

SOMETHING'S FISHY!

Volume 2, Issue 1

Official Newsletter for 4-H Youth Sportfishing Volunteer Leaders and Agents

February 2000

YSF SPRING 2000 TRAINING SESSION

The next training session for agents and volunteers interested in the Youth Sportfishing Program will be held on April 7th and 8th in West Point, MS. The session will be held at the Field and Stream Homebase at the Mossy Oak Mall on Alt Hwy 45 N. This facility offers plenty of room for break out sessions and a pond for use in the training sessions. A Holiday Inn Hotel is located near the Mossy Oak Mall for convenient lodging arrangements. To register for this training session, please visit our web site at <http://ext.msstate.edu/anr/wildfish/fisheries/4hfish.html>

We will offer training in five subject areas. One of the requirements for participation in the training is that each county field a team of at least five (5) people, each of whom will be trained in a specific subject area. If you are unsure of the subject area for which you would like to be trained, please answer the following questions designed to make your decision easier!

Do you have an interest in aquatic life and habitat? Do you like to get wet? Are you interested in environmental stewardship and



water quality? If you answered yes to the above questions, you might want to sign up for the ***Aquatic Ecology / Biology*** training session.

Do you want to learn how to cast and how to tie knots? Are you interested in learning about various types of fishing equipment, tackle, and baits? Do you want to learn how to handle and clean fish? Do you already know these things and desire to teach these to young people? If you answered yes to the above questions, you might want to sign up for the ***Angling Skills*** training session.

Do you like working with your hands? Are you an artsy-craftsy person? Do you like to make things that are both pretty and useful? If you answered yes to the above questions, you might want to sign up for the ***Tackle Crafting*** training session.

Would you like to learn how to make a fish print? Are you good at telling fish tales? Are you interested in educating children about fishing regulations and limits? Do you like to cook? If you answered yes to the above questions, you might want to sign up for the ***People and Fish*** training session.

For more information about this year's training session, please call Marsha Williams, Fisheries Extension Assistant, at (601) 325-6686 or email Marsha at: marshaw@ext.msstate.edu





MEET MARSHA!

New Extension
Fisheries
Assistant on
board!

I am pleased to introduce you to my new Extension Fisheries Assistant, Marsha Williams. Marsha joined our staff December 1, 1999 and will be working full-time with me on several projects, most notably Youth Sportfishing.

Marsha holds a B.S. degree in zoology from the University of Oklahoma and a M.S. degree in zoology from Oklahoma State University. She brings strong credentials to our program, and we are EXCITED to have her on board. She is already heavily involved in finalizing our Mobile Classroom called "Something's Fishy in Mississippi" (more about that soon!), in reviving our YSF Newsletter, revising and updating our YSF Web Site, and in helping us get ready for a Spring YSF Training that we will announce soon.

You will have opportunity to meet and visit with Marsha as she works with us to make Youth Sportfishing successful. She can be contacted at 662-325-6686 or marshaw@ext.msstate.edu.

Submitted by Marty Brunson

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. "How can I learn more about the 4-H Youth Sportfishing Program?"

Answer: *If you have access to the World-Wide-Web, you can log on to our web site at <http://ext.msstate.edu/anr/wildfish/fisheries/4hfish.html>. Or, simply contact your local county Extension Service Office for more information on*

4-H Youth Sportfishing.

2. "Do I need to be an expert angler to provide leadership?"

Answer: *By all means, NO! You DO need to have a desire to teach and to nurture youth, and a willingness to learn about fishing and fishing-related activities.*

3. "Is there a 'certification' process for leaders and trainers?"

Answer: *No. We will not 'certify' as we do in other areas of Field and Stream. But we do require that leaders attend a state-level training session before beginning a local program. In the future, as the program evolves, we may identify a need to develop a certification process.*

4. "I don't know much about this kind of program. Will I have a curriculum with lesson plans?"

Answer: *Yes. We have developed a Pilot curriculum that contains lesson plans for each of the five discipline areas. These are provided to pilot participants at the Training Workshops, along with other supporting materials.*



MARTY ON MENTORING by Dr. Marty Brunson

I have been doing a good bit of reading on this concept of

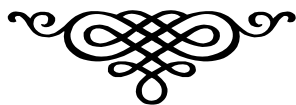
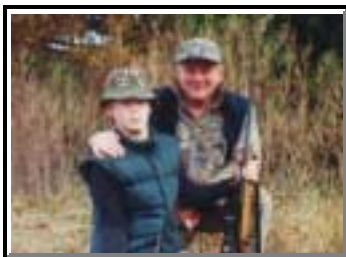
"mentoring" that forms a foundational part of our Mississippi 4-H Youth Sportfishing Program, and have discovered some very good resources on the topic. I will seek to share from these resources in this and the next few issues of the newsletter. One source of a great deal of information is the **National Mentoring Partnership** which describes itself as "an

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advocate for the expansion of mentoring; a resource for mentors and mentoring initiatives nationwide.” The mission of this organization is “to increase the availability of responsible personal and economic mentoring for America’s young people.”

I have visited their web site at <http://www.mentoring.org/> and found that this is a national effort based in Washington, D.C. that involves many agencies and organizations. I have not had a chance to review all of the information on the web site, nor to visit with any of their organizational leadership. But I have found some really good material and information that will help all of us as we strive to become mentors to youth and to other adults involved in 4-H Youth Sportfishing. In the box on the right side of this page is an excerpt from the “welcome” page of their web site which I think provides not only some appropriate food for thought, but also insight as to the priorities of their organization.

I encourage you to access this site and capitalize on the resources that are offered. I have made arrangements to purchase multiple copies of the book *How to Be a Great Mentor Guide* and will be providing a copy to each agent and volunteer leader involved in our Pilot Program.



PILOTS IN FLIGHT

Note: In each issue we will provide short updates on some of the Pilots that are implementing the 4-H Youth Sportfishing Program.

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Welcome to the How to Be a Great Mentor site, produced by Kaplan and The National Mentoring Partnership. The site, a companion to the Kaplan/Newsweek How to Be a Great Mentor Guide, will provide you with the training, tools and resources you need to become a responsible, committed and caring adult in the life of one of America’s young people.

There are an estimated 13.6 million young people in the U.S. who we believe want and need mentors. As a mentor, you can make a tremendous difference by touching one of these lives. But how can you affect that change? How do you become a great mentor? It isn't easy. In fact, it can be quite challenging at times. We know that both new and seasoned mentors need strong training and on-going support.

If you are thinking about mentoring for the first time, I encourage you to use this site to help you get off on the right foot. If you are a new or experienced mentor, this site can help you establish your relationship in the early stages, set and achieve goals, navigate rough spots, and celebrate accomplishments.

I hope that you will make good use of all the resources on this site and use them to help you provide a young person with responsibility, encouragement and the sense of a better future.

Finally, thanks for your interest and commitment and for joining The National Mentoring Partnership in making sure that every child in America has someone to say "I believe in you."

*Sincerely,
Geoff Boisi, Chairman of The Board, The National Mentoring Partnership*

MONROE COUNTY

by Stacy Brown
former 4-H Youth Agent

The Monroe County Youth Sportfishing team held its first fishing derby on the evening of June 8, 1999 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on the West bank of the Tenn Tom. I think that we can call this a success. There were approximately 27 children that came to fish. Each of these

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brought at least one adult with them and many had two. We opened our derby to youth between the ages of 8-15.

Prizes were given to the fisherman that had the highest total length in fish in two age groups. A rod and reel was one grand prize and a tackle box was the other. All participants received certificates and a goody bag. So no one left empty handed. We had no cost in this event. All items were donated by area businesses. We even had one volunteer put in \$5.00 and others matched this amount which was given to the young person that caught the longest fish. There was a total of \$30.00 taken up and we had two young men tie for this award. Each received \$15.00. The best part of this was that there was a young boy with Down's syndrome there that tied for the longest fish. He was very happy, to say the least. His mother said it could have been 2 inches long and he would have been just as thrilled. There was not a lot of fish caught, but this made the day very worthwhile. We also put posters up and invitations in all the goody bags as well as announced our first club meeting, which was held on June 21st at 6:30 p.m. at our Extension Office.

We also had volunteers from several agencies that helped us. The Corp of Engineers also participated by cutting the grass for us on the fishing bank prior to our derby. We also have had a farmer volunteer his pond for our next event if we want to use it. Things are looking good in Monroe.



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OKTIBBEHA COUNTY
by Kathleen Elgarico
YSF Volunteer

Greetings from the DAWGFISH CLUB in Oktibbeha County! We had our first meeting in April, and our second in May, signing up a total of ten members. We have done some fish printing, casting skills, tackle talk, and a skit about ethics. We have put a spin on some of these activities, that I will tell you about in this update.

Our first meeting was held at the Oktibbeha County 4-H building on April 29th. None of the volunteers were members of 4-H in their youth, so we were all impressed by the leadership and outgoing personalities that were demonstrated by our first wave of members. We started the evening with a "Goldfish Greeting" activity where each person had to fish out three of four fish from a bowl, and for each fish they "caught" they had to say something about themselves. This turned out to be a fun activity because we had one of our young members constantly reminding people not to eat their fish until after they shared their "self-factoids" with the group. Fish printing was a hit for the kids because they immediately had something to take home with them. We had some fund-raising ideas for equipment and refreshments at meetings and fishing days: solicit donations, club dues, banquet, car wash, bake sale, tri-county derby (charge registration), donation of equipment by locals, and a jamboree.

Our second meeting was May 25th at the brand new MSU AgriCenter. This gave our members and volunteers a chance to see and use this new facility. It turned out that we got some new members for this meeting because their parents work at the AgriCenter! Here, the kids learned how to "work" their tackle in aquariums of water so that their worm, fish or bug will look realistic to their potential catch. Also, we taught a lesson on pole and reel types. After which, they practiced casting into large buckets as a target. I think that we have some champion anglers here! To end the meeting,

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the People and Fish crew did a skit that taught our members not to litter and to follow catch limit regulations. The kids had a great time yelling out what they thought our performers should do in their predicaments!

During the summer, we held fishing days at the end of every month, June-Sept. Meetings preceded each fishing day so that we could get some activities in before the kids actually went fishing. Although we experienced a couple of rain outs, we also had a couple of great days! We have done some recruiting at the local elementary schools and at the annual "School Days at the Farm" event on the MSU campus where several hundred kids were exposed to our floppy rubber fish, lures, and fish stories by our volunteers.

All told, we have 22 volunteers from Mississippi State University, being undergraduate and graduate students, and faculty from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. This composition provides a unique opportunity for these busy volunteers to rotate their duties for different meetings so that if Sherry has a test she needs to study for on Friday, David can take her place. This large pool of volunteers to draw from has been very helpful, especially in that it gives the students a chance to get more involved in their community, and for club members to interact with lots of different adult volunteers who are experts in fishing. We are also signing up guardians and parents as volunteers, and they have been valuable in teaching the students and faculty about 4-H and sharing their special skills with the DAWGFISH.

I would like to thank our volunteer leaders Justin Laughlin for Tackle Crafting, Thomas McElroy for People and Fish, Mark Peterman for Angling Skills, and Dawn Wilkins for Aquatic Ecology. They have not been through the training that other volunteer leaders have experienced because Oktibbeha County did not begin Youth Sportfishing with the rest of the pilot programs. However, their efforts and enthusiasm have been outstanding in giving kids their very best! We are eagerly looking

forward to the 2000 Training Session at the new Field and Stream Homebase in West Point! Also, a huge thank you to LaTrell Kiker, Oktibbeha County 4-H office, Dr. Marty Brunson, and the AgriCenter for their support and encouragement in the development of YSF in Oktibbeha County.

SCOTT AND LEAKE COUNTIES

submitted by Tammy East
4-H Youth Agent, Leake County

In December of 1998, Tammy East and Lise Foy conducted the fish printing activity for three kindergarten classes at South Leake Elementary School. The agents presented basic information to the students on the parts of a fish and each child made a fish print to keep. In February of 1999, Anita Webb conducted a training workshop during the state 4-H Youth Sportfishing Volunteer Leader Training Workshop.

In April of 1999, Anita Webb, Tammy East, Sue Rogers and local volunteers met in Scott County to discuss the YSF program and to plan a "Take a Kid Fishing Day". The YSF program would be promoted during the fishing day with a sign and by agents giving a brief overview of the program. The group discussed some YSF activities that could be conducted at the fishing day including can casting, fish identification, and fish printing. It was agreed that the fish printing activity would work well for the fishing day.

Through the multi-county efforts of Smith, Leake, and Scott Counties, a "Take a Kid Fishing Day" was held in Scott County in May of 1999. The program was publicized and promoted in all three counties. Businesses in the three counties provided door prizes and goody bag items. The agents worked with the U.S. Forestry Service, the Department of



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Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks, and other volunteers to conduct the event. The "Take a Kid Fishing Day" program included casting techniques, fish identification, fish printing, and safety and ethics in hunting and fishing. Approximately 175 youth and adults attended the event.

In August of 1999, Anita Webb conducted a training workshop for adult volunteers during the SW District 4-H Volunteer Leader Training. Anita presented information on the YSF program and demonstrated can casting. In October of 1999, Tammy East and Lise Foy conducted the fish printing activity for youth attending 4-H Day at the Mississippi State Fair.

NESHOPA COUNTY

submitted by Mike Reed
4-H Youth Agent

Neshoba county Youth Sportfishing volunteers Chuck Hazelwood, Sherry Hazelwood, Ricky Files, and Hoot Gibson won the "4-H Volunteer of the Year" award for 1999! This team has made the Youth Sportfishing Program a success in Neshoba County. This is the first year that this award was presented to more than one individual. Congratulations Chuck, Sherry, Ricky and Hoot! Keep up the good work!

Also, Neshoba County hosted a fishing derby in the fall of 1999 with 50 youth and 25 adult volunteers in attendance.

RECIPE - CATFISH ALLISON

serves 6 to 8

Ingredients:

1 cup grated Parmesan cheese; ½ cup butter or margarine, softened; 6 tablespoons mayonnaise 6 green onions, finely chopped; ½ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce; generous dash of Tabasco sauce; 6-8 catfish fillets

Directions:

- 1) Place cheese, butter, mayonnaise, green onions, Worcestershire sauce and Tabasco sauce in a bowl and mix thoroughly. The cheese mixture can be made 24 hours in advance and refrigerated; soften at room temperature before using.
- 2) Preheat the broiler.

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3) Poach catfish fillets, two or three at a time, in a skillet of lightly simmering water for 4 to 5 minutes. Gently lift fillets from water with a slotted spatula and set aside on a plate to drain.

4) Place the fillets in individual au gratin dishes or in a baking pan large enough to hold them in a single layer. Spread 2 tablespoons of the cheese mixture over each fillet. Broil for 2 or 3 minutes or until the cheese mixture browns and fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. If using a baking pan, carefully lift fillets from the pan and place on serving plates; spoon some of the pan juices over each serving.

Catfish an All-American Restaurant & Recipe Guide by The Catfish Institute.

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