

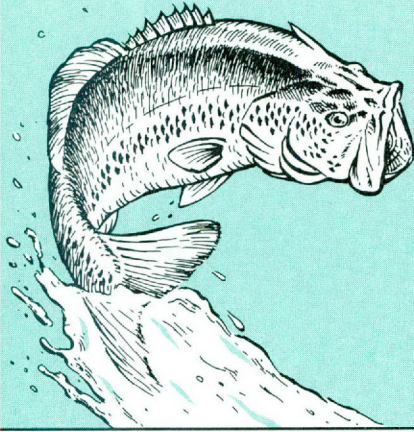
P400.6
T132
99/Summer

DEC 10 1999

Depository
Public Library

Tail Walking Times

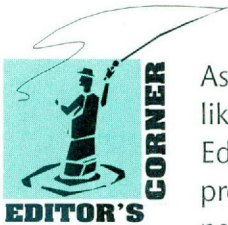
Texas Angler Education Program



Issue Number 7

4200 Smith School Road • Austin, Texas 78744

Summer 1999



As time goes by, change is likely to happen. The Angler Education Program is in the process of getting a brand new look and style.

Evaluations have indicated that the program, which was initially established alongside our mandatory boater and hunter education, needs to be formatted differently to meet the needs of a predominantly younger audience (6-12 years of age).

We are working on a "catchier" appearance and "hands-on" training as opposed to the manual and the tests. Not that we are eliminating the current program, but we plan to add some spice to attract a much larger audience when angler education programs are offered. This should reduce the amount of paperwork for the instructors and bring in more hands-on opportunities (i.e. fish identification, rules and regulations, safety, angling skills, etc.) for kids to complete. Students will become either a "junior angler" or "master angler" after they complete a required set of activities.

Our plans are to introduce you to the new format beginning September 1, 1999. We are in the development phase, and once the program is drafted, we would like your input to settle in on a final set of procedures. With

continued on the next page

Youth Fishing Program Instructors Cross-Trained at West Point Retreat

Willie R. Younger



Brian Triplett, San Jacinto County Extension Agent and Aquatic Ecology discipline instructor, discusses in identifying fish to the members of the 4-H Sportfish State Team.

The Texas 4-H Sportfishing Project Committee is comprised of natural resource professionals from the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW), the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M Sea Grant Marine Advisory agents and specialists, and

volunteer youth workers in the 4-H and Hooked On Fishing – Not On Drugs program. It is charged with training adult volunteers and 4-H faculty with the Extension Service to plan

continued on page 3

In this issue...

National Fishing Week

In the news...

Tips, Tackle, & Tasty Tidbits

Welcome New Instructors

Eagle Claw

Texas Game Warden Field Notes



Editor's Corner . . . continued

this in mind, our main goal is children. Offering them the opportunity to experience a new skill while having loads of fun, is a win-win situation. Children experiencing, learning and sharing a tradition of a fun recreation with others, what more could we ask for?

If any of you would like to submit a suggestion for a new program name, and the name is selected, you will receive a brand new rod and reel combination set.

Have a fun, safe, enjoyable summer and offer to take someone fishing who has never had the chance to go.

Chris Lena

San Jacinto County 4-H Visits Sites

On February 20, thirty-eight members and parents of the SJC Young Anglers 4-H Club in San Jacinto County traveled to the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens.

Everyone enjoyed the aquarium exhibits of Texas fishes and the self-guided tour of the Center's exhibits on hatcheries and aquaculture. Club members and parents attended the dive show and then were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the hatchery.

The day was capped off with fishing for Rainbow Trout in "Lake Zebco." This was the first field trip for the club this season. A trip to study saltwater fishes at Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson is planned for this summer.

—Brian Triplett,
San Jacinto County Extension Agent

Have You Caught These Web Sites Lately?

Texas Parks and Wildlife
see "Fish School" — new on the Education page

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>

Berkley —

<http://www.berkley-fishing.com>

American Sportfishing Association —

<http://www.gofishing.org>

Pradco —

<http://www.lurenet.com>

Penn Fishing Tackle —

<http://www.pennreels.com>

Gator Grip —

<http://www.shelbynet.net/jltool.html>

South Bend Sporting Goods —

<http://www.south-bend.com>

Alphabetized List of

Flyfishing Sites on WWW — <http://www.funnelweb.utcc.utk.edu/~ldecuir/webabc.htm>

Game Fish & Wildlife Art & T-shirts —

<http://www.fishinfever.com/t-shirts1.htm>

Retreat...continued

and deliver youth development activities which revolve around recreational fishing.

Since the program was introduced in 1997, nearly 300 project leaders have received instruction in one or more of the four areas of specialization which make up this youth-oriented program. These disciplines include angling skills, tackle crafting, people and fish (i.e., conservation, management, socio-economics, etc.) and aquatic ecology.

So that members of this training group would have the opportunity to maintain and expand their instructional skills, a cross-training retreat was held at the country home of Chris Lena, TPW Angler Education Coordinator. The emphasis of this 2-day train-the-trainer development workshop was on the curriculum specifics of aquatic ecology and tackle crafting. The next cross-training retreat will cover "people and fish" and angling skills.



During the fish taxonomy session of Aquatic Ecology, serious thoughts are given to group species. (seated left-right: Richard Parrish, Hardin County Extension Agent, Kevin Hutchison, Hill Country Flyfishers, Tamara Trail, Conservation Extension Associate, San Angelo and Matt McCarver, Tyler County Extension Agent).

The ten current members and one prospective training team member who attended were shown how to teach in these two specialties by meticulously going through the same exercises and lessons as those the project group seeks to qualify as county leaders. A sampling of such activities would include building a fish identification key (used to get kids to

recognize the unique physical characteristics and adaptations of fishes), constructing a model watershed (to examine possible sources of pollution or erosion), making inexpensive collecting equipment (so youth can develop a hands-on understanding of food webs and food chains), tying fishing flies and crafting fishing lures (such as spinners, plugs and worn leadheads). In addition, they took advantage of their time together to fine-tune their planning for the next train-the-youth trainer workshop which will be held June 4, 5, and 6 in Amarillo.



Dr. Ron Howard, Jr., 4-H Sportfish and Shooting Sports Director (far right) and Kevin Hutchison, Austin-area professional flyfisherman, demonstrates the "how-to" on basic fly tying. Members pictured (left-right) are Kevin Hutchison, fore ground, Rich Tillman, Brazoria County Marine Agent, Willie Younger, Marine Education Specialist, Palacios, Tamara Trail and Dr. Ron Howard Jr.

The group also came to appreciate the culinary delights of a superb Saturday night fish dinner prepared by their host and the angling benefits of his well-stocked farm ponds. Because of this hospitality and the cooperative teaching that took place, these dedicated individuals left better equipped, renewed and refreshed to meet the challenges of the development of this new and exciting natural resource program for the young people of Texas.

Persons interested in becoming either a trained project volunteer in their home county or a member of this elite train-the-adult trainer team may call Tamara Trail, Extension Associate – Wildlife & Fisheries, at 915/653-4576 or William R. Younger, Extension Marine Education Specialist, at 361/972-5370.

KIDS and FISHING

June
5-13



National Fishing Week

1999

by Virginia Pierce

Many inner city children don't have opportunities to explore nature and the water outside of city sidewalks and rain filled ditches, but thanks to corporate sponsor, Baker Botts, L.L.P. and their staff volunteers, along with event sponsors: Zebco/MotorGuide, Skeeter Boats, Yamaha Motors, Boots Follmar Marine, Pradco, Riverside Bait Company, Academy, Honor Trophies, Texas Parks & Wildlife and the "Get Hooked on Fishing – Not Drugs" Future Fisherman Foundation Program, the children at E. J. Scott Elementary in Houston experienced first hand a day of fun and the pure excitement of fishing.

You don't have to have special athletic skills or abilities to fish, nor do you have to have prior experience, just the desire and a little help from friends like Ms. Jordan, from E. J. Scott Elementary School, and Baker & Botts volunteers. Kids, water and fishing just naturally go together, but a little experienced help and preplanning assure positive introductions to this fun-filled sport. Each volunteer to the Scott School fishing derby contributed their time and effort to help the children not only with fishing, but the overall experience strengthened the children's sense of self-awareness, self-esteem, self-reliance, and confidence.

A classic example is Victor Bedolla, who not only caught a fish, but he caught the most fish and landed first place and a trophy on his very first time to go fishing! Jose Vasquez, not to be outdone by

Victor, caught the biggest fish, a 2 1/2 pound catfish and received a trophy. Jesse Nava tried as hard as any child that day to catch a big fish, and he earned the Good Sport trophy for the one that got away! We had a four way tie for second place with Jaime Hernandez, Glen Simpson, Alma Ventura and Roxanne Soreque, all landing five fish apiece. All the winners above received Zebco 33 combos for their efforts.

In addition to breakfast, lunch, sodas and water, provided by Baker & Botts, the kids received "First Fish" Awards from The Future Fisherman Foundation, caps from Skeeter Boats and Zebco, tackle provided by Riverside Bait Company, Quick-Hit catfish and panfish bait provided from Pradco, and CastAway decals and patches and other stickers were all given away as door prizes. Every child left with plenty of goodies as reminders of their fun-filled day.

It's the tug on the end of the line that matters and the memories and bonds that are created between the children and adults. Fishing is a nondiscriminating sport. It knows no boundaries of age, sex or nationality. It's feeling that telltale signal of a fish at the end of the line that gets both young and old anglers excited.

Our fishing event was held at Sheldon Lake State Park in the Sheldon Lake Environmental Education Center, located 13 miles east of downtown Houston. The



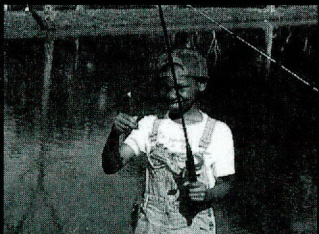
FISHING,



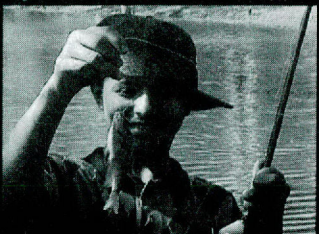
FISHING,



AND MORE



FISHING!



facilities were perfect for our outing. There were two stocked one acre ponds with lots of shade trees, picnic benches and tables, restrooms, and plenty of parking. Thomas Olson, the Education Director, and Susan Webb, a Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Warden, were instrumental in helping with the children. It wasn't too hot or windy and we couldn't have asked for anything more. Even if some of these kids didn't get their fish to the bank, they experienced the thrill and they were all successful in trying. The volunteers left feeling they had done a good job in helping the children. We all spent some real quality time with kids that might not otherwise have been able to go on such an adventure. Even though the kids don't realize it, that day helped set a precedent for the rest of their lives!

Through programs such as Zebco's All-American Fishing Derbies, Hooked on Fishing – Not Drugs, Bassmaster's CastingKids contests, Kid Fish, and National Fishing Week, all children should have the opportunity to learn about fishing and be exposed to these wonderful programs!

Zebco is so dedicated to kids and fishing that they spend more than \$250,000 annually in support of these programs. To celebrate Zebco's 50th Anniversary, they created a "Best Fishing Photo and Story" contest. Entry forms can be obtained by purchasing one of the new special series Zebco commemorative 202's, 33's or 50CLS. After purchasing any of these Zebco products, all you need to do is complete the entry form, submit a photo and an essay in 50 words or less describing the outing, and the grand prize winner will receive a Chrysler Jeep Cherokee! Other prizes include MotorGuide trolling motors, digital cameras, Limited Edition reels, etc. Winners will be notified by mail in October of this year.

Even kids from single parent homes can experience the joy of fishing by writing to Zebco Single Parent Offer, P.O. Box 270, Tulsa, OK 74101. Zebco will send them a complimentary brochure on fishing and lend them a video to show them how easy it is and how much fun kids and fishing can have when joined together.

One need not have a large organized group to plan an outing for youngsters. A small group can get together to accomplish the same purpose, that is, introducing children to the fun and sport of fishing. Perhaps one of your neighbors would like to go with you and help teach several of the children in the neighborhood how to fish, or your own kids, no matter how many, the essential factor is sharing in the love of the outdoors and of fishing.

There are some basic guidelines that should be considered when planning an outing for kids: First and foremost, make it fun for the children, don't make them go out there and spend a whole day dredging up the bottom of the lake or pond. Second, build the activity around their attention span, not yours! The younger the child, the shorter the time-frame should be. Third, make sure you have plenty of beverages, ice, snacks, sunscreen, caps and a life jacket for each child if your taking them on a boat. Fourth, children don't care if they catch small panfish, bass, catfish or any other kind of fish, just so long as it swims and has fins!

If you need help putting together a fishing activity for a group of children in your area, please call me at (281) 441-7266 and I'll be happy to assist you with more information.

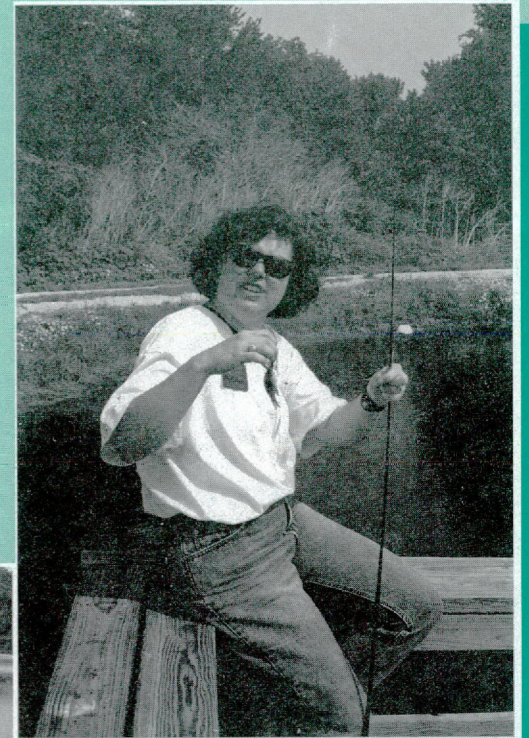


On a cold Sunday in March, this participant enjoyed catching one of several bass during an afternoon outing fishing with friends. Even the strong wind and chilly temperatures couldn't keep the smile off her face.



Bluebonnet 4-H club members examine some "beefy" fishing equipment and tackle brought to an angling skills and tacklecrafting presentation for the group. "If we need to use this, just how big are the fish in the pond?"

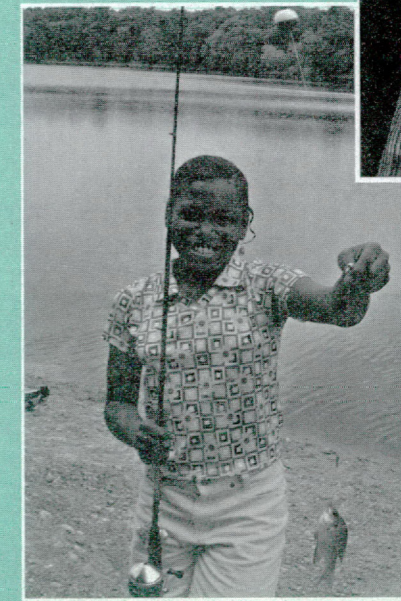
Denise Garza, Extension Assistant, from College Station, instructed Field and Stream participants in outdoor cooking. Here, she gives fishing a try and definitely caught her fair share of sunfish. It's all about the excitement that grows within you and the fun shared among family and friends.



Area residents, Phillip Welch (l) and Andrew Welch (r), display four of 12 bass they caught during a trip to their cabin in Fayette County. When the boys aren't in school, outdoor activities compromise their time with fishing ruling the roost!



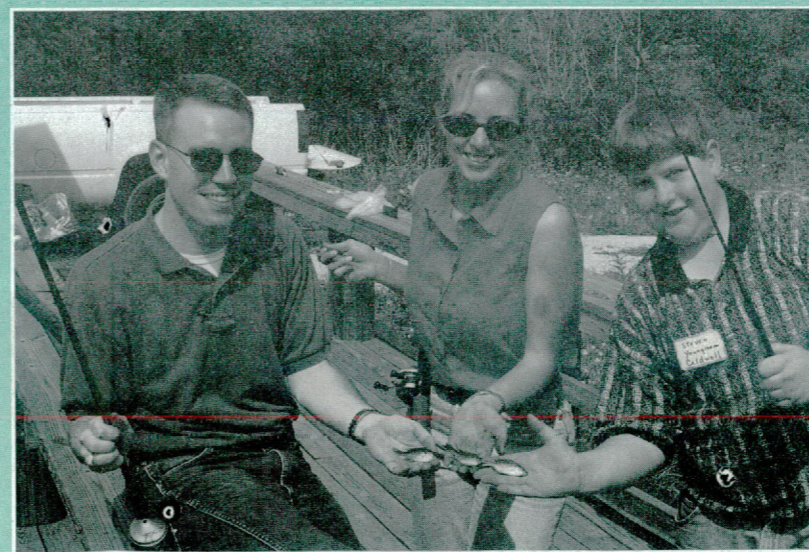
Buescher State Park was the site for the Pecan Springs Urban Biologists Angling Skills and Tacklecrafting outing on April 24th. Corey (l) and Brian (r) show off some of the juicy nightcrawlers used for fishing that afternoon. Anticipation is written all over their faces in hopes of catching some fish.



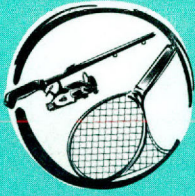
One of Pecan Springs Urban Biologist, Shadon, lands one of several bluegills she caught that day while fishing at Buescher State Park. It was the first fish she ever caught. That one plus the others she landed, went home with her to be cleaned and eaten.



The entire Bluebonnet 4-H club of Travis county thoroughly enjoyed all facets of fishing and what's involved by their facial expressions. Everyone teamed together to make in-line spinner baits, earrings for the ladies and absorbed angling information from safety, equipment and regulations offered during an angler education course.



The Guadalupe County Field and Stream workshop was held at the Seguin Outdoor Learning Center with fishing as one of the disciplines for the training. Pictured left to right, Andy McDonald, Extension Associate-Wildlife, College Station, Tamara Trail, Extension Associate-Conservation, San Angelo and participant Steven Youngman of Caldwell County, had a "smallest fish caught" competition and the results looks like a draw! Smiling faces show it doesn't take a big fish to have fun!



Tips,



Tackle, &



Tasty Tidbits

BLUEGILLS!

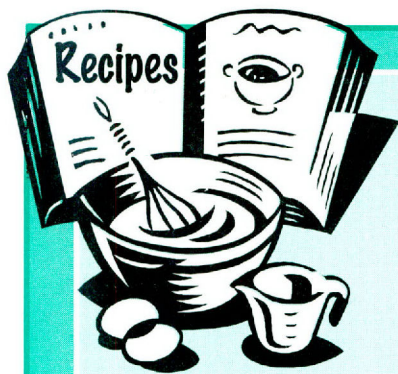
Bluegills - Where to find 'em

Bluegills prefer edges in anywhere from 3 to 20 feet of water. Look for transition zones—the outer edges of weedbeds, bottom areas where rock or gravel merges into mud, drop-offs along sunken reefs and shoals, and along the edges of underwater structure such as boulders and fallen trees. On cloudy days, or toward dusk when the sun is off the water, bluegills usually move to the surface to feed on insects.

Tips on Boating more Bluegills

- Instead of anchoring close to a fish attractor, start fishing at least three cast-lengths from it. Fish-holding brush will be pulled away from the marker buoy over time as anglers hang limbs in their anchors and drag them away from the center of the pile.
- Avoid sinking or fishing Christmas trees for bluegills. Old-time 'gillers believe they emit an odor that may actually repel fish.
- In the spring, fish creek tributaries after heavy rains. The bluegills will be in the clearer water at the edge of muddy run-off.
- Use extremely short rods when fishing boat houses, to avoid banging the tip against the structure.
- If you're fishing a certain depth and not getting bites, just start reeling in your lure or bait slowly until you find the fish's zone.
- The best boat docks for bluegills normally have the most algae on their pilings.
- Bluegills use light and shadow for concealment. Look for dappled light from shoreline trees, and try a weightless cricket or worm to draw fish out from the bank.
- Bluegills are crevice-oriented. Use short casts to flip your bait or jig into cracks along rocky bluffs.
- When using mealworms or maggots, take a handful and toss them over the side before you start fishing. Often, large numbers of bluegills will be drawn to the chum.
- When casting maribou or tube jigs, gently lower the rod tip as the lure sinks so there's a slight bow in the line. This allows the bluegill to inhale the jig without feeling resistance.
- Before you tie up to an emergent tree, make a few casts to the structure. Bluegills may refuse to bite if they sense your presence.
- In clearer water, a long pole is far more effective than a short rod, for it can present the bait to the fish without alarming them.

—courtesy of Southern Outdoors



Tiny-Bream Cocktail

Any bream (sunfish)
too small to fillet
Boiling water
Ice cold water
Seafood cocktail sauce

Clean and remove skin from bream. Without removing bones, drop fish into boiling water and cook for 3 minutes. Remove fish and immediately douse in ice cold water. Meat will peel from skeleton. Stir cool meat into cocktail sauce and serve as an appetizer.

Bream Bubbles

2 cups flaked cooked bream
2 cups mashed potatoes
2 eggs, lightly beaten
1/4 cup chopped onion or scallion
2 tablespoons minced parsley
Salt and pepper to taste
All-purpose breading mix
Vegetable oil
Seafood cocktail sauce

Combine fish, potatoes, eggs, onion, parsley, salt and pepper. Shape mixture into small balls. Roll in breading mix and deep-fry in oil heated to 375 in a Dutch oven or skillet. Cook until golden brown. Drain on paper towels, and serve immediately with cocktail sauce.

Cajun Bream

3 pounds bream fillets
1/2 cup tomato sauce
1 packet low-calorie Italian salad dressing mix
2 tablespoons chopped parsley
2 tablespoons vegetable oil or liquid butter substitute
2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese

Wash fillets and blot dry with paper towel. Combine tomato sauce, salad dressing mix, parsley, oil and cheese, mixing well. Brush sauce on all sides of fillets and place in lightly greased 13x9x2-inch baking dish. Cover and chill for 30 minutes. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes, or until fish flakes easily with a fork. Then, fish can be broiled about 4 inches from heat for approximately 2 minutes or until lightly browned and crispy.

Baked Bream with Red Rice

3 pounds bream fillets
2 cups uncooked regular rice
4 slices bacon
1 large onion, chopped
1 green bell pepper, chopped
1 15-ounce can tomato sauce
Lemon juice

Prepare rice according to package directions. Fry bacon until crisp, remove from skillet, break into small pieces and set aside. Saute onion and bell pepper in bacon drippings until tender. Combine vegetables, rice, bacon and tomato sauce. Spread mixture in baking dish. Arrange fillets on rice mixture, sprinkle with lemon juice and top with crumbled bacon. Bake at 350 for 1 hour or until fish flakes with a fork.

—courtesy of Campsite to Kitchen

Welcome New Instructors!

MAY

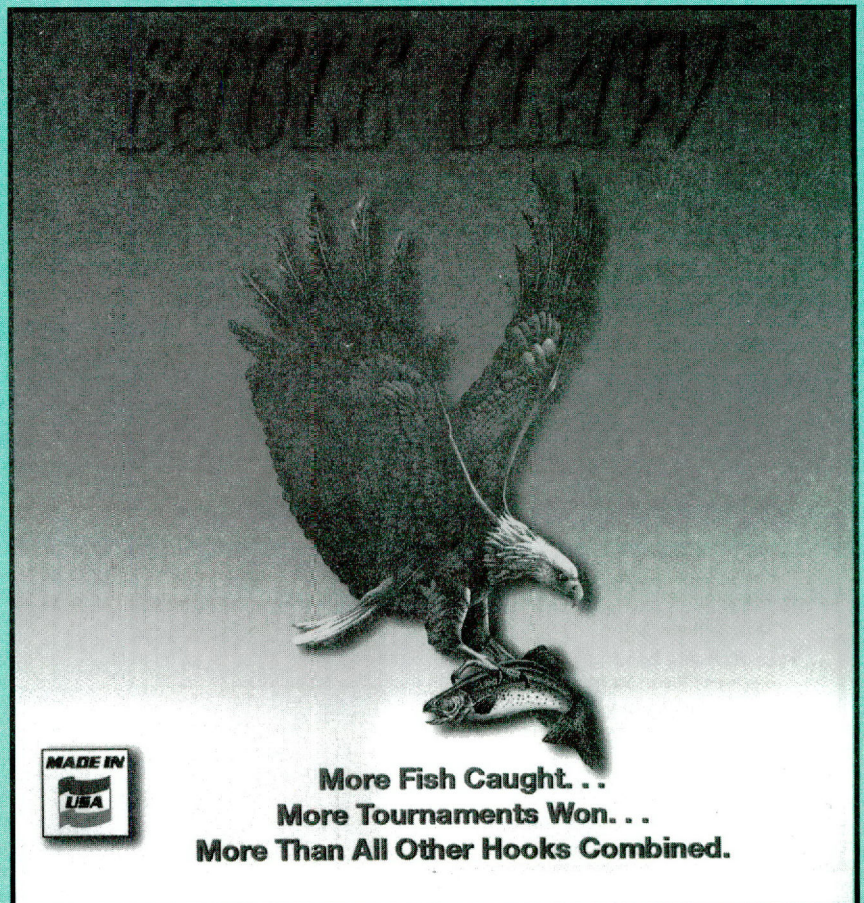
Gail Jernigan	Bryan	Carlos H. Mendoza	College Station
Andrew Unnasch	Thorndale	Jay Williams	Paris
Scott Morelock	College Station	Kevin Edncy	College Station
Brenten Brown	College Station	Ryan Bergeson	Bryan
Billy Carr	College Station	James F. Rogers	College Station
Christopher McQuinn	College Station	John G. Sheffy	College Station
Ryan O'Neal	Marquez	Jeff A Tjoelker	College Station
Mike Sheils	College Station	Casey T. Cain	Bryan
Brett Johnson	College Station	Brian Toce	Bryan
Melissa Long	College Station	Brad Reeves	Bryan
Dale J.Hrebovsky	College Station	Heather McCarver	College Station
Jeremy A. James	Bryan	Rusty Clark	Belton
Britt Curless	Bryan	Kyle Burke	College Station
Debbie Mullins	College Station	Alexander V. Tran	College Station
		Stepanie Middlebrooks	College Station

Eagle Claw donates "Good Luck" hooks to Program

A big thanks goes out to Shirley Lane of the Wright & McGill Company for the donation of "Good Luck" hooks sent to Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Eagle Claw supports many of the aquatic education programs across the country, and Texas has been no exception. While quantities last, be sure to let us know if you need some give-aways in your program.

Also, be sure to write Wright & McGill, and thank them for their generosity next time you get the opportunity to give away hooks donated as part of your efforts.



MADE IN USA

**More Fish Caught. . .
More Tournaments Won. . .
More Than All Other Hooks Combined.**

Texas Game Warden FIELD NOTES

Dentist appointment pending...

Galveston County game warden, Kris Bishop was checking fisherman when she noticed two men loading their boat. They were huddled over their ice chest, working frantically. Upon inspection of their catch, Bishop found they had two oversize redfish and the tags looked as if they had been secured hastily. One of the men had missed the date by two days. When questioned, the man chuckled and commented, "That was the best I could do with my teeth."

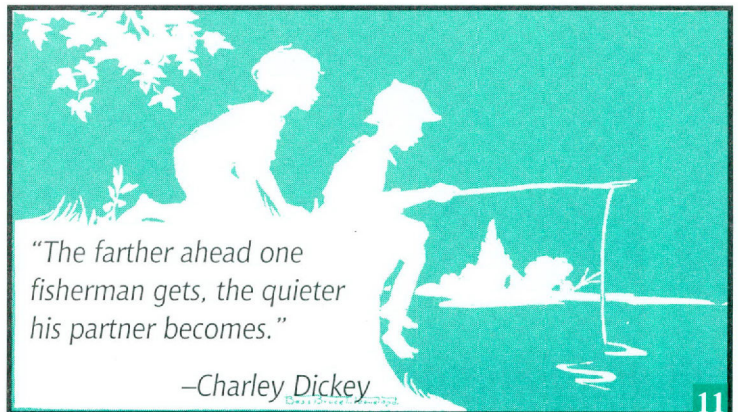


Texas Wildlife Expo Needs You!

"Great Fun in the Great Outdoors" is the theme for the eighth annual Texas Wildlife Expo, which will be held at Texas Parks and Wildlife headquarters in Austin on October 2 and 3. Last year an estimated 37,000 visitors tried

their hands in numerous outdoor activities and venues. Among the most popular activities were those located in the Fishing and Aquatic area, including youth catfish and trout fishing, virtual fishing, fresh and saltwater touch tanks, tacklecrafting, fly fishing, fish printing and more.

If you'd like to volunteer for one of these activities, contact Chris Lena at 512-389-4755 or 1-800-792-1112 + 0, then ask for ext. 4755. For a four-hour shift, volunteers earn a 1999 Expo T-shirt!



"The farther ahead one fisherman gets, the quieter his partner becomes."

—Charley Dickey

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.

Texas Parks and Wildlife
Angler Education Program
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744

