



JIMMY BARNETT, Program Coordinator | LEA WHITE, Assistant Coordinator | BO DAVIDSON, Technician | JIMMIE KEY, Technician | MAVIS MARTIN, Secretary II

January - February - March 2009

Derby Program: The Aquatic Resources Education Program has been busy this new year, even though festivals have slowed down, there is always work to be done, cleaning and repairing aquariums and building derby kits. Our mail box has been full of derby requests; 257 derby requests have been received to date and Jimmie Key has been steadily building derby kits, getting ready for “Derby Season”. The derby kit contains two rod and reels, two tackle boxes, two tackle assortments, two caps, two Frisbees, some magic bait and several ARE literature handouts. These kits are distributed to the sponsors of the derby event. The derby kits have been delivered to the hatcheries that will deliver the fish for the derbies.

Mobile Aquarium Program: Mobile Aquarium applications have been coming in and the aquariums have been on display at 46 events this quarter. The large aquarium was at six events this quarter, including the Arkansas Marine Expo in Little Rock, with attendance of 6,200; the Arkansas Big Buck Classic in Little Rock, with attendance of 40,000; the Arkansas Sportshow in Jonesboro with attendance of 25,000; the Arkansas Boat Show in Little Rock, with attendance of 4,000; and the Hot Springs Boat, Tackle and RV Show with attendance of 5,600. Most of the boat and outdoor shows meet the requirements for the large aquarium, and it is used for angling demonstrations as well.

Classroom Aquarium Program: The Classroom Aquarium Program continues to be a success. Many teachers report that the aquarium has a calming effect on their students, as well as teaching the students additional responsibility. Annual Classroom Aquarium reports are due by May 1, 2009. Letters have been mailed asking that reports be mailed by that date. The staff delivered new classroom aquariums and picked up equipment at a couple of locations that decided to leave the program.

Seminars / Clinics: The ARE staff has conducted seven clinics during the last quarter; Jimmy did an Intermediate Fishing Clinic for the ATU students taking the intro to fishing class in Russellville and a presentation of the ARE programs for a group of teachers in Pine Bluff. Lea did a lure craft class for Crossroads Alternative School in Rogers. Bo presented a Trout 101 Fishing Clinic at Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center, a Fish Arkansas Seminar at the Lonoke County Extension Office for a 4-H group and a Beginners Fly-tying class in Hope.

Tackle Loaner Program: The Tackle Loaner Program is growing with several new sites added to the program. Reports are still coming in for 2008 from existing sites and are being reviewed. New equipment is being delivered and repairs are being made as needed.

Fishing Tip by Bo Davidson: When jig fishing for Crappie, it is best to keep the jig horizontal. If your jig is tied to the line with a loose or ineffective knot, it will tend to hang vertical and prevent it from getting the crappie's attention. Use a good strong knot such as the Improved Clinch Knot, or the Palomar Knot and you can then get the desired effect.

If you are still not getting the crappie's attention, try using a small minnow in conjunction with the jig. Simply hook the minnow from under the chin to where it appears to be feeding on the jig and offers the fish a two in one meal.

Aquatic Resources Education Programs: This section will be used for the next six editions of the fisheries newsletter to highlight each of the programs handled by the ARE staff.

Mobile Aquarium Program: The Mobile Aquarium program began in 1992 with the purchase of our 3000-gallon mobile aquarium. The program became very popular almost instantly. The 3000-gallon unit requires two personnel and about four to five hours set up time therefore it can only be used at events that are three or more days in length and have 25,000 or more in attendance. The program started receiving requests for the unit from events that do not meet these requirements. A second unit was designed and added to the program in 1996. We call this unit the small aquarium. It holds 1000-gallons of water. The small unit is loaded with fish and water at the ARE headquarters in Lonoke, Arkansas. This unit immediately became the workhorse of the mobile aquarium program. Demand continued to increase for the program and a second self contained unit was added in 2000. This unit is called the mid-size aquarium. It holds 1500-gallons of water. The program added a fourth unit in 2001 to help with the high demand for the traveling aquariums. This last unit is called the tiny aquarium. It holds 320 gallons of water.

The aquarium units are used to display native Arkansas fishes. We usually have between 25 and 35 different species of fish in the units. Literature items have been designed that help with the task of educating the public on fish identification. These items are distributed at all mobile aquariums events. The aquariums are available for various public events, which include town festivals, county fairs, schools, children camps, libraries, outdoor shows and boat shows. The units are not used at commercial events or fund raisers.

The demand for aquarium units is very high. We receive 400 – 500 written requests and about that many verbal requests annually. We ask for requests to be made using the request applications available at www.agfc.com/are/. You can never turn your request in too early. Most units are scheduled out 9 to 12 months in advance. The schedule selection process works like this. We have about 10 to 12 major events that go on the schedule every year. All other venues that apply annually are placed in a rotation. On dates that are in high demand we may only be able to get to your event once every five to six years.

The Mobile Aquarium makes approximately 270 events annually. We have made roughly 1.2 million contacts annually for the last 10 years.

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Listed below is the Mobile Aquarium schedule for the next quarter:

April

DATE	EVENT NAME	LOCATION	UNIT
1	Lil Treasures Learning Academy	Sherwood	(T)
1	Flippin Elem.	Flippin	(S)
2	Rosebud School	Rosebud	(S)
4	Arkie Cup 2009	Greer's Ferry	(M)
4	Go Green Festival	Little Rock	(S)
7	Adkins Pre-K	Adkins	(S)
7	Humphrey Elem.	Humphrey	(M)
8	Brookland Elem.	Brookland	(T)
9	Arkansas Pediatric Facility	N. Little Rock	(T)
9	FUMC Early Childhood Center	Conway	(S)
10	Gibbs Magnet School	Little Rock	(S)
10 – 11	Hogskin Holidays	Hampton	(M)
11	FBC Eggstravaganza	Mtn. Home	(S)
14	Ashdown School	Ashdown	(S)
15	Monitor Elem.	Springdale	(S)
16	MiChild Enrichment Center	Russellville	(S)
16 – 18	Folk Festival	Mtn. View	(L)
17 – 18	Earth Day @ the Zoo	Little Rock	(M)
18	Kids Fest	White Hall	(S)
21	Baptist Health PreSchool	N. Little Rock	(T)
21 – 23	Youth Expo.	Sylvia	(M)
22	Linden St. Child care	Hot Springs	(T)
23	North Little Rock High	N. Little Rock	(S)
24	Make-A-Splash	Parkin	(M)
24	Youngland Childcare	Littler Rock	(S)
25	Party in the Park	Russellville	(S)
25 - 26	Blooms Festival	Little Rock	(M)
25	Arkansas Earthday	N. Little Rock	(T)
28	Helen Tyson MS	Springdale	(S)
29	Perryville Elem.	Perryville	(M)
29	Lingle MS	Rogers	(S)
30	Marion MS	Marion	(S)
30	Earthday	Haskell	(M)

May

DATE	EVENT NAME	LOCATION	UNIT
1	Education in Motion	Hot Springs	(S)
1 - 2	AYSSP	Lonoke	(M)
2	Autism Walk NE	Jonesboro	(T)
2	Peach Blossom Festival	Nashville	(S)
3	Christ the King Rextfest	Little Rock	(S)
4	Mtn. View MS	Mtn. View	(S)
5	Crossett Schools	Crossett	(T)
5	West Fork MS	West Fork	(S)
6	Booneville Elem.	Booneville	(S)
6	Trinity Methodist Pre School	Little Rock	(T)
7	Westside Christian School	El Dorado	(S)
7	Rockefeller Elem.	Little Rock	(M)
8	Education in Motion	Hot Springs	(S)
8	Water Fair	Hope	(T)
8 - 9	AYSSP	Lonoke	(M)
9	Tuckerman Hometown Days	Tuckerman	(T)
9	Lakefest	Powhattan	(S)
12	Salem Place Rehab Center	Conway	(S)
12	Wynne Health Care Center	Wynne	(T)
13	Perry Co. Rehab Center	Perryville	(S)
13	Great Outdoors Day	Mena	(T)
14	Mount Vernon/Enola Elem.	Mount Vernon	(M)
14	Make a Splash	Melbourne	(S)
15	Education in Motion	Hot Springs	(S)
15 - 16	Picklefest	Adkins	(L)
15 - 16	AYSSP	Lonoke	(M)
16	Tyronza Stars & Stripes	Tyronza	(S)
19	Greenbrier Eastside Elem.	Greenbrier	(S)
20	St. Augustine Center	N. Little Rock	(S)
20	St. Peter's Episcopal PreSchool	Conway	(T)
21	Sylvan Hills MS	Sherwood	(S)
21 - 24	Riverfest	Little Rock	(L)
22	Pine Forest Elem.	Maumelle	(S)
26	Oak Park Elem.	Pine Bluff	(S)
27	Conway Human Development Center	Conway	(S)
27	Good Shepard Retirement Center	Little Rock	(T)
29 - 30	Murfreesboro Diamond Fest	Murfreesboro	(S)
29 - 30	AYSSP	Lonoke	(M)

June

DATE	EVENT NAME	LOCATION	UNIT
5 – 6	AYSSP	Lonoke	(M)
6	22 nd Annual Chicken & Egg Festival	Prescott	(S)
9	Grand Prairie Museum	Stuttgart	(S)
10	Thunderbird District Camp	Little Rock	(S)
10	Three Rivers Cub Scout	Beebe	(T)
11	Cabot Nursing & Rehab	Cabot	(S)
12 – 13	Pink Tomato Festival	Warren	(L)
13	Outdoor Family Expo.	Yellville	(S)
16	SW 4-H O’Rama	Malvern	(S)
16	Twilight Camp	Haskell	(T)
17	NW 4-H O’Rama	Alma	(M)
17	4-H Back to Nature	Texarkana	(S)
18	NE 4-H O’Rama	Jonesboro	(S)
19	SE 4-H O’Rama	Pine Bluff	(S)
20	Bootlegger Daze	Calico Rock	(S)
20	Leslie Homecoming	Leslie	(M)
22	CALS Dee Brown	Little Rock	(T)
22	CALS Maumelle	Maumelle	(T)
23	Counseling Consultants	Marianna	(S)
23	CALS Sherwood	Sherwood	(T)
23	CALS Terry	Little Rock	(T)
24	CALS Aerospace	Little Rock	(T)
24	CALS Thompson	Little Rock	(T)
25	CALS Nixon	Jacksonville	(T)
25 – 27	Brickfest	Malvern	(L)
26 – 27	Purple Hull Pea Festival	Emmerson	(M)
26 – 27	Elk Festival	Jasper	(S)
30	CALS Perryville	Perryville	(T)