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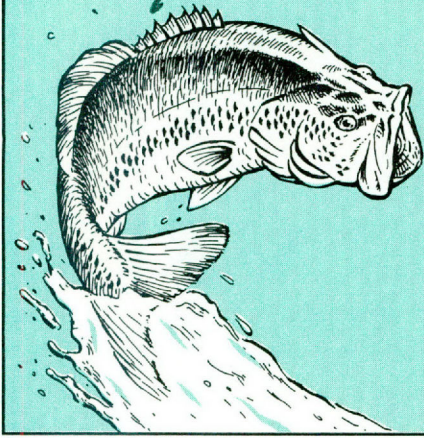
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Tail Walking Times

Texas Angler Education Program



Issue Number 8

4200 Smith School Road • Austin, Texas 78744

Fall 1999



Hope the fall weather, or soon to be, finds everyone wanting to get on the water and enjoy the cooler weather.

Waiting for news on the "new" Angler Education Program? The new manual is shaping up with plenty of Texas-based information for all to enjoy. As soon as the final version is complete, we are seeking a few good "taste-testers" to try out the product. The new version should be ready to go by January of the new century (New century...new look...makes sense!).

We're putting together kits that will be available to you to conduct your course without any expense. Along with loaning you the kit, we will continue to provide the manuals and materials for your class.

We will be discontinuing the **Sport Fishing and Aquatic Resources Handbook** due to rising costs of the manual. They're still available and you can order them from:
American Sportfishing Association, 1033 North Fairfax Street, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314 (703) 519-9691.

The Fall 4-H Sportfish Adult Workshop is scheduled October 15-17, 1999 at the Parrie Haynes Youth Ranch, outside Killeen. It will

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FISH TEXAS - Reel in a winner!

Super Combo license holders can qualify to win great fishing prizes by doing something they already enjoy taking a friend fishing. Fish Texas, a new Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) program, rewards anglers who take a friend or family member on their first fishing trip (or the first trip they have taken in at least a year).



Smiling, cheerful faces were the end result from the Town Lake YMCA summer camp, held at Rainbow Ranch in Buda, Texas. The kids learned angling techniques, how to fish safely and ethically and even created their own lures.

Three grand prize teams (an angler and his/her fishing companion) will each win a two-day guided fishing trip and a lifetime fishing license. Six first-place winners will each win a lifetime fishing

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Editor's Corner . . . continued

concentrate on disciplines in the areas of 1) Tacklecrafting, 2) Angling Skills, 3) Aquatic Ecology, and 4) People and Fish. Adult volunteer leaders wanting to involve children in fun-filled, lifelong skills can attend and pass along an exciting experience in fishing adventure. Contact either Willie Younger at 361-972-5370 or Dr. Ron Howard at 409-845-1214 for further information and registration.

If you are in the Austin area the first weekend in October, stop by at our headquarters and enjoy our 8th Annual Wildlife Expo. There will be outdoor exhibits and activities galore, all for free, so bring out the family and enjoy the day. Hope to see you there.

Stay cool and have fun fishing this fall.

Chris Lena

Fish Texas...continued

license, and ten second-place winners will each win an angler's camping equipment package.

The contest begins September 1, 1999, and ends June 15, 2000. All entries must be postmarked no later than midnight, June 15th, 2000 and mailed to Texas Parks and Wildlife, c/o **FISH TEXAS CONTEST**, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744. You can also find more information on the TPW Web site: www.tpwd.state.tx.us or contact Bill Harvey at (800) 792-1112 toll free, or (512) 389-4642.

Open Opportunity to Recognize Your Class/Event

We would appreciate any photos and clips of your activities, courses and/or events. Send in any pictures of your event with a description or short clip on the back, and we'll list them in the next issue. This is a great way to let other instructors know what you're doing and maybe even pass along a few tips or share some different activities with one another.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fly Rod Building Workshop **College Station November 6-7**

The cost will vary depending on the kit selected by the participant (\$80 - \$250). The workshop is limited to 20 individuals. Deadline for course registration will be October 1. Registration required to attend!

Fly Tying/Aquatic Entomology Workshop **College Station November 13**

The cost of the course, to be determined, will cover the materials used. The workshop can facilitate 25-30 participants. Registration required to attend! Contact Larry Hysmith at (409) 845-4865 or email: lhysmith@tamu.edu for registration and further information on either workshop.

Welcome New Instructors!

MAY

Robert A. Martinez
Brett A. Burford
Paul E. Crowcroft
Gregory R. Mount
Norm Ross
Eddy Porter
Richard Harwood

Austin
Austin
Austin
Austin
Austin
Manchaca
Round Rock

Quint A. Schneider
Robert Fletcher
Joe Olague
Mike Anderson
John Pickens
Ian Stokes
Greg Demmerue

Georgetown
Austin
Austin
Lago Vista
Austin
Austin
Manchaca

Texas Parks and Wildlife Clarifies Angling Rights Near Docks, Marinas

In response to reports of confrontations between anglers and waterfront landowners, Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) officials have clarified the public's right to fish from a boat on all public waters, providing no game law regulations are being violated. According to TPW legal counsel, Boyd Kennedy, "Waters open to the public for fishing include coastal waters, major lakes and rivers, and many smaller streams and lakes," said Kennedy. "If a lake is public water, then **all** of the lake is public water, including the water around marinas and boat docks. The right to build or operate a marina, dock, or other structure on or over public water does not carry with it the right to restrict boating or fishing from a boat."

Kennedy went on to note that by law, the basic authority for the enactment of fishing and boating regulations is reserved to the state. Some local government authorities may impose boating regulations for safety purposes, but TPW statistics show that fishing around marinas and boat docks is not a safety problem. "Harassment of a law-abiding angler is a crime punishable by fine and/or imprisonment," he added.

Of course, the reverse also is true... no angler can trespass onto private docks and marinas without permission. Courteous, ethical angling practices, public image and communication (everything we espouse in angler education) helps anglers avert confrontations with landowners.

How much do people love fishing events?

Take a look!

Thank you for coming out to Old Town Elementary to do the fishing program for the children. The students really enjoyed making the fishing lures and earrings. Many of them were "old hands" at fishing - but there were quite a few who never would have had the opportunity to learn anything about fishing. Thank you again for making it a special day for all of them.

Sincerely,
Old Town Library Staff

Thank you for letting me tie flies and teaching me to make lures at the Texas Fly Fishing Show. I had fun!

Your friend,
Ryan Hall

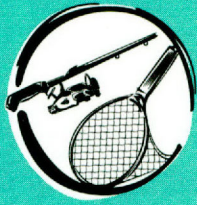
When you provide this in your community, everyone benefits!

Thank you so much for coming to day camp and running the fishing station. You added a new dimension to camp that the boys don't usually get. It was a pleasure working with you. Maybe I'll see you again next year!

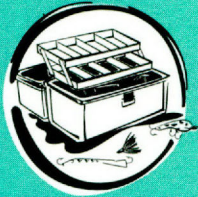
Sincerely,
Nancy Tabb
Creepy Crawlers Cubscout Summer Camp

Thank you for coming to Parish School and bringing your cool stuff and fish expertise for the kids to enjoy. We wish you the best! You'll hear from us again!

Thanks again,
Rachael Plant
Parish School Summer Camp



Tips,



Tackle, &



Tasty Tidbits



Crickets make excellent bait for bass and panfish, and bread and sugar make excellent bait for crickets. Sprinkle the bread with sugar, moisten slightly, and leave on ground overnight beneath a cloth or newspaper. You'll collect a day's supply of bait.



If you lose something overboard, try grappling for it with a chain fish stringer. Tie the stringer to a stout cord, open the snaps, and drag it back and forth over the bottom where the lost object disappeared.



Before letting out a trolling lure, hold it close to the boat and adjust the throttle setting until it responds with the proper action. All lures work best at certain speeds, and it's easier to find the right speed than to keep changing lures.



Always cut off the last couple of feet of line each time you land a sizable fish. There is less chance you will lose the next one due to a frayed line or a loose knot. Discard the line in a recycle barrel or toss into trash.

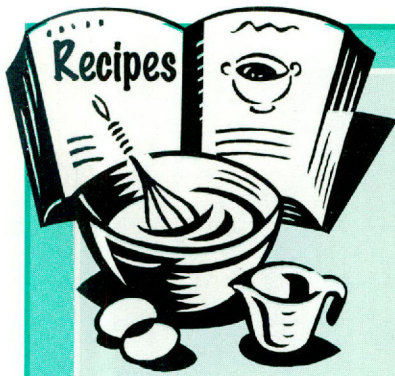
—courtesy of Field & Stream

Keep in mind...



*Old English
Proverb*

**When the wind is in the east,
then the fishes bite the least,
when the wind is in the west,
then the fishes bite the best,
when the wind is in the north,
the fishes do come forth,
when the wind is from the south,
it blows the bait in the fish's mouth.**



FLOUNDER!

Broiled Flounder

1 pound flounder fillets, skinned
Italian salad dressing
Butter, softened
Lemon juice
Lemon slices, paprika and parsley sprigs
for garnish

Marinate fillets in salad dressing for several hours. Place fillets on an aluminum foil covered baking sheet. Lightly spread butter on top of fillets. Broil for about 10 minutes or until lightly browned. Garnish with lemon slices, paprika and parsley sprigs.

Yield: 2 or 3 servings

Flounder Rollups

1/3 cup margarine or butter
1/3 cup fresh lemon juice
2 chicken-flavored bouillon cubes
1 tsp. hot pepper sauce
1 cup cooked white rice
1 (10 ounce) package frozen chopped broccoli, thawed
1 cup (4 ounces) shredded sharp cheddar cheese
2 pounds flounder fillets, skinned
Paprika and parsley sprigs for garnish

Melt margarine in small saucepan; add lemon juice, bouillon cubes and hot pepper sauce. Combine rice, broccoli and cheese; add half the lemon butter and mix well. Place fillets, skin side down, on work surface. Spoon equal portions of broccoli mixture on each fillet and roll up. Place in shallow baking dish. Pour remaining lemon butter over rollups. Bake at 375 for 25 minutes. Garnish with paprika and parsley sprigs.

Yield: 4 servings

Flounder Provencale

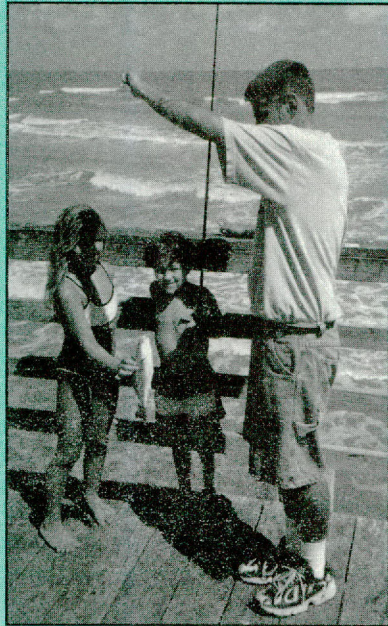
6 flounder fillets, skinned (1 1/2 pounds each)
4 Tbs. Butter
1/4 cup chopped onion
1 clove garlic, minced
1 1-pound can tomatoes, cut up
1 3-ounce can chopped mushrooms, drained (1/2 cup)
1/4 cup dry white wine
6 lemon wedges
Parsley

Dot each fillet with 2 teaspoons butter. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and paprika. Roll up fillets. Fasten with toothpicks. Place fillet rolls in skillet on medium-high heat. Add onion and next 4 ingredients. Cover tightly and simmer until fish flakes, about 15 minutes. Remove fish to warm platter; keep hot. Simmer sauce until slightly thickened. Spoon sauce over fish rolls. Garnish with lemon wedges and parsley sprigs.

Yield: 6 servings

Fish Stories

Quintana Beach County Park, located in Brazoria County, offered several kid's fishing events utilizing the Tackle Loaner Program equipment. Several families participated with the parents having as much fun as their children. The park employees definitely put in a lot of time to make these events memorable for all.



This red drum may not be a legal "keeper," but these two "new anglers" didn't seem to care even after releasing it. Catching was top priority for the day. The two also caught several small gafftopsail catfish and Atlantic croaker.



Tiffanie Hammer, another Parrie Haynes summer camper, caught a bluegill and it wants the old Jimmy Houston special, "kiss me before you throw me back in." With eyebrows raised, she doesn't know if she can return the favor.



Who says you have to catch fish to have fun? Blue crabs were also very willing customers for the live shrimp or mullet used for bait. The group learned how to identify a female blue crab from a male. Red end of claws and a triangle shaped apron, **female**; blue claws and a pointed apron, **male**.

Summer camp at Parrie Haynes Youth Ranch, outside Killeen, took the campers fishing at Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir. Grant Word, from Austin, holds a very impressive red-eared sunfish he caught during the morning session of fishing.



Southern Flounder: Now You See Them, Now You Don't!

The Southern Flounder, *Paralichthys lethostigma* for those of you who speak Latin, is one weird-looking fish! It's flat, both eyes are on the same side of its head, and it spends most of its life lying or swimming on its side along the bottom of its watery home. As weird-looking as this fish is, however, it's fun to catch and very tasty to eat.

The southern flounder is called a "flatfish," and it is just one of 25 species of flatfish in the world's waters. Like many other species of Texas Coastal fish, the southern flounder moves between the bays and the Gulf each year.

Newly-hatched flounder are not like full-grown flounder. When they're hatched, baby flounder swim upright, not sideways. Their eyes are on opposite sides of their heads. As flounder grow, their right eyes "migrate" or move, to the left sides of their heads and they get into their side-up, or sideways, position. All of that happens when newly-hatched flounder are less than one inch long!

In the winter and spring, the tiny *Paralichthys lethostigma* move back to the passes and shallow, grassy bay waters. Some of them move into coastal rivers and bayous, too.

Once both eyes are on the left sides of their heads, they begin to swim on their sides. Southern flounder grow very quickly. By the time they're one year old, they may be twelve inches long. Female flounder usually grow longer than male flounder.

When they are still young, southern flounder like to feed on crustaceans – animals that have shells, like shrimp. When they get older, flounder will hide, sometimes partly buried in

the grassy, shallow water, and wait for other fish to eat.

Many people catch southern flounder at night, when the fish are in shallow water waiting to eat. Flounder can be caught with rod and reel and bait, but wade fishing with a "gig" is very popular along the bays of the Texas Coast. Maybe you've seen people standing or moving slowly in the shallow bay waters at night and using lanterns to search for flounder. These folks use a "gig" – a stick with one or more sharp barbs, or points on the end.

Once a flounder is within the light from a lantern, it usually won't move, but that doesn't mean flounder are easy to catch. Remember, flounder like to bury themselves while they wait for their dinner to swim by. Many flounder go unnoticed by the "gigger" because the angler misjudges the fish's position or depth, or doesn't "gig" the fish with enough force.

The best time of year to "flounder" is between October and December, when the adult flounder are moving towards the Gulf. A calm, dark night, when the tide is coming in, may be just the right time to catch a weird-looking, sideways, flat southern flounder.

BE CAREFUL! Stingrays also like to hang around in the shallows! Sometimes they are mistaken for flounder. Look CAREFULLY at what you're about to gig, because you can either bring it up for a tasty flounder dinner, or move out of its way!

-courtesy of Texas Coastal Treasures

EDUCATION DIVISION PHONE NUMBERS

General Information

Sheri Harper 1-800-792-1112 + 0 ask for ext. 4942
(512) 389-4942
Fax (512) 389-8042

Records

Kathy Powell 1-800-792-1112 + 63
(512) 389-8142

Videos & Supplies

Jack Nasworthy 1-800-792-1112 + 61
(512) 389-4795
Fax (512) 389-4372

Aquatic Education Coordinator

Nancy Herron 1-800-792-1112 + 0 ask for ext. 4362
(512) 389-4362
Fax (512) 389-4372

Angler Education Coordinator

Chris Lena 1-800-792-1112 + 0 ask for ext. 4755
(512) 389-4755
Fax (512) 389-4372



Tips, Tackle, & Tasty Tidbits

Have a great fishing tip? How about an interesting article? Maybe you just want to pass on that mouth-watering recipe for all to enjoy. All information sent will be listed in upcoming issues of the newsletter and will be greatly appreciated.