WORTH	SHARLA ODHAMS	HOUSTON
MARC LEFEBRE	AUSTIN	SABINA HARRINGTON	FORT WORTH	STEPHEN PICKERING	HOUSTON
ELISSA MALLORY	AUSTIN	MICHAEL MARTINEZ	FRESNO	DEBORAH PRICE	HOUSTON
STEPHANIE MARSH	AUSTIN	WILLIAM ASHBY	FRIENDSWOOD	CYNTHIA ROESLER	HOUSTON
MICHAEL MCKAY	AUSTIN	JOSEPH DROBNIK	FRIENDSWOOD	JESSICA RUBALCAVA	HOUSTON
LORI SCHWERTNER	AUSTIN	MARGARET DURR	FRIENDSWOOD	KAYLA SHAW	HOUSTON
BRENDA DESIMONE	BASTROP	MELVIN MEASELES	FRIENDSWOOD	BENJAMIN SIFUENTES	HOUSTON
CHRISTOPHER BROWN	BAYTOWN	JOSEPH ROHER	FRIENDSWOOD	CRAIG SIKKEMA	HOUSTON
CORA HYLTI	BAYTOWN	DAVID WINCHELL	FRIENDSWOOD	KIMBERLY THOMAS	HOUSTON
JOEL KUNZ	BAYTOWN	MARC WONDERGEM	FRIENDSWOOD	SABRINA THOMPSON	HOUSTON
WENDELL HALL	BEDFORD	CHAD CHACCHIA	FRISCO	RICHARD THOMPSON, JR	HOUSTON
CHARLES HOLDEN	BEDFORD	JOHN MILLER	GAINESVILLE	JACK VANHESTEREN	HOUSTON
MARTHA NARVAEZ	BEDFORD	CONNIE WHEELER	GORDONVILLE	LC KIRKPATRICK	HUMBLE
DENZIL FLOOD	BLANKET	CHARLES DAVIDSON	GREENVILLE	TRACEY PROTHRO	HUMBLE
LAURA LACKEY	BRAZORIA	SANDI BERTOCCI	HIGHLAND	VELMA SOLIZ	HUMBLE
KERRY MAGEE	BRAZORIA		VILLAGE	HORACE (DAN) MIMMS	HUNTSVILLE
MARCELA KOURKOVA	BUDA	MELINDA BROOKS	HIGHLAND	SEAN CASEY	JOURDANTON
JON KING	CARROLLTON		VILLAGE	ROY ALVAREZ	KATY
LINDA ANN ROWAN	CEDAR HILL	EDDIE ROSSOW	HIGHLANDS	STEPHEN COBB	KATY
BEVERLEY SCHROEDTER	CEDAR PARK	SHERITA ANDERSON	HOUSTON	CHRISTINA DAVIS	KATY
DON CRAMER	CIBOLO	SYLVIA ANDERSON	HOUSTON	DONNA DEES	KATY
JACOB BROADDUS	CLUTE	KAREN BAXTER	HOUSTON	RICK DEUTSCH	KATY
CHERYL DANFORD	CLUTE	PAUL BRADY	HOUSTON	PAMELA HIGHTOWER	KATY
RICKY DAVIS	CLUTE	LAURENTIS BUTLER	HOUSTON	LYNN LEONARD	KATY
ROBERT COLLETT	CONROE	AMBER CABELL	HOUSTON	MARTY LINDER	KATY
JAMES HATFIELD	CONROE	DARRELL COLE	HOUSTON	JOSE MALO	KATY
JAMIE HATFIELD	CONROE	ELLIE CROCKER	HOUSTON	ASHLEY NEWBERRY	KATY
JOHNNY HATFIELD	CONROE	GUY DOUGLAS	HOUSTON	NEERAJ PETER	KATY
CHRIS GIAMBERNARDI	CONVERSE	SARAH EATON	HOUSTON	JUSTIN SHORTOR	KATY
DENNIS BROWN	CORINTH	JASON FOWLKES	HOUSTON	RICHARD SMITH	KATY

HERMINIA STALLARD	KATY	TARA WEHE	SANTA FE	PATRICK PARKER	SPRING
ERICK TREJO	KATY	NICHOLAS COCCHIA	SEABROOK	JAMES POOL	SPRING
JAMIE MCDONALD	KIRBYVILLE	CINDY GRAVELY	SEABROOK	RODNEY REED	SPRING
LAWRENCE TRAMMELL	LA PORTE	LESLIE NEEDHAM	SHALLOWATER	CHRISTOPHER ROE	SPRING
THOMAS RUMSEY	LAKE HILLS	MELISSA SAUDER	SHERMAN	ELAINE SCHAUMAN	SPRING
WILLIAM BROWN	LAKE JACKSON	TRAVIS SOUTHERLAND	SHERMAN	SHARON STERCHY	SPRING
MICHAEL COMLEY	LAKE JACKSON	NESTER ORTIZ	SILVERTON	HELENA SZENHER-SHELTON	SPRING
ARTHUR CUNNINGHAM	LAKE JACKSON	ELIZABETH LINDER	SLATON	RAWLEY FARRELL	SUGAR LAND
MACK KEETER	LAKE JACKSON	NANCY BEAN	SPRING	MICHAEL BURNS	THE COLONY
MELODY MILLER	LAKE JACKSON	JESSICA DAWSON	SPRING	BILLY CALK	TIOGA
MICHELLE VANGA	LAKE JACKSON	BOBBIE DROWN	SPRING	BONNIE CUPIT	TOMBALL
JASON CORDOVA	LEAGUE CITY	GLENN ERVING	SPRING	GENEVIEVE FORSCH	TOMBALL
PATRICIA GREEN	LEAGUE CITY	WYNETTE FOBBS	SPRING	PAULA STRINGER	TOMBALL
DAVID LIGGIO	LEAGUE CITY	DENISE HALLMARK	SPRING	THERESA ANDERSON	VALLEY VIEW
CHERI PALMER	LEAGUE CITY	EMILY JENNINGS	SPRING	DAVID FOGLE	VALLEY VIEW
KATHY STEVENS	LEAGUE CITY	KELLY MARCHAND-SIMONS	SPRING	LEAH DOWER	WEST COLUMBIA
FRANK (TONY) CACCIOLA	LEANDER	JIMMY MCMULLEN	SPRING	ROBERT TOSCH	WEST COLUMBIA
WALTER (RORY) DURHAM	LEWISVILLE	LYNN MONYPENNY	SPRING		
CHRISTIAN LUCERO	LEWISVILLE				
MARC MORAN	LEWISVILLE				
MATTHEW SIFUENTES	LIVE OAK				
KATHERINE HOUGHTALING	MAGNOLIA				
JENNIFER KEEL	MAYPEARL				
ALICE LONDON	MICO				
WILLIAM BURNES	MINERAL WELLS				
ADRIK VELASCO	MISSOURI CITY				
JAMAL DIAB	NEW BRAUNFELS				
MARY DIAB	NEW BRAUNFELS				
ADRIANA DELEON	PASADENA				
JANET BUCKINGHAM	PEARLAND				
MICHAEL HEIN	PEARLAND				
ANGIE PHILLIPS	PEARLAND				
ANA VAZQUEZ	PEARLAND				
JERRY ALFORD	PILOT POINT				
DAN GIST II	PILOT POINT				
JOYCE WOOD	PILOT POINT				
JAMES PINKHAM	PIPE CREEK				
CRISTEN FOWLER	PLANO				
SANDRA CRESWELL	POTTSBORO				
BOBBY COHORN	QUITAQUE				
CAROLYNN COHORN	QUITAQUE				
DENNIS FARLEY	QUITAQUE				
WELDON GRIFFIN	QUITAQUE				
CHESTER HAWKINS	QUITAQUE				
FREDA HUGHES	QUITAQUE				
JIM MCKNIGHT	RICHARDSON				
MARY WAIT	RICHMOND				
ALAN (DONALD) STEPHENSON	SAN ANTONIO				

# ATTENTION!

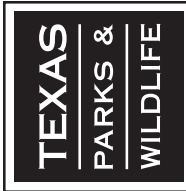
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1. Enter your e-mail address, click on "submit."
2. Scroll down to Fishing and Boating Newsletters, and check the box next to *Reel Lines* newsletter. You can sign up to receive as many newsletters or other outdoor program updates as you'd like.
3. Click "submit" at the bottom of the page.

We will be discontinuing mass print mailings of the newsletter, and moving to this more cost-effective method of getting information to you more quickly. Print copies of *Reel Lines* will still be available upon request. Simply call (800) 792-1112 ext. 8183 with your updated address and contact information, and we'll be happy to mail you a newsletter.



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