

**Texas Master Naturalist Program
Cradle of Texas Chapter
General Meeting and Advanced Training
Wednesday, February 14, 2018
Texas AgriLife Extension Building
21017 County Road 171
Angleton, Texas 77515-8903**

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Fun and Fellowship Snack Team TBA Nature Notes: TBA
9:00 AM – 9:50 AM	General Meeting and Nature Notes <i>This meeting is approved for 1.00 hour volunteer time</i>
10:15 AM – 12:00 PM	Speaker: Stephen Curtis, Aquatic Biologist at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Topic: <i>American Eel</i>

**Biologists seek assistance from anglers
in tracking American Eel in Texas waterways**



American Eel (*Anguilla prostrata*) [1]

one or you see one, you remember it," said Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) aquatic biologist Stephen Curtis. "It's going to leave an impression."

The American eel is found in rivers throughout the eastern half of the United States, but there are still many unanswered questions about the species, especially in rivers that flow to the Gulf of Mexico. TPWD biologists are currently collecting data to better understand this unique species, and they are asking anglers to help in the effort by submitting pictures and information about eels they have caught or observed in

Texas waterways. "In order for us to better manage and conserve this species in Texas, we need to have a better understanding of its distribution, abundance and life cycle," Curtis said. "We definitely need more data." [2]

AUSTIN — Every now and then, anglers fishing Texas waterways may reel in something unexpected: the slimy, secretive American Eel.

"The American Eel is just such a unique species that you don't see that often, and so when you catch

Stephen Curtis is an Aquatic Biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, based in San Marcos. He has previously served as



Stephen Curtis [3]

Aquatic Scientist at the Environmental Institute of Houston at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. In this position he was responsible for the collection and management of biological and habitat data for various research and monitoring projects; led and managed field crews in data collection.

Stephen holds a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University and a Master of Science (MS) degree in Aquatic Resources from Texas State University. [3]

[1] Wikipedia: *American Eel*. November 2, 2017. <http://tinyurl.com/y7y69mpy>

[2] TPWD News Release, August 4, 2017. <http://tinyurl.com/yarn63fj>

[3] LinkedIn: Stephen Curtis, November 4, 2017 <http://tinyurl.com/y8u292pr>