

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: Bill Ahlstrom, Lisa Myers, Candace Novak, and John O’Connell
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	General Meeting and Nature Notes <i>This meeting is approved for 1.00 hour volunteer time</i> Nature Notes: “Frog Calls” by Candace Novak
10:15 AM – 12:00 PM	Speaker: Stephen Curtis, Aquatic Biologist at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Topic: American Eel

**BIOLOGISTS SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM ANGLERS
 IN TRACKING AMERICAN EEL IN TEXAS WATERWAYS**



American Eel (*Anguilla prostrata*) [1]

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 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 those 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].

Stephen Curtis is an Aquatic Biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and is based in San Marcos.



Stephen Curtis [3]

He previously served as Aquatic Scientist at the Environmental Institute of Houston at the University of Houston—Clear Lake. In this position Curtis was responsible for the collection and management of biological and habitat data for various research and monitoring projects, and he led and managed field crews in data collection.

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

[1] Wikipedia: *American Eel*. 2 November 2017. <http://tinyurl.com/y7y69mpy>.
 [2] TPWD News Release, 4 August 2017. <http://tinyurl.com/yarn63fj>.
 [3] LinkedIn: Stephen Curtis, 4 November 2017. <http://tinyurl.com/y8u292pr>.