

TEXAS ANGLER
EDUCATION PROGRAM**Reel Lines**

Issue Number 26

4200 Smith School Road • Austin, Texas 78744

Summer 2009

New & NoteworthyANN MILLER –
Aquatic Education Coordinator

Sadly, we had to say good-bye to Sara Wernicke, our sweet and immensely efficient administrative assistant. Sara decided to join her husband, Kurt, who is training at Fort Rucker, Alabama, to be a helicopter pilot. Sara made a lasting contribution to our program during her time with us and she will be missed.

On a happier note, Genevieve Lung took Sara's place. Genevieve is passionate about the outdoors and enjoys all aspects of our Aquatic Education and Project WILD programs. She is already applying her extensive experience working with volunteers at Wild Basin in Austin and will do her best to keep the volunteer wheels humming along for our program and for Project WILD.



Genevieve and her husband of 18 years, Art, have a 14-year-old son, Art the IV, whose hobby is robotics and who also likes to fish. Her 16-year-old daughter, Emily, is a cheerleader, but, when it came time for

*(Continued on page 2)***Does Competition
“Set the Hook”?**

Stats showed that the competition at the First Annual Houston ISD Fishing Tournament was hot and heavy. With Bianca Gonzales from the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Academy catching the biggest fish at 18 ½ inches and Jose Lopez from Chavez catching the most fish (10), the bar has been set for next year. Who will break those records? Will a new crop of anglers rise to the challenge? Does competition “set the hook” for some kids and get them excited about fishing and archery for years to come?

With Ed Gerhardt and his crew from Junior Angler and Hunters of America hosting the fishing event at Lake Jack Cogbill in Baytown, the buses of kids from Houston schools arrived by 9:30 in the morning on May 16. The early morning breeze rippled the lake's surface, beckoning the kids who hurriedly assembled their tackle to get their lines in the water. Fishing was a bit slow at first, with a younger brother catching the first sunfish. Were the fish not hungry or were bobbers set too low? When a change was made from fishing with bobbers and worms to fishing without bobbers and using plastics, catch rates increased and whoops of excitement were heard around the lake.

As morning turned to afternoon, getting kids to stop fishing to eat the fried catfish lunch seemed a hard task at first, but the smell of food overcame even the most ardent angler who could down the lunch in short order and get back to the task at hand—catching a trophy bass.

(Continued on page 3)

New & Noteworthy

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

the 16th birthday party, what kind of party did Emily want? A camping trip, of course! That's the kind of families we have here at TPWD! We welcome Genevieve and look forward to her contributions to our program.

Some of you may remember the article in the last *Reel Lines* by Rey Ramirez titled, "To Blog or Not to Blog." In that article, Rey gave a Web site for the blog. With further research, Rey decided to set up an online social network on a Web site called Ning. Our network is called "Texas Angler Educators." Here you can upload photos and enter into discussions about topics of interest. To join our network, please e-mail either Rey or me and ask to join (ann.miller@tpwd.state.tx.us or reynam49@gmail.com). We'll send an invitation for you to join. If you don't upload a photo of yourself when you set up your account, we'll put a fish in there as a place

holder. As soon as we welcome you to the network, you are able to participate in discussions. The flyfishers have been especially involved in the network so far. I hope it proves to be a tool all of us can use!

Many of you already know about our new fishing video series called *Take Me Fishing*. This series offers very basic information for the beginner angler. It can be seen via our Web site (see the video icon on the right hand side of our home page) and on YouTube through the Texas Parks and Wildlife channel. Check it out at: www.youtube.com/user/TexasParksWildlife along with a lot of other cool videos about Texas state parks.

For those who have ordered a DVD of our *Take Me Fishing* series, please let us know if you haven't received it yet. Or, if you would like to order one, please contact our office.

Seen and Heard...

From Aimee Edwards, P.E. teacher, Austin

As a new instructor, I recently taught my third- through fifth-graders the Angler Education program during physical education class. My students absolutely loved the program. They were excited when they received their Junior Angler certificate and pin. They liked playing the "Go Fish" game, learning what happens to the population of fish when the quality of water is bad and what can happen in a healthy pond or lake. I had two angler education stations set up during our Track and Field day. One station was the backyard bass. I overheard one student tell his mom, "This is the best day of my life. I caught my first fish."

This father and son were caught peering at the displays in the Take Me Fishing trailer.

What do you think? Is there fishing in this young man's future? When you have the outfit, you're halfway there!



Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo Suspended

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department regrets having to suspend this popular event for at least 2009 and 2010 because of a sponsorship revenue decline related to the economic recession and increased operational costs. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will instead expand efforts to support similar events around the state.

Executive Director
Carter P. Smith

Editors
Ann Miller
Steve Campbell



COMMISSION
Peter M. Holt, Chairman
San Antonio

T. Dan Friedkin, Vice-Chairman
Houston

Mark E. Bivins Amarillo
Ralph H. Duggins Fort Worth

Antonio Falcon, M.D. Rio Grande City
Karen J. Hixon San Antonio
Dan Allen Hughes, Jr. Beeville
Margaret Martin Boerne
S. Reed Morian Houston

Lee M. Bass, Chairman-Emeritus
Fort Worth

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

You may view this publication through the TPWD Web site. If you wish to have your name and address removed from the printed version mail distribution list, please notify us by completing a request form at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/enews/. Once verified, we will notify you by e-mail when a new version of your selected newsletter is posted at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsletters

FOR MORE INFORMATION

All inquiries: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744, telephone (800) 792-1112 toll free, or (512) 389-4800 or visit our Web site for detailed information about TPWD programs:

www.tpwd.state.tx.us

©2009 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department PWD BR K0700-162 (7/09)
In accordance with Texas State Depository Law, this publication is available at the Texas State Publications Clearinghouse and/or Texas Depository Libraries.

♻️ Printed on recycled paper.

Competition, continued

Yes, the fishing tournament and the archery tournament did seem to "set the hook" for over 100 students in May. Competition put the "adventure" in our program. Next year, we expect both tournaments to attract even more students and stiffer competition. Will Chavez win the overall fishing tournament again? Will the Law Enforcement and Crimi-

nal Justice Academy hang on to the archery championship? With new schools coming on line with the Outdoor Adventure program next year, everything is up for grabs. Students and teachers ... get ready for another year of outdoor adventure ... and just a little competition, to "set the hook" and add that extra bit of excitement!

Participating High Schools in 2009

- Madison
- Chavez
- Law Enforcement Criminal Justice Academy
- Worthing
- Cashmere
- Scarborough

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS!!

ARCHERY

Team Winners:

- Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (LE&CJ) – 2887
- Worthing – 2442
- Madison, Team 1 – 2324

Individual Winners:

- David Rivera (LE&CJ) – 270
- Xenia Paula (Madison, Team 2) – 218

FISHING

Team Winner: Chavez High School

Individual Winners:

Largest Bass:

- (F) Bianca Gonzales (LE&CJ) – 18 ½"
- (M) Pablo Acosta (Chavez) – 17"

Most Bass:

- (F) Bianca Gonzalez (LE&CJ) – 2 fish, 32 ¾" total length
- (M) Guadalupe Gonzalez (LE&CJ) – 4 fish, 57 ¼" total length

Most Fish:

- (M) Jose Lopez (Chavez) – 10 fish, 108 ¼" total length
- (F) Chrystal Aquirre (Chavez) – 3 fish, 37" total length

A special thanks to Houston ISD administrators Rose Haggerty and Felicia Cesar-White for their continued support for the Outdoor Adventure program.

Another special thanks goes to Bob Jones, with the Texas Fresh Water Junior Anglers Club and owner of Lake Jack Cogbill for allowing the fishing tournament to take place on his lovely property.

Many thanks to the following Angler Education Area Chiefs and Instructors for helping at the fishing tournament: Chuck Ganze, Michael Shirley, Garry Sullivan, Ed Gerhardt, David Neyses, Ada Ganze, Gary Dunham, Brea Walker, Carver Walker, Cheryl Wasbrikoff, John Kovach, John Scalf, Carol Watson, Elaine Gomez, Joseph Cordova, Marion Gay, Amelia Cole, Coach Fields, Ron Portwood and Ana Lael Portwood.



Every little bit counts when you measure fish.



Carver Walker and Rose Haggerty assist the youngest.



Teamwork makes rigging easy.



A proud angler displays her catch.

TPWD Battles Giant Salvinia on Caddo Lake

TOM HARVEY – News and Information, TPWD. Photo by LARRY D. HODGE – TPWD.

During the first week of June, in partnership with the Cypress Valley Navigation District and the Caddo Lake Institute, the Inland Fisheries Division launched an offensive against giant salvinia on Caddo Lake. "We are at a tipping point with giant salvinia coverage on Caddo Lake," said Craig Bonds, TPWD's regional director for inland fisheries, in a department news release. "If we don't get on it heavily, we could lose this battle and experience increased levels of giant salvinia, to the point where we won't be able to control it. We will never eradicate it. This is going to be an on-going fight."

The battle against giant salvinia is being fought mainly by the herbicide boats and a mechanical harvester that gobbles up the plant from the surface of the water and carries it to shore for disposal. Salvinia-eating weevils are also in use on several lakes, but results are slow. TPWD and Cypress Valley Navigation District crews were on the lake applying Environmental Protection Agency -approved herbicides until about June 12. Each of the five spray boats operating can cover about 40 acres per day.

While efforts to combat giant salvinia are expensive (\$64,000 for herbicides alone for the current operation), experts say the cost of doing nothing would be greater. "If not controlled, giant salvinia can and will take over the entire lake," said Howard Elder, TPWD's aquatic vegetation biologist. "It will block out all light from the water beneath, displacing native fish and plant species, negatively impacting the water quality and displacing waterfowl and other wildlife. Should giant salvinia progress to the point where access is affected, all recreation will cease. You won't be able to launch a boat or move a boat through dense salvinia mats. It will cost local communities and reservoir-based businesses significant lost revenue."



More information about giant salvinia is on the TPWD Web site (www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/species/exotic/salvinia.phtml). Tips for controlling salvinia and other nuisance species are on the Texas Invasives project Web site (<http://texasinvasives.org/>).

Editor's Note:

On July 18, 2009, through the leadership of the Southeast, Texas Bass Federation Nation, dedicated anglers and outdoors enthusiasts will gather at Jackson Hill Park and Marina on Sam Rayburn Reservoir and attempt to eradicate giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) from one of the best fishing lakes in Texas.

ANGLER EDUCATION CONTACT INFORMATION

General Information and Records

GENEVIEVE LUNG (800) 792-1112 + 65
(512) 389-8183 Fax (512) 389-8673
genevieve.lung@tpwd.state.tx.us

Supplies

ROBERT RAMIREZ or MAC ALMOND
(800) 792-1112 + 61 Fax (512) 389-4372
(512) 389-4528 or (512) 389-4795
robert2.ramirez@tpwd.state.tx.us
mac.almond@tpwd.state.tx.us

Aquatic Education Coordinator

ANN MILLER (800) 792-1112 + 9 + 4732
(512) 389-4732 Fax (512) 389-8673
ann.miller@tpwd.state.tx.us

Aquatic Education – Dallas/Fort Worth

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

Aquatic Education – Houston

KEVIN CUNNINGHAM (281) 534-0123
kevin.cunningham@tpwd.state.tx.us

Outdoor Learning Program

KAREN MARKS
(512) 389-8833 Fax (512) 389-8673
karen.marks@tpwd.state.tx.us

Outdoor Learning Programs Coordinator

NANCY HERRON (512) 389-4362
nancy.herron@tpwd.state.tx.us



The Ultimate Fisherman

SANDRA PRADO – Angler Education Volunteer

Through the thick mist of the dark night sky, I see his profile as he diligently casts his fly rod. He is no longer my sweet little angel, pumpkin pie; he is an accomplished young fisherman. I observe his facial features through the soft glow of the full moon, somewhat hidden by the dark billowy cumulus clouds overhead, his intense eyes focused on the gently flowing waves of murky saltwater rippled by the cool breeze.

He is only 14 years old but has the composure and mannerisms of a young man. How did this child become this wonderful, caring, unique treasure and how did we become the ones chosen to receive such a gift? While other children choose to walk down the dark path of self-destruction, our child chooses to enjoy the beauty in nature and his natural surroundings. His thoughts always on where his next destination will be and what must be done to have a bountiful adventure.

He spends countless hours watching the fishing channel, soaking up information like a dry plant in the scorching desert, with hopes of success for his future endeavors. As he whips his rod to and fro with such determination and agility, the outlines of the well defined muscles in his arms are visible. He takes pride in the daily regimen of running and exercise, all with the ultimate goal of providing him with the proper energy and equipment needed for the sport which consumes his thoughts.

Suddenly his arms thrust forward as I see him change his stance and proceed to draw in his latest trophy. He is so patient and cautious wanting to savor the moment when he will encounter the culprit which tried to consume the fly at the end of his line. As he envisions the possibilities, a slight smirk swells across his face and his posture becomes steadfast and upright. Slowly, but with great anticipation, he continues to bring in this unknown creature. What will the depths of the Arroyo reveal?

Without warning, the creature fights to escape and the screech of the drag, bellowing in the still of the night, can be heard for miles. Suddenly,

a loud snap interrupts the screech, as the line is ripped apart and the pole straightens from its bent position. Just then a large tail emerges from the water as if to mock my child. Undeterred by the incident which just took place, he rigs up his line and continues to cast, determined to enjoy all the wonders life holds. Amazed by the meager effects felt by my son, I continue watching him with such pride in the way he chooses to handle his defeat.

As my son begins reeling in his line to head out on our journey home, his pole suddenly doubles over and the sheer excitement emitted from his body can almost be seen. As the line draws in closer, he grabs his net, kneels on the dock and scoops up his latest catch. Upon closer examination, he realizes a small colorful object embedded in the mouth of this magnificent 27.5-inch speckled trout. He grabs his pliers and commences removing the object, only to find out that it is the fly taken by the fish that got away. His face lights up and his demeanor changes, fully satisfied by the final outcome of the night.

As he gathers the spoils of his latest adventure, I marvel in the notion that this baby-faced young boy, who is just starting to emerge as a man, has been created to fulfill our lives. This child of God, that was almost taken from us on three occasions; the delicate features of his face just starting to show signs of maturity, is now preparing for his future. Joseph Lee Prado is not only the ultimate gift; he is also the ultimate fisherman.

Fishing Makes a Difference at Hutsell Elementary

BRENDA SHAVER, KAREN THORNTON, LYNNE MALFITANO – Area Chiefs, Katy

Hutsell Elementary is part of the Katy ISD Anglers. Each year our goal is to take fourth graders on a fishing field trip right before our TAKS test. This is in addition to our annual family-oriented Take Me Fishing event for third, fourth and fifth grades. Some teachers and administrators might think we are crazy, but we know better.

The field trip's objective is for students to take what they have learned in school and use it in a real life experience. We used the Texas Parks and Wildlife curriculum during our P.E. classes to certify the students as Junior Anglers. The students learned about fish identification, habitats, casting, knot tying, lures, live bait, fishing ethics and rules and about being good stewards of our waterways. Once they became certified Junior Anglers, the students were prepared for the fishing field trip at the Kenneth D. Welch Outdoor Learning Center (OLC) in Katy ISD. There students were given an opportunity to put their newly learned skills into action.

A dedicated group of Katy volunteers and teachers (all certified instructors) from science, art and physical education led the fourth graders in several activities in addition to fishing in our stocked pond. Students were divided into two groups. One group fished and participated in bug picking. Students baited their hooks and put their casting skills to the test. Mark Fobian (Griffin Elementary) and Tom D'Andre (Kilpatrick Elementary) assisted students with weighing and measuring the fish they caught. A fish data record was filled out with the weight and length of the fish, bait used and the weather conditions. Fish were then "kissed and released" back into the pond.

Brian Thuesen (Golbow Elementary) assisted students at the bug picking station. They collected aquatic insects and used magnifying glasses and identification charts to identify what they had caught. Students were amazed at the variety of insects inhabiting the pond.

The second group of students rotated through four stations. The first station was the kayak safety station taught by TPWD Outreach Specialist, Dawn Bello. Students learned about water safety, the different types of life jackets and how to put on a life jacket. They learned how to get in and out of a kayak and practiced paddling.

Tim Mueller (Creech Elementary) taught the second station, a demonstration of Dutch oven cooking.

Students were provided an opportunity to see first hand how to make apple cobbler, watch it cook over an open fire and then taste the results.

At the third station, Suzie Sotero and Ashley Newberry introduced the students to *Gyotaku* which is a Japanese word for fish print. Each student made their own fish print t-shirt and a fish rubbing on paper.

Finally, at the catfish anatomy and tasting station, Vera Larsen skillfully demonstrated the dissection of a catfish and helped the students identify the anatomy of a catfish. Afterwards, students enjoyed tasting fried catfish.

After lunch, the two groups switched allowing all students to participate in hands-on curriculum from science, math and physical education.

Does fishing make a difference at Hutsell? We believe fishing does make a difference. We schedule this field trip on Friday before TAKS testing, giving students the opportunity to relax in an outdoor environment, reinforcing their newly learned skills and having fun. The field trip is designed to support the TAKS objectives. Last year our students' scores carried our campus from an acceptable rating to an exemplary rating, supporting our theory that fishing ... and relaxing outdoors ... makes a difference for our students.

Fishing and outdoor education are but one component in the winning formula that makes us a successful school. Of course, we couldn't make it happen without great volunteers, enthusiastic Katy ISD teachers, TPWD experts and the support of Hutsell's leadership team.



Barbless Circle Hooks: Catch Fish and Increase Survival Rates

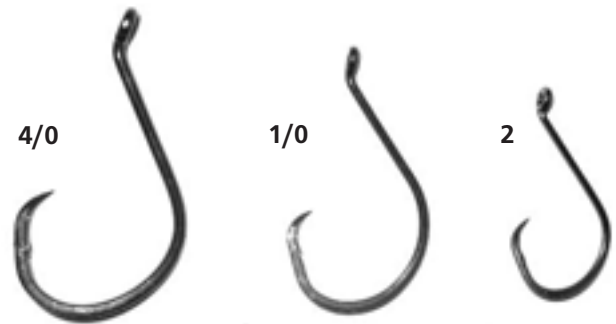
JOHN SCALF – Area Chief, Texas City

As sport fishermen, we each have a preference for the type and size hook we use when venturing out on the water in hopes of catching “the big one.” Factors such as the particular body of water being fished, species of fish sought after, selection of natural bait (alive or dead) and the angler’s experience level can often influence the hook selection.

There are a wide variety of hooks available on the market including those which are barbless. The three most popular are traditional J-hooks, treble hooks and circle hooks. Hook sizes are generally referred to by a number from the smallest (size 32) to the largest (size 19/0). For hook sizes from 32 to 1, the larger the number, the smaller the hook. For hook sizes from 1/0 (called a one aught) to 19/0, the larger the number, the larger the hook. If barbless hooks are not available, a pinch with a pair of needle nose pliers can quickly eliminate the barb on any hook.

For the junior angler, fishing with a barbless circle hook eliminates the need for the traditional “hook set” to successfully hook the fish. With a gentle pull, the circle hook design typically hooks the fish in the lip with a better clasp and eliminates the need for a barb to prevent the hook from coming out. This allows the angler or instructor to easily and quickly remove the hook, eliminating the gut-hooking that can often occur when a fish swallows the bait.

With catch and release being a requirement of the majority of sites fished (such as privately owned lakes or ponds, Sea Center Texas and Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center), eliminating gut-hooking and quickly returning the fish to the water increases its survival rate and the opportunity for our organization to be invited back to fish and hold



future events. At a fishing field trip to Sea Center for Houston ISD students in April, we used size 1/0 and 2/0 circle hooks on some nice-sized reds and specs with great results!

Consider using barbless circle hooks at your next aquatic education event in an effort to catch fish and increase their survival rate.

Editor’s Note:

John’s article sent me to the Web to learn more about circle hooks. We will certainly look into purchasing some for our program. Let me know your thoughts and experiences with circle hooks. Join our Ning blog! ann.miller@tpwd.state.tx.us



Make a Difference and Enjoy It

DAVID NEYSES – Area Chief, Spring

Do you enjoy fishing and helping others at the lake or shore and even in the fishing aisles at sporting goods stores? Does it make you feel really good to see an adult or child get excited and smile from ear to ear as they catch a fish? Would you like the satisfaction of knowing your efforts are making a lasting contribution in your community?

If the answer to these questions is yes, then consider becoming an Area Chief and sharing your love of fishing at another level. With some training and a little bit of your time, you can train other adults to assist you in your angler education activities or train them to put on their own events. All the while, you will be supported by the Angler Education staff and fellow Area Chiefs.

As an Area Chief, you will be more closely tied to our Angler Education network (TPWD staff and other volunteers). One way to connect more closely is to attend the yearly Area Chief meeting where we exchange ideas, receive updates on all the programs and enjoy the company of other dedicated and talented Angler Education volunteers.

During a casual and relaxing weekend at the Parrie Haynes Ranch near Killeen this past April, we listened to presentations addressing a wide variety of subjects led by experts in their fields. Last year, we also had the opportunity to make innovative teaching aids like rod holders, habitat dioramas and catfish models reusing water bottles to show how to hold a catfish. And there are good times that make for good memories such as the Friday night barbecue, fishing and kayaking in the Lampasas River and taking a walk through the countryside in spring.

I also enjoyed the stunning sunrises and sunsets seen from the balcony of the dining facility, sitting around a campfire singing songs with the accompaniment of a guitarist and just sharing stories, some of which can be real whoppers – just what you would expect from a group of anglers!

If you would like to join the ranks of folks making a difference by becoming an Area Chief, please contact Ann Miller, Steve Campbell, Kevin Cunningham or Karen Marks.



Tim Gebauer, Frank Robinson and James Lee play "Go Fish" at this year's meeting.



Area Chiefs enjoy their April meeting.

More fun from the Area Chief meeting...



Derek DeBusk wins a squiggly award.

Kevin's gar grew with the telling.

Tony Day, Derek DeBusk, Karen Thornton and Brenda Shaver exchange whoppers during the new Area Chief orientation.

New teaching tools made at the meeting.

Mike Petrick and Gilbert Duran look for habitat.





Why is Flyfishing Important to Me?

JERE ANDERSON – Area Chief, Dallas/Fort Worth

What makes fly fishing so important to those of us addicted to this challenging sport? Why do we put up with being seen as some nut standing in the middle of the stream waving a stick? Why do we greet this attitude with a smile and a good natured forbearance for the observer's lack of understanding? For that matter, what drives me to attempt to enlighten as many people as possible and lead them from the darkness of ignorance about fly fishing and into the gleaming sunlight of understanding about our mysterious sport?

I was raised on a western mountain ranch with a river running through it. The river in the 1940s and 1950s was full of salmon all four seasons and steelhead late summer until the headwaters iced up. I saw many fly rod anglers on our river section and marveled at their skill and gracefulness. My dad had a cheap drugstore bamboo fly rod and in 4-H camp one of the crafts was fly tying. So by the time I was 10 I had begun to accumulate flyfishing skills. But still, I mostly practiced casting with Dad's fly rod. I seldom fished with it. My dad and my grandfather who took me fishing often were baitcasters, but everyone must start somewhere. In my teens, I was an avid outdoorsman in training. I came to love the outdoors and to treasure our time in the dense pine forests and on the streams. There has never been a time in my 70+ years when I didn't see myself as a fisherman.

In middle years, with kids growing up and time to do something, I accidentally discovered that one of my staff was an avid fisherman and knew of a flyfishing club near me. I joined and within a year, I was a fly tier, I had built a fly rod that I still fish with, and I was an officer of the club. When I go overboard, I really make a splash. I was mentored by the best in the club who honed my skills and infected me with the drive to master this complex sport. My competence grew as did my love of the sport. Being on the west coast, I still had the majestic mountains and the cold clear streams with their wild native fish populations that I came to love as a kid growing up.

But while my knowledge and experiences were rapidly building up, I still did not feel that I was doing all that I could do as a fly fisher. Over the years, many people had helped me gain my skills and I was doing little to return the favor. There had to be more, but what and how? I had already been a teacher of aviation skills and, in fact, my mom, a professional educator, often wondered why I didn't get into teaching since I loved it and was good at it. Epiphany time ... I would find opportunities to teach flyfishing and outdoor skills. I would repay all those who labored good naturedly to teach me by doing the same with others eager to be enlightened. I had found my life's mission in the outdoor world.

So how does a person whose life has been defined by fishing and who is up to his eyeballs in interesting skills, find an audience? How does the "Existential Flyfisher" who really does believe that "I fly fish therefore I am" infect others with that fervor? I pondered this at length, and decided to start with a relatively easy two-part approach. First, I will teach my wife and kids. They were good bait dunkers, so why not flyfishers? Flyfishing is easy to learn at the basic level. You can learn to cast good enough to hit the water with a fly most of the time in 20 minutes or so. After they achieve this practical beginner level of casting skill, it is time to take a break and have a fun hour or two on the water trying to fool a fish. This was more fun and satisfying to me than I thought it would be.

But part two is: How do I reach that larger audience? How do I reach and preach the wisdom of flyfishing to the masses of folks who don't know what they are missing? The secret formula turns out to be foolishly simple like most strokes of genius seem to be once that blinding flash of the obvious hits you. There are three fly fishing skills that evoke either a "I can do that" reaction or at least a "I wish I could do that" reflex. They are fly tying, knot tying and fly casting. The most crowd-pleasing is fly tying. And fly fishers have a real edge here. Almost nobody in the general public can pass by a table of fly tiers without stopping and watching. If they don't, their kids will, and then they have no choice but to stop also. At this point, all you need to do is take the time to smile and ask, "Do you fish?" and the conversation is on. While this is not really education, do not overlook these chances to talk up our angling sport with the general public. And above all do not be surprised by the number of folks that are native or long time residents of Texas yet have never fished.

Tie simple flies in front of an audience, and they stay and watch. Let kids have a fly (with the parent's permission, of course) tied in the material and colors they selected and they are hooked. I have tied flies at Bass Pro, outdoor events, club events and outdoor shows. The reaction is the same. When they ask how they can get started in this game, it's "Fish on." Now play and land them. Texas Parks and Wildlife outreach events and Fly Fish Texas are some of the opportunities to be in front of a lot of folks curious about our sport. Most youth groups are hungry for friendly volunteers that can demonstrate skills and knowledge that the kids will find fascinating. If fly fishing skills like knot tying or outdoor knowledge like bug identification don't meet the bill, you may be on some other planet. This planet's inhabitants are curious and interested in new knowledge if it is presented as an activity and not a classroom-style lecture.

I have built these activities into being the outreach chairman of a large flyfishing club and we are so in demand that we have had as many as

(Continued on the next page)

A Story for All Ages

MARK CARPENTER – Area Chief, Dallas

When you go fishing you never know how things will go. We are full of hope. Your fishing buddy and you always go for the big one. My best fishing buddy, Alissa, is now seven years old, and to be honest, she shows me where the big ones are most of the time.

Before Alissa turned two, she was stricken with juvenile polymyositis or JM. JM attacks the auto immune system, affecting the veins, joints and muscles. To make matters worse, it has no current cure. Her condition is serious and she has had to endure many long hospital stays with no promises of getting better. Sometimes her hands suffered from JM so badly that she was forced to use a cane pole instead of her favorite and now infamous Barbie rod and reel. Despite this setback, and much to the wonderment of life long fisherman like myself, she often caught the biggest fish of the trip.

When she was three, Alissa got her first of many All Ages State Fishing Records while fishing with professional anglers and fishing guides on Lake Fork. The Wish to Fish Foundation trip granted her a full fishing trip in November of 2005. It didn't take her long to prove to the adults around her that she is the real deal. Her guides were so impressed with her skills they took her out three times that day.

Not only did she set the All State Fishing Record for orange spotted sunfish but established five Junior Water Body Records, all in the same day. Her All State Record still stands almost four years later.

She rounded out her special day with a group photo, which later appeared on the cover of the May 2006 issue of Catfish Now, and a high-speed bass boat ride across the lake at sundown. Much to the delight of the boat's captain, Alissa's only words were, "Faster!"

This was merely the beginning for this young angler. During her long hospital stays, the staff would always inquire about her fishing experiences and Alissa would gladly share them. These exchanges would frequently occur while nurses were carrying out procedures that Alissa

It didn't take her long to prove to the adults around her that she is the real deal.

didn't like. It became apparent that her fishing trips were helping her get through her treatments in more ways than one.

In May of 2006, she became the mascot for the Legends of Lake Fork Bass Tournament. The cast of the Divas of Outdoors television show was also present for this event. They, along with the professional women anglers, not only invited Alissa and her grandmother, Joan McAdams, out for fishing and filmed the event, but the video was also included in a television broadcast!

Later that year, Alissa, along with her mom, Mindy, got to share fishing tips with B.A.S.S. Elite Series Angler of the Year, Mike Iaconelli. Mike has done a lot work on behalf of the Myositis Association. Later, Danny King, Catfish Angler of the Year, took her for some cat fishing.

This pint-sized angler has done what all anglers want to achieve and that is establishing fishing records. At the time of this writing Alissa still holds two of her original seven All Ages State Records. Add to the equation an Achievement Award from TPWD, Junior State Records, Water Body Records and Big Fish Awards, and you have one impressive record established by one of our youngest Texas anglers. Although she hasn't caught any big fish lately, she has been in remission from JM for over a year and counting and she is enjoying school.

I titled this article "A Story for All Ages" and that is very much the case with fishing. If a young child like Alissa, facing such a cruel disease like JM, can become a successful angler, then anyone can. You never know what the next fishing trip holds since these future chapters have yet to be written. Each trip begins with a child's hopes and dreams. Help make them come true; take a child fishing. You may find that the memory will bless you forever.



Why is Flyfishing Important to Me?, continued

four commitments on the same weekend. Thankfully, I have a pool of about 20 certified Angler Ed volunteers and dozens that just have the skills and the desire to teach who will share in these opportunities. The point is that my dreams of being the focal point of a group that actively spreads the word about fly fishing have come true. It is hard to express how good that feels, but you must trust me when I say that I am getting more out of this than the students do. It is more satisfying than anything else I have done in my life outside of my faith and my family. A few years ago, I had the problem of my church life, my family life, my fly fishing life, my youth education life, and my work life needing more than 24 hours in a day to do it right. So what did I do? Need you really ask? I did the obvious thing, I retired. I certainly was not going to cut down on the flyfishing part!



With Baited Breath

STEVE CAMPBELL
Aquatic Education –
North Texas/
Panhandle

Those That Repair Also Serve

In early June I assisted a local nonprofit group in north Texas in putting on a youth fishing event. I was quickly reminded of when and where these events can be a challenge both for the kids and for those who serve.

Now, there is something to be said about the expectation of our youth these days and the things they've grown accustomed to, such the instant gratification of consumer goods. Pop a burrito in a microwave and it's ready in a few minutes. Drop a handful of coins in a vending machine and one is immediately rewarded with a treat or beverage. Not to mention drive-through windows, high-speed Internet connections and text messaging. Patience is not something they have had to practice.

As the preparations for a day of fishing progressed, I became keenly aware as to when and where the patience of those youth was most severely taxed.

The moment the children exit the bus they are excited and ready to get down to business. I provide a brief talk about safety protocols and then organize an assembly line of staff to prepare each rod and reel. They are fine through the safety lesson, but the 15 to 20 minutes of tackle assembly dampen their spirits somewhat. Yet they remain attentive. Then comes the baiting of the hooks. This, too, taxes their patience, but those who won't touch the worms to bait their own hooks can do little else but wait.

Well before baiting of all the hooks is complete, youngsters who bait their own hooks begin to arrive at the tackle repair station. This is where the most time is spent. Five-and-a-half-foot poles with 8 to 15 feet of monofilament wrapped around the rod, reel, and all of creation, begin to arrive. This is where their patience runs most thin.

As the repairer takes the rod from the child's hand, he or she cannot help but notice the shifting of weight from one foot to the other, catch a glance

of eyes rolling to the heavens or hear that unmistakable deep sigh of boredom.

I have come to conclude that there is no love for the tackle repair guy or gal whatsoever.

It suddenly occurs to me that perhaps what the tackle repair station really needs is some sort of warning or signal for these young frustrated anglers. It might be a mechanized voice saying something to the effect of, "We appreciate your business. A tackle repair technician will respond in 10 minutes."

Or what about broadcasting a theme song?

Perhaps something from *The Man From La Mancha*, like the "Impossible Dream?" The melodic lyrics "to dream the impossible dream, to fight the unbeatable foe, to bear with unbearable sorrow, to run where the brave dare not go" would certainly suggest that the task before us is not necessarily an easy one or one that may not be completed quickly. Naw, too esoteric.

What about Carly Simon's hit from the '70s, "Anticipation?" "Anticipation, anticipation, it's makin' me late, it's keepin' me waiting." After all, it worked for thick ketchup back then!

No, that won't work. The reference is no doubt too old and the children wouldn't catch its meaning. So what else honors these unsung heroes?

Oh! Oh! I know! The theme from *Mission Impossible*!! Between the Tom Cruise movies and reruns of the old TV show, surely the kids are familiar with that theme song. Not to mention that its lyrics are easy to remember: *Duh__ duh-duh-duh Duh__ duh-duh-duh Duh__ duh-duh-duh Duh-dah-dah Duh-dah-dah...*

Fish on!

**"We appreciate
your business.
A tackle repair
technician will
respond in
10 minutes."**

UPCOMING EVENTS

For detailed information, go to
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsmedia/calendar/?calpage=a0210
 and www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsmedia/calendar/?calpage=a0208

Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

September 26, 2009 — Bluegill Family Fishing Tournament

Sea Center Texas

Aquarium and Hatchery Tours — Every Tuesday through Sunday.

October 17, 2009 — Youth Catch & Release Fishing Event

October 24, 2009 — Basic Fly Fishing Workshop

STATE PARKS WITH FISHING EVENTS

Ongoing — Statewide — Free Fishing in State Parks

TPWD waives fishing license requirements for families at more than 70 state parks as part of the Free Fishing in State Parks event.

Basic Angler Education

July 18, 2009 — Goose Island SP — Fish School

August 2009 — Caddo Lake SP&WMA — Introduction to Fishing — Every Saturday

August 1, 8, 15, 2009 — Blanco SP — Texas Fish School

August 22, 2009 — Goose Island SP — Fish School

September 19, 2009 — Inks Lake SP — Angler Education

Family Fishing Clinics

July 17, 2009 — Inks Lake SP — Angler Education is Family Education

July 18, 2009 — Bastrop SP — Family Fishing Clinic

August 1, 2009 — Buescher SP — Family Fishing Clinic

August 8, 2009 — Cedar Hill SP — Family Fishing Program

August 21, 2009 — Inks Lake SP — Angler Education is Family Education

September 19, 2009 — Inks Lake SP — Angler Education

September 26, 2009 — Palmetto SP — Family Fishing Fun

October 24, 2009 — Palmetto SP — Family Fishing Fun

Angler Education Instructor Workshops

September 15, 2009 — Inks Lake SP
 Angler Education Instructor Training

September 16, 2009 — North Texas Education Center, Grand Prairie
 Angler Education Instructor Training

October 17, 2009 — North Texas Education Center, Grand Prairie
 Angler Education Instructor Training

Angler Education Instructor Workshops, continued

November 21, 2009 — North Texas Education Center, Grand Prairie
 Angler Education Instructor Training

FLY FISHING CLASSES

July 18, 2009 — Brownsville

Basic and Intermediate Fly Fishing Course

To register, contact Dr. Reynaldo Ramirez at reyram49@gmail.com

September 26, 2009 — The Woodlands — Entry Level Fly Fishing Course sponsored by the Montgomery County Flyrodders; Meadowlake Park, 9501 North Panther Creek Dr. Accessible for the mobility impaired. 9 a.m. 2 p.m.; fee \$5 per person; preregistration required. To register, contact The Woodlands Parks & Recreation at parkrec@catw-tx.org or (281) 210-3950

November 21, 2009 — The Woodlands — Intermediate Fly Fishing Course — Designed as an intermediate field corollary to the basic fly-fishing class, this clinic will equip adults and children (over the age of 11) with a more detailed understanding of flyfishing methods. To register, contact The Woodlands Parks & Recreation at parkrec@catw-tx.org or call (281) 210-3950.



Announcing the 6th Annual Oktoberfisch

For those not in the know, Oktoberfisch is a celebration of fly fishing in the heart of the Texas Hill Country. This year it is scheduled for October, or is that Oktober, 16th–18th at Morgan Shady Park RV and Camping on and between the banks of the breathtaking South Llano River near Junction, Texas hosted by the Fredericksburg Fly Fishers. It is promoted as “a fly-fishing festival for those who delight in Texas fly-fishing while leisurely enjoying one of the crowning jewels of Texas rivers.”

Slated events include Basic Equipment for Fly Fishing, Basic Fly Fishing, Diagnostics of Your Casting Skills, Kayak Basics and an Entomology (bugs) Field Trip.

For information, e-mail oktoberfisch@hotmail.com or call (830) 997-8881 or (830) 997-8388.

Welcome, New Instructors!

January–July, 2009

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.

JASON BAKER	ANNA	AL RODRIGUEZ	EL PASO	CARLTON COLMENARES	HEMPSTEAD
IRVING DUNBAR	ANNA	SERGIO TARANGO	EL PASO	AMANDA VASQUEZ	HEWITT
TAMSON FRANCIS	ANNA	JAMES BENSON	FORT WORTH	BETTY SUE ELLISOR	HITCHCOCK
ELIZABETH LOGUE	ANNA	RETHA BISCOE	FORT WORTH	LAURIE CONNALLY	HORSESHOE BAY
JIM PARRY	ANNA	JAMES BOWER	FORT WORTH	LYN DAVIS	HORSESHOE BAY
SUSAN SKELTON	ANNA	KENNETH BRAXTON	FORT WORTH	SONDRA FOX	HORSESHOE BAY
WILLIAM DARROCH	ARLINGTON	WALLACE BRIDGES	FORT WORTH	HELEN SMITH	HORSESHOE BAY
BRIAN HILL	ARLINGTON	LINDA CAMERON	FORT WORTH	JOAN STONE	HORSESHOE BAY
ELMER HUBBLE	ARLINGTON	MINERVA GATES	FORT WORTH	GREGORY AKINS	HOUSTON
BRIAN MURPHY	ARLINGTON	RICHARD GETCHELL	FORT WORTH	MELISSA ALEXANDER	HOUSTON
LARRY SWINEA	ARLINGTON	MONNIE GILLIAM	FORT WORTH	JONATHAN BERRY	HOUSTON
MAURICE WYATT	ARLINGTON	WILLIE KELLY	FORT WORTH	NICOLE BOLAR	HOUSTON
CYNTHIA AUSTRIA	AUSTIN	LAWRENCE LEWIS	FORT WORTH	ROCHELLE BRADLEY	HOUSTON
CONNIE BARRON	AUSTIN	KENNETH LEWIS	FORT WORTH	DUREY CADWELL	HOUSTON
ELIZABETH ELLIS	AUSTIN	JOHNNY LEWIS	FORT WORTH	OBED CANJURA	HOUSTON
RAUIE LEWIS	AUSTIN	SHIRLEY LEWIS	FORT WORTH	BETTY CANTU	HOUSTON
TIA MILLER	AUSTIN	ROBERT RAMIREZ	FORT WORTH	MARCUS CARTER	HOUSTON
LISA PARKER	AUSTIN	MOSE RICHARDSON	FORT WORTH	MARK DAVIS	HOUSTON
TAMARA RICE	AUSTIN	JIM SMITH	FORT WORTH	DARCY DOAN	HOUSTON
ELI SIERRA	AUSTIN	STEPHEN WALLACE	FORT WORTH	JASON GARNER	HOUSTON
KRISTA WEIRMAN	AUSTIN	CLAUDETTE WALLACE	FORT WORTH	JACQUELINE GOODWATER	HOUSTON
KRISTINA SWART	BAYTOWN	SHELLEY LEWIS	FRIENDSWOOD	ROBERTA GUZMAN	HOUSTON
ALLEN PALMER	BERTRAM	REBECCA KMAK	GARLAND	SHALONDA HUDSON	HOUSTON
CODY BIGGS	BRECKENRIDGE	ROBBIE MERRITT	GOLIAD	MARY LOU JASS	HOUSTON
SHANNON MARLEY	BRENHAM	REX NIEMEYER	GOLIAD	VERONICA JENNINGS	HOUSTON
SHERRY BIXLER	BURNET	ROBERT BOX	GRAFORD	LC JOHNSON	HOUSTON
MIKE HARRIS	BURNET	DAVID CARLYLE	GRAFORD	JO JOHNSON	HOUSTON
WARREN STRUSS	BURNET	KENNETH HYDE	GRAFORD	GERRY JONES	HOUSTON
CURT HOLLAND III	CEDAR PARK	JOHNNY MCKEE	GRAFORD	MAJOR JONES	HOUSTON
GARRY DUNHAM	CHANNELVIEW	MIKE PENDERGRAFT	GRAFORD	STEVE KEO	HOUSTON
VERDIA COOPER	COLDSRING	CARLOS TYNES	GRAFORD	NIKIA LEWIS	HOUSTON
CALVIN (RON) HESTER	COLDSRING	JUSTIN BULLOCK	GRAHAM	MIGUEL LOPEZ	HOUSTON
LAMA DEVRIES	CYPRESS	CHRIS DENNEY	GRAHAM	ERNESTINA MARTINEZ	HOUSTON
CHRISSEY HUTH	DEL RIO	JOB ESPINOZA	GRAHAM	RUBY MATHEW	HOUSTON
KRISTINA PLUMLEY	DICKINSON	AMY MOORE	GRAHAM	STEVEN MESSA	HOUSTON
LETICIA BUENO	DONNA	RANDY JOHNSTON	GRANBURY	BEATRICE NEAL	HOUSTON
KRYSTIN MOORE	EDDY	KYLE LEWIS	GRANBURY	KIMHAIC PECH	HOUSTON
EDUARDO FLORES	EL PASO	FERNANDO REYES	GRAND PRAIRIE	ANGEL RAMIREZ	HOUSTON
LARRY LAMBERT	EL PASO	GENE TOLIVER, SR	GRAND PRAIRIE	JANICE RANGE	HOUSTON

RUDY RODRIGUEZ	HOUSTON	KAREN JARAMILLO	LEAGUE CITY	CASSIE RAFTIS-PARKER	PEARLAND
KARINA RODRIQUEZ	HOUSTON	PATTY RODRIGUEZ	LEAGUE CITY	VICKI WALTERS	PEARLAND
KHATEREH ROWSHAN	HOUSTON	ROBIN SANDERS	LEAGUE CITY	COREY WILDER	PEARLAND
REGINALD SIMPSON	HOUSTON	AIMEE EDWARDS	LEANDER	ANNE BUCK-CASEY	PFLUGERVILLE
JUAN URBANO	HOUSTON	ALAN GREER	LIPAN	COLETTE DONNELLY	PFLUGERVILLE
VALERIE VALERIO	HOUSTON	JUSTIN ADAMS	LIVINGSTON	BRIAN DONNELLY	PFLUGERVILLE
BREA WALKER	HOUSTON	JIMMY HARRIS, JR	LIVINGSTON	ROBERT GUFFEY, JR	PFLUGERVILLE
CARVER WALKER	HOUSTON	JIMMY HARRIS, SR	LIVINGSTON	WILLIAM HAGENBUCK III	PLANO
CAROL WATSON	HOUSTON	AMANDA MCMEANS	LIVINGSTON	TOMICKA WILLIAMS	RICHMOND
PHILLIS WILSON	HOUSTON	LINDA MOFFETT	LIVINGSTON	BRIAN ROBERT	RIESEL
WILLIAM WINSTON	HOUSTON	TERRY BARTOLI	LLANO	HENRY HOLLYDAY	SAN ANTONIO
MARSHALL YIN	HOUSTON	JERRY STACY	LLANO	EMILY ESCHENBURG	SEALY
ERIKA YOUNG	HOUSTON	BESS BASKIN	LORENA	KAREN STUESSEL	SEALY
ROSLYN BOYCE	HUMBLE	DON ICKLES	LORENA	JASON NORRIS	SEGUIN
RICHARD SOLIS	HUTTO	MELISSA MULLINS	LORENA	BILLIE GUNTHER	SPICEWOOD
BRANDEN WATERS	JACKSBORO	DOUGLAS ROGILLIO III	LORENA	PAMELA SIMEK	SPICEWOOD
DEB MCCLINTOCK	JOHNSON CITY	RICARDO HERNANDEZ	MERCEDES	LYNN MILLER	SPRING
PATRICIA CHRISTOFFERSEN	KATY	MARIA ORTEGA-SAENZ	MERCEDES	ANTHONY COSBY	STEPHENVILLE
MELODY CLARK	KATY	ANTONIA QUIROZ	MERCEDES	CHASITY RUTLEDGE	TEXAS CITY
FRANCES EUDOXIE	KATY	BEVERLY LYTTAKER	MESQUITE	BYRON SEFCIK	TEXAS CITY
KELLY FIELDS	KATY	DAVID BLOODWORTH	MINERAL WELLS	AUBREE BECKMAN	WACO
DALENO JOHNSON	KATY	JENNIFER GODWIN	MINERAL WELLS	HOWELL FINCH	WACO
JACQUELINE KEITHAN	KATY	DONOVAN JACKSON	MISSOURI CITY	ROBERT HANLEY	WACO
SUSAN KIELY	KATY	RUSSELL LANGE	MISSOURI CITY	MARTY HARVILL	WACO
KATHLEEN LEONARD	KATY	LES MOTHERAL	NORTH	CAROLYN LYNCH	WACO
CARLOS MONROY	KATY		RICHLAND HILLS	NORA SCHELL	WACO
CATHERINE MURPHREE	KATY	DWIGHT WILSON	NORTH	JAMES SHOEMAKER	WACO
MARTHA ORRELL	KATY		RICHLAND HILLS	RAY SIMS	WACO
LINDA OWENS	KATY	HUGO GARCIA	PASADENA	BILLY WHITEHEAD	WACO
SUSAN PARKS	KATY	DEANNA SILGUERO	PASADENA	TERI STEWART	WAXAHACHIE
ROSA PEREZ	KATY	SARA ARTHUR	PEARLAND	JERRIE RICHARD	WEBSTER
ASMA QAZI	KATY	WENDY BARLEY	PEARLAND	ABIGAIL ALVARADO	WESLACO
LISA ROESLER	KATY	JUDITH BRASHIER	PEARLAND	ISABEL CABRERA	WESLACO
VALANTIN SOLYMAN	KATY	DONNA BUDD	PEARLAND	MARICELA CANTU	WESLACO
JODY TYLER-RATHKE	KATY	JENARO CASTILLO	PEARLAND	NORMA CRUZ	WESLACO
LINDSAY PAVER	KENNEDALE	LYNETTE COX	PEARLAND	BLANCA DOMINGUEZ	WESLACO
LINDA FLEMING	KINGSLAND	DAVID DENTON	PEARLAND	MARIA GARCIA	WESLACO
CESAR MATA	LA VILLA	JIM GRAUKE	PEARLAND	MARGARITA HERNANDEZ	WESLACO
JENNIFER DANIELS	LAMPASAS	NICOLE JONES	PEARLAND	ESTELA OCHOA	WESLACO
JOE JOHNSON	LANCASTER	LISA NORMAN	PEARLAND	KEITH GERIK	WEST
JOSE DELEON	LAREDO	STEPHANIE ORLANDO	PEARLAND	WILLIAM MOSIER	WEST
APOLONIO PARRA	LAREDO	KIMBERLY ORSAK	PEARLAND	STEVEN HISE	WICHITA FALLS
VIRGINIA ACKERS	LEAGUE CITY	LARRY PHILLIPS	PEARLAND	ROBERT MAUK	WICHITA FALLS



Reel Lines

Angler Education Program
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AUSTIN, TX
PERMIT NO. 2270