News from the Loan Program

New devices in the TTAP inventory! Please check the TTAP Web site for complete listings.

Try out AbleLink’s “Discovery Desktop.” It’s ideal for people who need a simplified Windows desktop. The “Discovery Desktop” provides a picture-based login screen so multiple users can each have their own unique desktop on a single computer.

For further information: jcmorris1@mail.utexas.edu

Assistive Technology Q&A

Q: Does Apple have a voice recognition program?

A: Yes! It’s “MacSpeech Dictate” and it’s available for loan from the TTAP Device Loan Program. Please note that it is not a hands-free application.

TATN Statewide Conference on Assistive Technology

The Texas Assistive Technology Network (TATN) will hold its statewide conference on assistive technology June 15 – 18, 2010, at the Region 20 Education Service Center in San Antonio. The registration fee is only $95 for this event. Learn about assistive technology from over 80 concurrent sessions. Nine nationally-recognized speakers will present half-day sessions on June 17. The conference will feature over 40 vendor exhibits. This conference will give participants a good look at types of assistive technology being used in classroom settings, as well as a look at new technologies commercially available to help districts and schools provide access and accommodations for a variety of students with special needs.

For more information on the Texas Assistive Technology Network Statewide Conference, please go to http://www.texasat.net
Discover solutions at Abilities Expo.

The Community has spoken! Abilities Expo is the trusted source where people with disabilities, their families, seniors, vets, caregivers, and healthcare professionals gain knowledge and empowerment (and have a little fun!). For more than 30 years, Abilities Expo has provided an excellent forum for companies with disability products and services to reach out and enhance the lives of this Community.

**Great AT Products**
Cutting-edge technologies, products, and services from top-notch exhibitors - expand your possibilities and improve your day-to-day.

**Free Workshops**
From finance, to fitness, to dating, stay tuned to the pressing issues that affect the Community.

**Fun Activities**
Adaptive sports, dance performances, activities for kids—it's good times for all ages!

TTAP is pleased to be a sponsor of the Assistive Technology Pavilion at the Expo. Be sure to come by our booth and say “hi” to Roger, John, Steve, and Darlene.

Take advantage of fun and informative seminars that focus on everything from tips for traveling with a disability, and home modifications, to the steps to getting the best accessible vehicle.

For further Expo information, hotel information, and to register for the Expo: [http://www.abilitiesexpo.com](http://www.abilitiesexpo.com)

**We look forward to seeing you there!**
Adaptive Outdoors

This article is reproduced courtesy of the Assistive Technology Programs News.

Thanks to MonTECH Program Coordinator Chris Clasby, MSW, and Program Director Kathleen Laurin, Ph.D., for sharing the details on this unique recreational AT program, how it came together, and how it is and will be sustained.

Assistive technology (AT) devices can open the world of recreation to individuals with disabilities and those who are aging. Unfortunately, access to recreation and leisure activities is sometimes not considered an important component of disability services and rehabilitation. The Montana Access To Outdoor Recreation (MATOR) project at the University of Montana Rural Institute-MonTECH recognizes that these activities are crucial to quality of life for each of us with, or without, a disability. Consistent with Montana’s heritage of wildlife-associated recreation, MATOR strives to increase opportunities for individuals with disabilities to pursue wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, and related activities. The project achieves this goal by providing more than just an equipment loan program; MATOR also provides high quality opportunities to see and try adapted recreational equipment in the natural environment, and it facilitates social supports (when requested) that ensure everyone enjoys their time outdoors.

MATOR began in 2008 with the receipt of a three-year recreational programs grant from the Rehabilitation Services Agency (RSA) of the U. S. Department of Education. Seven new recreational program awards were made that year (based on the FY 2008 competition), ranging from $115,000 to $135,000 for the first year of funding. MATOR is unique among RSA’s recreational programs because it is the only one that focuses on wildlife-associated recreation (wildlife viewing, fishing, and hunting). It is also unique because it is using recreational program funds to purchase AT.

RSA supports recreational programs because research shows that recreation provides benefits that enhance pathways to employment. Individuals with disabilities who participate in recreational activities often experience increased independence, mobility, self-empowerment, and self-efficacy in addition to simple enjoyment. Interpersonal and societal benefits include increased socialization and community involvement, and belief in oneself as a social actor. These positive effects work together to increase the chances that an individual will try new things; they are also critical skills in gaining and maintaining employment. MATOR participants have reported qualitative benefits gained from engaging in recreational pursuits and have also reported their participation resulted in increased confidence and was a catalyst for them to try other new activities.

(AT recreational resources page 5 and at the TTAP Web site)
Spotlight on TTAP Demonstration Centers
This quarter the TTAP spotlight shines on:

Brazoria County Center for Independent Living (BCCIL)
(979) 849-7060 (V/TTY)
(979) 849-8465
http://www.coalitionforbarrierfreeliving.com

BCCIL promotes the full inclusion, equal opportunity, and participation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of community life. The BCCIL believes that “people with disabilities have the right to make choices affecting their lives, a right to take risks, a right to fail, and a right to succeed.”

Services:

- Information and referral
- Peer support
- Individual and systems advocacy
- Independent living skills training
- Coordination of services
- Assistive Technology demonstrations

Tech Corner

The UbiDuo™ is a communication device that enables deaf, hard of hearing and hearing people to communicate with each other face to face, anywhere, anytime, without any barriers.

The UbiDuo is now available for loan from the TTAP Device Loan Library. Contact John Morris for further details. jcmorris1@utexas.edu
What’s on TTAP for Summer

June 15-18  Texas AT Network Conference
San Antonio
www.texasat.net

July 13  Houston screening of “Blue Nobody’s Daughter,” a film by Bill Sullivan, at the Angelika at 7:00 pm. This is a film about our own Candi Yarborough. For more information: http://www.bluenobodysdaughter.com

August 27-29  Abilities Expo
Reliant Park Expo Center
Houston

Coming Soon

Sept 22-25  Envision Conference 2010
Westin Riverwalk
San Antonio
http://www.envisionconference.org

Just for Laughs

"Okay your father managed to get a mouse. Now how do we use it?"

Texas Technology Access Program
Texas Center for Disability Studies
The University of Texas at Austin, L4000
10100 Burnet Road
Austin, Texas 78758-4445
techaccess.edb.utexas.edu
It’s summer, and time to go fishing! Assistive technology devices level the playing field for Texans with disabilities. There are all terrain chairs, fishing rod holders for your wheelchair, power fishing rod casters, adapted water skis, and many more. A few AT recreation resources on the Internet include: abledata.com (adapted skis and rod holders, etc); http://www.pvcdme.com (all terrain wheelchairs); and kendvorechak@kenspowercaster.com (fishing rod power caster). The possibilities are many. The Web site “wheelchairfisherman.net” is also a good source of information.

But, it’s really a bummer when you’re all fixed up with your brand new AT, all ready to go fishing, and the fishing lake isn’t accessible! Below are some Texas Parks and Wildlife State Parks accessible to all fishermen (and fisherwomen!).

**Bonham State Park**
Approach to fishing pier is not ADA accessible, although it is used by some wheelchair users.

**Brazos Bend State Park**
This 40-Acre Lake and Hale Lake have ADA fishing piers.

**Caddo Lake State Park**
A 120-foot, lighted, fixed T pier that is ADA accessible.

**Cedar Hill State Park**
ADA 100-foot, aluminum boat dock located near the North boat ramp. The Perch Pond has an accessible 300-foot pier.

**Choke Canyon State Park (Calliham Unit)**
An ADA accessible, lighted fishing pier is located on a 75-acre lake within the Calliham Unit. The T-head is 21 feet long.

**Colorado Bend State Park 1**
An ADA parking spot at the boat ramp. Fishing is only possible from that location when the river is at capacity.

**Cooper Lake State Park (South Sulphur Unit)**
The 200-foot lighted fixed pier is ADA accessible.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Park</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Copper Breaks State Park</td>
<td>A 128-foot fixed pier attached to a floating dock.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eisenhower State Park</td>
<td>Lighted concrete pier with 20-foot gangway and 80-foot T-head. Has ramp and stair access on Mid Cove Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Boggy State Park</td>
<td>Approach to fishing pier is not ADA accessible, although it is used by some wheelchair users.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Parker State Park</td>
<td>A 1,620-foot ADA accessible and lighted fishing pier. Pier is accessible from the parking area and located on &quot;Goose Island&quot; adjacent to the bay front.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goose Island State Park</td>
<td>There are two ADA fishing piers, one in Prairie Branch Camp ground and one in Coloneh campground. One ADA boat ramp/boat dock. Patio at Group Recreation Hall (Lodge) is ADA accessible and provides fishing access. There are ADA sidewalks in the day-use area that lead to shoreline access for fishing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huntsville State Park</td>
<td>The Sough pier access is about 60 yards from parking; pier is about 40 yards long. North Fishing Pier access about 70 yards from parking; Inks Lake State Park pier is about 50 yards long.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Arrowhead State Park</td>
<td>130-foot lighted fixed pier with ADA-accessible fishing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Bob Sandlin State Park</td>
<td>The 100-foot long, fixed T-pier is ADA accessible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Brownwood State Park</td>
<td>132-foot fixed pier that is ADA accessible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Courtesy Dock #1: ADA Accessible, 76 feet of walk and deck.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Courtesy Dock #2: ADA Accessible, 76 feet of walk and deck.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Casa Blanca Intl State Park</td>
<td>68-foot, ADA accessible, lighted fishing pier with 46-foot T-head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Corpus Christi State Park</td>
<td>Grass approach to 80-foot, lighted pier is not considered accessible. T-head is about 50 feet wide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Mineral Wells State Park</td>
<td>Lighted pier with 40-foot gangway and 20-foot T-head.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There are 4 ADA accessible fishing piers. One is 189 feet with a sidewalk at the boat ramp area. Another is a 146-foot boardwalk fishing pier in the day use area. There is a 146-foot boardwalk fishing pier in the tent camping loop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Somerville State Park (Birch Creek Unit)</td>
<td>There is an ADA sidewalk connecting to a fishing jetty that has a T-head. Parts of the T are not fully accessible.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Martin Creek Lake State Park**  
There is a 100-foot fixed T-pier that is ADA accessible.  
There is a wooden, ADA pier in the Walnut Ridge Shelter Loop, a wooden ADA pier in the Hen House Ridge Camping Loop.

**Martin Dies Jr. State Park**  
There are two floating aluminum piers in the Hen House Ridge Unit. Both are accessible when the lake is at pool stage.

**Possum Kingdom State Park**  
80-foot floating fishing pier is ADA accessible and 116-foot ADA Accessible Courtesy Dock.

**Purtis Creek State Park**  
There is a 100-foot fixed T-pier that is ADA accessible.

**Sheldon Lake State Park**  
There is ADA accessible fishing access at the Environmental Learning Center.

**Tyler State Park**  
There is a 90-foot, lighted, fixed T-pier that is ADA accessible.

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Going for the BIG one!