

# CURRENTS

February / March 2015



What a year!  
*John Blaha looks back over 2014*

# CCA Texas wraps up a year of habitat achievements

**2014** marked a year of significant habitat creation and restoration projects up and down the Texas coast. Several of these projects have been in the works for many years and through the hard work of partners they have become reality and a positive affect on Texas's coastal resources.

These projects include the restoration for Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough; the East Galveston Bay Oyster Restoration; the Nueces Bay Delta Water Management Systems; Oyster Lake Shoreline Protection (West Galveston Bay); Shoreline and Marsh Protection (Cow Trap Lakes); Bird Island Cove (West Galveston Bay) Marsh Restoration; Matagorda Island Marsh Restoration; and Port O'Connor Nearshore Reefing Site.

**The East Galveston Bay Oyster Restoration** project is an effort that has been ongoing since the arrival of Hurricane Ike on September 13, 2008. Hurricane Ike damaged roughly 50% of the oyster reefs in the Galveston Bay System and upwards of 80% in East Galveston Bay alone.

In September of 2010, CCA Texas began the process of trying to secure restoration dollars through the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) that would be used to help in the restoration effort. After making it through the first round, CCA Texas partnered up with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to move forward through the final rounds eventually securing \$3.2 million for the effort. CCA Texas kicked in an additional



*Oyster reef restoration begins.*

*Nueces Bay water control gates, a partnership with Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries.*

\$500,000 to the project. After many delays in the process, the project was finally bid and construction began in May of 2014. Some 180 acres of oyster reef have been restored in East Galveston Bay using 2" – 3" river rock as cultch, and the set of oyster spat has been almost immediate. Areas of restoration include 85 acres at Hannah's, 70 acres at Pepper Grove, 15 acres at Middle Reef and 10 acres at CCA Middle Reef.

This project will continue through monitoring by TPWD, volunteer fishing surveys on the reef sites, and outreach by both TPWD and CCA Texas.

**The Nueces Bay Delta Water Management System** project was a joint effort with the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP), Texas General Land Office and others. The salinity profile in the delta had become reversed from what was normal for a delta over a period of years, due to a lack of fresh water. Through agreements, "x" amount of fresh water is pumped into the delta from the Nueces River channel through Rincon bayou, but over time this water would often back up, back into the river downstream.

This project installed a series of water control gates into Rincon Bayou in order to keep the water in the bayou and allow it to naturally work its way downstream into the delta. The delta has seen immediate benefit from this project and recent visits to the site have shown an increase in estuarine life. The return of grasses normally present with salinity profiles are in line, and the reversal of these salinity profiles is ongoing.

Fresh water is a lifeline to coastal estuary systems and CCA Texas and others will continue in the efforts to secure this fresh water inflow into these systems



and to make sure they have the opportunity for maximum benefit.

**Cedar Bayou** is perhaps the most significant habitat project to date that CCA Texas has been a part of. Much has been written in the past about this historical effort, and on September 25, 2014 the effort became reality. Through the efforts of many dating back to the early 80's, this iconic fish pass is once again flowing to and from the Gulf of Mexico.

Since the last issue of Currents Magazine, the bayou has changed tremendously. It has widened at its mouth, is no longer a straight channel, continues to provide fresh flows to and from the Gulf and has shown the general public how much mother nature can do in very short periods of time.



*The moment when inland waters of Vinson's Slough and Cedar Bayou rejoined the Gulf of Mexico.*

*A few days later, researchers with the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation found abundant, newly recruited red drum larvae in the area. See related story on page two.*



The project is expected to remain as a functional pass for seven years, plus or minus two years, before any maintenance dredging is necessary.

A maintenance plan was key in securing CCA Texas's support early on, and to date Aransas County is moving forward in securing the necessary funds needed to make this reality. On October 15, 2014, this effort received a significant boost when the Sid Richardson Foundation committed \$1,000,000 to the Cedar Bayou Maintenance fund.

Aransas County had previously committed at least \$50,000 a year minimum in Hotel Occupancy Taxes and with the Richardson foundation commitment and that of the county, the project should be in good hands.

On October 7, 2014, Dr. Greg Stunz and a group of students visited the bayou for demonstrations in the use of different sampling gear. During this trip, redfish larvae were found in an area where never once in the prior two years of monitoring they had been found.

The official monitoring began on October 23, 2014 and there has been an abundance of redfish larvae and other species found, driving home the fact that natural coastal passes are important to the saltwater eco-systems of our Texas coast.

CCA Texas is excited to continue following the results of this effort and looks toward a

—Continues on page 8

*On front cover: Chase Stanzel captures a superb tarpon photo. For more info, see Great Photos, page 22.*

# Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation

The Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation (CSSC) has surgically implanted several redfish with tracking technology as part of the Cedar Bayou study. Each of these fish is marked with a green external



dart tag. Please release these fish if caught and call the phone number on the tag to let researchers know where you caught the fish and to add valuable movement information to their study! If you decide to keep a tagged fish or if the fish dies in the process of being caught, please keep the black cylindrical acoustic tag implanted in the fish and call (361) 825-2028. This research is heavily dependent on the cooperation of local anglers, and your support is greatly appreciated! 🐟

## \$250,000 grant to fund ground-breaking marine research projects

The Coastal Conservation Association Texas deepened its commitment to marine resource science with a \$250,000 grant to the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation (CSSC) that will fund ongoing research into many of the key scientific issues facing the ecosystems that support Gulf of Mexico sportfishing. The CSSC is housed within the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and was founded in 2012, in part with a \$500,000 commitment from CCA Texas.

"In the few short years that the Center has been operating, marine researchers there have developed incredible insights into the needs and behaviors of key species that anglers cherish," said Mark Ray, chairman of CCA Texas. "We are

learning things that can immediately be applied to better the management of those species. The work to date has been extremely impressive and we want to ensure that the Center has everything it needs to continue to be a force for healthy marine resources."

Since 2012, CSSC has done extensive work on the impact that passes like Cedar Bayou have on bay ecosystems and on the effect of diminishing Gulf habitat. It is also helping to pioneer development of an extensive array of sensors and tracking technology to gain critical insight into the migratory patterns of fish throughout the Gulf of Mexico. The latest \$250,000 grant from CCA Texas will be applied over five years to continue these and other research efforts.

"Recreational anglers are our natural partners in the conservation of marine resources, and the Center is uniquely positioned to develop science that supports the multi-billion dollar recreational fishing industry on the Texas coast and the Gulf of Mexico," said Dr. Greg Stunz, director of CSSC and Endowed Chair for Fisheries and Ocean Health at the Harte Research Institute. "This is a unique partnership that is focused solely on improving the marine environment, and we are excited to



Chase Stanzel has provided a wealth of excellent photos for this issue. The angler/photographer and friends Heath and Hunter Spence (she caught the megalops atlanticus) CPR'd the tarpon on the front cover. An even larger tarpon was released that day off Port O'Connor with a satellite radio tag.



Photo, Chase Stanzel

have additional resources to fulfill that mission." "Both inshore and offshore sportfish face many challenges – natural and man-made – and it is critical that the science is available to properly manage those fisheries," said Robby Byers, CCA Texas executive director. "Recreational anglers have already recognized that the work being done by CSSC is vital to the health and availability of those resources in the future. We are proud to be a partner in their efforts and look forward to building this unique relationship." 🐟



# 26th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo

## Register Now and Get In the Early Bird Drawings!

Happy 2015 Saltwater Anglers! This cold, wintry weather might be gettin' ya down, making you feel a little stir-crazy, but not to worry... another fun fishing season in just a few months away! Don't forget to mark your calendars! This year's event begins at sunrise May 23 and will run through 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 7 (**Labor Day**). Could this be your year to claim one of over \$1,000,000 in prizes and scholarships?! **SPOOL UP AND GET READY** for the 26th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament!

**YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN TO WIN! ATTENTION ALL ANGLERS PLANNING TO FISH THE TEXAS COAST THIS SUMMER!** In order to win one of a \$1,000,000 in prizes being offered in Texas' largest, richest, summer-long saltwater fishing event, an angler must be a **CURRENT** member of CCA, in addition to being registered as a **2015 TEXAS STAR entrant**. Effective January 1st, the CCA membership fee is \$30 annually and the 2015 STAR Tournament fee is still \$20 for a total of \$50. In order to win at STAR, an angler must be registered and be a current member of CCA.

**YOUNG ANGLERS FISH FOR FREE!** Young anglers ages 6-17, the "New Tide" membership fee remains \$10 annually and the STAR entry fee is **FREE!!!** Of course, we want **all** kids on the water. CCA "New Tide" members will continue to have the opportunity to win giant scholarships to fund their college education for just the price of a \$10 CCA "New Tide" Membership. We thank our generous sponsors for making it possible for us to offer young anglers this great opportunity. **To be eligible to fish STAR, "New Tide" Members MUST BE at least 6 years of age in 2015 and under age 18 to enter for FREE. It is the "New Tide" Member's responsibility to make sure their CCA membership is current and that they are registered for the current year STAR tournament.**

As you start making plans, be on the lookout in your mailbox. Our great partner, Academy Sports + Outdoors, will be sending all current CCA Texas members a very special bonus as a reminder and to help with some of your fishing expenses. We also want to remind you to take advantage of all the other great Early Bird and Mem-

ber incentives available to CCA Texas STAR participants. Be sure and register now to get into the Early Bird Drawings. Several prizes will be given away and they're sure to be a reel catch! Be sure and get everyone signed up for the **2015 STAR!** Please see below for more details:

**2015 EARLY BIRD DRAWINGS!** Don't forget, by signing up now you'll get your shot at landing one of the many great prize offerings just for registering early! Check out the special "Early Bird" prizes below available **ONLY** for those entrants who sign up before the tournament kicks off. The Coors Light "Early Bird" Promotion will again offer another awesome "grand prize" boat package! The Dargel 210 Skout with a Mercury 150 ProXS Optimax motor and McClain trailer - a prize package valued at around \$35,000! Everyone ages 21 and over that signs up **now through May 22nd** will automatically be entered into this special drawing, along with the 20 other great prizes being offered. Everyone age 20 and under that signs up **now through May 22nd** will automatically be entered for the

**2015 STAR Early Bird Drawing**  
Deadline to enter is May 22<sup>nd</sup>

**GRAND PRIZE**  
Dargel 210 Skout, Mercury 150 Pro XPS Motor and McClain Trailer (must be at 21 years old to win boat prize package)

**20 MORE GREAT PRIZES**  
9.9 hp Mercury Kicker Motor

Three (3) American Rodsmith Rod & Mettle H2O Express Reel Combos

Thermo-Electric Travel Cooler & Warmer

20 other great "Early Bird" prizes.

**Henry Ehler** of Pearland was last year's lucky winner of the Coors Light "Early Bird"



Grand Prize - Dargel 210 Skout boat, Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax motor and McClain trailer

You know you'll go so might as well do it now! Remember, everyone entered in the STAR Tournament, who will be 6 years old in 2015 and older, is eligible to win the prizes being offered **even the TAGGED REDFISH DIVISION!** You can sign up NOW online at [www.startournament.org!!!](http://www.startournament.org!!!) Don't miss "the boat" or "the truck and boat"... register today!

**CCA TEXAS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS** - Our most generous sponsor offerings still continue to add more value to your CCA Texas Membership. **Be sure and remember to take advantage of**

**the following wonderful benefits your CCA membership affords you!**

- Ford X-Plan Pricing (*see details below*)
- \$10 gift card courtesy of Academy Sports and Outdoors (*see details below*)
- Texas Fish & Game Magazine subscription (*see details below*)
- \$1000 worth of free upgrades with your purchase of a new Tilson home (*see ad on page 23*)

**FORD X-PLAN PRICING** - CCA Texas members have been remarkably honored by the Texas Ford Dealers. They approved X-Plan pricing for us; that is, every current member can buy (or lease) any Ford product at the **same price Ford employees must pay**. This means we can save up to **\$1,000 or much more**, just by having a valid **\$25 CCA membership card!!!** Our Ford Partner Code # is **CCA 61**; go to [www.fordpartner.com](http://www.fordpartner.com), if you are considering a purchase.

**SIGN-UP EARLY AND RECEIVE A SPECIAL BONUS FROM ACADEMY SPORTS & OUTDOORS** -



One more great reason to sign up! Academy Sports + Outdoors will mail a \$10 gift coupon in May just in time for fishing season! This is a limited time offer, so do it before it's too late!!! Special thanks to Academy Sports + Outdoors for continuing to make your CCA membership and STAR entry such an awesome value!

**NEW! TEXAS FISH & GAME MAGAZINE "BONUS DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION!"** - We all love FREE stuff, and speaking of FREE stuff many STAR anglers have discovered the benefit and convenience of using digital technology and have requested we do the same. *Texas Fish & Game Magazine* is thrilled to announce



2015 CCA Texas STAR participants are now eligible for a FREE one-year (12 issues) **DIGITAL** subscription. This subscription (**normally \$11.99/year**) will allow you to access the latest and most in-depth outdoors information anywhere and anytime on your smart phone, tablets and desktops. Now STAR anglers have the chance to embrace the latest in technology, plus conserve our natural resources. We are grateful to *Texas Fish & Game* for providing this STAR-only benefit, while saving some trees and giving you more options. Be sure and include your email address when you register for this year's tournament to automatically receive your FREE digital subscription.

If you still wish to receive *Texas Fish & Game* in print magazine form, no problem... a special STAR angler price of \$8 a year (vs. \$17.99/year) is still available, including your access to the digital version at no extra cost! If you wish to take advantage of this special STAR angler discounted print subscription price, be on the lookout in your email or mailbox for details on how to activate this special offer. If you have questions regarding your past or current subscription, please call (800) 725-1134 or email [subscriptions@fishgame.com](mailto:subscriptions@fishgame.com).

**TILSON HOMES \$1,000 in FREE Upgrades** - Every CCA Texas member who purchases a Tilson Home is eligible for a value discount. Tilson will give you \$1,000 off on any upgrade such as ceramic tile, hardwood floors, kitchen cabinetry and more. See ad in the CCA Texas CURRENTS newsletter for more details or call 1 (888) 540-6705.



2015 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT SuperCab with Haynie 23 Bigfoot, the Redfish Division prize.

**2015 PRIZE LINE-UP** - One of our goals has always been to keep the tournament fee as reasonable as possible and thanks to our wonderful sponsors, we have been able to do so for the last 25 years. In 2002, we were able to begin offering New Tide members (ages 6 - 17) the opportunity to fish the tournament **FREE** of charge. Over the last two and a half decades, CCA Texas STAR has been extremely fortunate to provide members of all ages with some really outstanding prize packages and college scholarships and 2015 will offer an equally amazing prize line-up! Contestants have a chance at winning over 100 prizes including trucks, boats, motors, trailers and college scholarships in the following categories:

**Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division** - Texas Ford Dealers continue to make this division the "Best in Texas"! They will again give each of the first five registered STAR participants who catch tagged redfish a brand new truck to get to their fishing destination in a tough, dependable and stylish ride. The first five registered anglers to weigh-in a tagged red will receive a 2015 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" truck. Haynie Boats returns with the awesome Haynie 23 Bigfoot rigged with a motor and Coastline Trailer completing this amazing package. The next five weighed in will receive the same boat, motor and trailer packages.

For young anglers not of legal driving age and who reel in the famous tagged red, he or she will receive the boat package plus a \$20,000 college scholarship, in lieu of the truck.

**Trout Division** - ATTENTION TROUT ANGLERS! After years of requesting a more versatile boat prize for this division, we hear you! This year winners in upper, middle, and lower coast regions will each take home the awesome Shoalwater 21' catamaran boat with a Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax motor and McClain trailer. The 21' Shoalwater Cat hull design provides an excellent ride with an 8" draft allowing you to get really shallow, plus runs well in the heavy chop due to the tunnel hull design. **FRIENDLY REMINDER...** If you're unsure a trout is large enough to qualify, consider this "easy rule-of-thumb" - if length is **less than 27 inches**, chances are it won't meet the eight pound minimum weight requirement for the Trout Division. Unless you intend to mount your fish as a personal best, why not think about releasing anything that might not make the cut so she can re-seed the bays.



**Trout Division - Shoalwater 21' Cat with a Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax**

**Offshore Division** - ATTENTION BLUE WATER ANGLERS! Hoffpaur Auto & Outdoor Store continues to partner with us to provide the offshore angler something that will come in very handy after a long trip on the high seas. Anglers who land the heaviest kingfish, dorado and ling will each receive an awesome Polaris Ranger® Crew 570 EPS UVs in Polaris Pursuit Camo each with a Big Tex 35sa Trailer!



**Offshore Division Prize - Polaris Ranger® Crew 570 EPS**

**Inshore Division** - Each winner that reels in the largest flounder, gafftop and sheepshead will be handsomely rewarded with Blue Wave's



**Inshore Division - Bluewater 180 SV Southern Skiff with a Mercury 115 OptiMax**

**Split Screen** is a one-of-a-kind print worth this price alone. If you would like to consider one, or several, of these limited-edition packages, go to: <http://www.star-tournament.org> more details or to place your order with the STAR Dept., call (713) 626-4222. Be one of the FIRST to own this collectors' piece! **GET YOURS TODAY!!!**

**!!! ATTENTION !!!**  
**\*\*\* 2015 STAR Platinum Print Membership \*\*\***  
**NOW AVAILABLE**

We are pleased to offer the new 2015 CCA Texas STAR Platinum package, *Split Screen!* Renowned artist David Drinkard has created another fine print exclusively for CCA Texas members! Only 1,750 will be available through this special membership level, which includes your CCA membership (new or renewal) + STAR Tournament Entry... all for less than the value of this premium print alone! This 16" x 24" print is on acid-proof paper stock to ensure many years of enjoyment. Package includes your CCA membership (new or renewal), your 2015 CCA Texas STAR entry, plus this special signed, limited-edition print created exclusively for STAR, all for \$125!



*Split Screen!* By renowned artist David Drinkard

180 SV Southern Skiff boat, Mercury 115 OptiMax motor and McClain trailer.

In the past twenty years, STAR has awarded \$5,235,000 in college scholarships to 164 fisher-kids across the state, ranging from 6-17 years of age and 2015 continues to offer plenty of reason for everyone to round up their kid(s), a rod and reel and head for the water.

**StarKid Flounder Division** - This division gives entrants age 6-10 a chance to win a \$50,000 college scholarship for the largest flounder caught throughout the summer.

**Fox Sports Southwest StarKid Gafftop Division** - This division gives entrants age 6-10 a chance to win a \$50,000 college scholarship for the largest gafftop caught throughout the summer.

**Houston Community Newspapers StarKid Sheepshead Division** - This division gives entrants age 6-10 a chance to win a \$50,000 college scholarship for the largest sheepshead caught throughout the summer.

**Academy Sports & Outdoors StarTeens Trout Division** - This youth scholarship division is open to all New Tide members ages 11-17 and awards a \$20,000 college scholarship for each fisher-teen with the largest trout in the upper, middle and lower coasts. **FRIENDLY REMINDER...**

The minimum weight requirement for the trout is six pounds. For all fish weighing less than six pounds, if no intentions of mounting young angler's prize catch, please take a quick picture and immediately release back into the water.

**Time Warner Cable StarTeens Inshore Division** - This youth scholarship division is open to all New Tide members ages 11-17 and awards a \$20,000 college scholarship for each fisher-teen with the largest flounder, gafftop and sheepshead statewide.

*But Wait, There's More...*

**Runner-Up Prizes** - The first through fourth runners-up in all divisions will receive various gift certificates from Academy Sports & Outdoors.

**"New Tide" Member Drawing** - The "New Tide" Scholarship Drawing will be offered again in 2015. "New Tide" STAR participants at least, 6 - 17 years old in 2015, are eligible for a bonus drawing that will net one lucky youth a \$20,000 college scholarship even if the participant never wets a line or enters a single fish during the entire tournament.

**Member Bonus Drawing** - This unique drawing offers STAR entrants a chance to win a fabulous boat prize package even if the participant never wets a line. One lucky contestant's name will be drawn to win a model with a Dargel 210TV boat, Mercury150 Pro XS OptiMax outboard and McClain trailer.

**Major sponsors for the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament include:** Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Home Corporation, Capital Farm Credit, Mercury Marine, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, Ozarka, Rio Ammunition, KTRK-abc13, Houston Community News-

papers, Fox Sports Southwest, Time Warner Cable, Haynie Boats, Shoalwater Boats, Hoffpauir Auto & Outdoor Stores, Dargel Boats, Blue Wave Boats, Texas Fish & Game Magazine, Texas Oilman's Charity Fishing Tournament, Coastline Trailers, McClain Trailers, Chris's Marine and Mt. Houston Marine.

For more information, go to <http://www.startournament.org> Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament!

**TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR'S NOTES:**

**Capital Farm Credit** paid yet again an all-time record of \$65 million in cash patronage to their customers last Spring! CCA members appreciate Capital Farm Credit financing their "piece of heaven"... WOW!

**Rio Texas game loads** are \$4 cheaper, per box, than other comparable brands. And, Rio supports STAR Scholarships!!! The Rio Texas loads (dove, quail) and Rio Blue Steel loads (ducks, geese) are superior shells and the best value. Go Rio! 

*STAR has reached \$5,235,000 in scholarships awarded to children 6-17 years of age. Many thanks to our sponsors for making this happen. Without them, it would not be possible.*

**Abandoned Crab Trap Closure will begin on February 20 and run 10 days, through March 1.**

**Art Morris, Fishery Outreach**

**Specialist:** The big news this year is the simultaneous closure in Sabine Lake. The Texas program began in 2002 and volunteers have removed 31,237 traps to date. CCA Texas, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program and many others are again supporting the program. Full details should be complete and posted on the website of [www.tpwd.texas.us](http://www.tpwd.texas.us). You can also email [crabtrap@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:crabtrap@tpwd.state.tx.us) for any questions.

Thanks again for the CCA's involvement. We look forward to working with you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. —**Art Morris**  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.  
[crabtrap@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:crabtrap@tpwd.texas.gov) and  
[art.morris@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:art.morris@tpwd.texas.gov) and  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)

**Norman Boyd, San Antonio Bay**

**Ecosystem Leader:** It's that time again, time to spend a beautiful Texas winter day on the bay collecting abandoned crab traps. If the weather cooperates, February 21 will be the target day for our consolidated effort. As in re-

cent years Charlie's and the POC TPWD docks will be facilitated and have dumpsters. I will have gloves, tarps (donated by Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program), and bottled water (donated by CCA) available at the site on Saturday, and at my office the Friday before. If anyone has any big plans for those locations (food, dance, tractor pull, etc) let me know and I'll alert everyone.

To date we have removed 9,942 abandoned traps from the San Antonio Bay system, and 31,237 coastwide since the program began in 2002. The San Antonio Bay system has accounted for 32% of the traps removed coastwide and the Galveston Bay system 40%.

If I've missed anyone please forward this and cc me so I can add them to the distribution list. If you have questions hit me with

an email. I'll be in touch more as we get closer. —

**Norman Boyd**

San Antonio Bay Ecosystem Leader  
Phone 361-983-4425 ext223  
Mobile 361-553-9808  
Fax 361-983-4404

**Louisiana to join Texas in Crab Trap Cleanup**

The Sabine Lake crab trap closure is scheduled to begin at 6 a.m. February 20, 2015 through 6 a.m. March 1, 2015 and also includes portions of the Sabine River and other parts of Cameron Parish immediately east of Sabine Lake.

—**Martin Bourgeois** Marine Fisheries Biologist  
<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/news/38443>

**Big Shell and Port Mansfield Beach Cleanups 2015**

**Capt. Billy Sandifer**  
**20th annual Big Shell cleanup, Saturday, March 28**

Volunteers will meet at Malaquite Pavilion on PINS and the event will commence at 7 a.m. All volunteers will be back at the pavilion by 2 pm. Four wheel drive vehicles, trailers for hauling trash in and out of the work area, and working volunteers are needed. Walking volunteers (those arriving in two wheel drive vehicles) are welcome and will be afforded transportation to and from the work area. Those having four-wheel drive vehicles are welcome to aid in hauling volunteers and trash. The event will not be rescheduled and will take place rain or shine.

Snacks, water, and soft drinks will be available in the work area and refreshments will be available at Malaquite following the event. **Long pants and sturdy foot wear are recommended. Volunteers will receive event t-shirts.** Please come and join us.

—**Friends of Padre**

**Miller and Kathie Bassler**  
**7th Annual Port Mansfield East Cut & Beach Cleanup, Saturday, March 21**

Last year, CCA members cleaned a huge area of the Mansfield East Cut and PINS beach.

Join us again for lots of fun and a collector T shirt. We'll start at 7 am, the Port Mansfield CC Pavilion where breakfast will be served. A free box lunch will also be provided. Afterwards, enjoy drinks and Texas chili at PELICAN'S PUB.

Cash donations welcomed, and we could use some boat captains willing to provide ferry service. Free housing will be provided by our generous sponsors on an *availability basis with priority given to youth groups of any kind.*

—**Miller and Kathy Bassler** / 979-535-4593, or cell phones 979-204-5185 or 979-324-5555.

For photos from recent events, go to the YouTube site below. Music included by Craig Carter! Just type this link into your browser: [YouTube, CCA Beach & Cut Cleanup](#)

**Heroes of Conservation**

National Sports Afield awards include four CCA-Texas members

**Ronnie Luster / 2006**  
*The first recipient of the Top Award*

**Capt. Billy Sandifer / 2009**  
*Finalist*

**Miller and Kathie Bassler / 2014**  
*Nationally broadcast video*



*Three national "Heroes of Conservation" met for the first time at the 2014 Port Mansfield East Cut Beach Cleanup. Kathy and Miller Bassler enjoy a comment from Capt. Billy Sandifer.*

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Editor, Sam Caldwell / [sam@samcaldwell.com](mailto:sam@samcaldwell.com)  
This is the issue of February / March 2015  
Vol. 33, Issue 2

## Welcome to the CCA Texas Online Auction

Sponsored by Costa Del Mar

We have some great merchandise  
up for grabs this month!

Available online 11 am,  
Feb. 9 till 11 am, Feb 13.

To bid and win, go to [ccatexas.org](http://ccatexas.org)  
and click on the link (left hand side)  
online auction.

Good luck!—**Brian Weaver**,  
Banquet Assistant, CCA Texas



### Bogg Bag Set

Summer will be here before we know it and what could be better than this awesome set of Bogg Bag beach bags with CCA logo tags.

These bags are great for holding all of your gear for a beach and or fishing boat trip.

### CCA Tackle Box

Show your support for CCA while keeping all of your essential fishing gear stowed away in this awesome CCA deluxe tackle box.



Sponsored by our  
friends at Costa.



CCA will always be indebted to her loyalty and all the effort she gave to make this organization what it is today. —**Robby Byers**

As one of many chapter presidents who were greatly benefitted by Kim's patience and expertise, I know I speak for all: we will miss her and wish her the best in her next endeavors. —**Sam Caldwell**

Left: Kim receives an award from Robby Byers, but not the day off. Below, Ben Kocian memorialized a tarpon hookup by Kim.

### One of CCA's all-time favorite CCA workers retires

Kim Vollentine started with GCCA in 1984 as an executive assistant and then was moved to an Assistant Director position to help local chapters with their fundraising efforts. She was a tremendous asset to the organization, especially in the early years when the organization was getting started.



### Great Foods / Editor Ellen Ohmstede

## Blackened Fish Tacos

Thanks to Brooks Bassler of BB's Cafe

#### Ingredients:

2 Flour Tortillas / 8 oz blackened Fish Filets / Cajun Slaw / Chipotle Remoulade

#### Cajun Slaw:

2 cups red cabbage / ½ cup cilantro  
½ cup shredded carrots / ½ cup green onion / 1 T citrus vinegar

#### Chipotle Remoulade:

1 cup chipotle Mayonnaise / 1/2 chopped sweet pickle / ½ cup chopped celery / ½ cup chopped onion  
1 T Ketchup / 1 T minced garlic / Dash Worcestershire / Dash Cajun Seasoning

#### Black Bean Corn Relish:

1 cup roasted fresh corn / 1 can black beans / 1 cup diced tomatoes / ½ cup

chopped cilantro / ½ to whole chopped jalapeño (depending on the level of heat desired / Juice of one lemon (to taste)

#### Blackened Fish:

Brooks Bassler of BB's Cafe, says: "Use your favorite blackened seasoning. Coat both sides of the fish. Use a sautee pan filled with ¼ inch oil at 350 degrees. Place filet into oil and cook for 2-3 minutes on each side. Fish should have a crispy 'black' exterior."

BB's is known as an award-winning New Orleans-themed cafe with several locations around Houston. [www.bbssafe.com](http://www.bbssafe.com)  
—**Ellen Ohmstede**



# Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

## BUILDING A FUTURE FOR TEXAS MARINE HABITAT

Continued from page 2

long-lasting flow bringing fresh life into the surrounding ecosystems daily.

**The Oyster Lake Shoreline Protection Project** continues to do well. Sediments continue to fill in behind the breakwaters installed, rebuilding the lost shoreline. In June of 2014 a grass planting effort was held with partner Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF), volunteers from the Houston Zoo, and others and the vegetation is doing well.

GBF continues to move forward with Phase II of the project that will install approximately 5,000 feet of additional breakwater and hopes to begin construction of this phase in the spring of 2015.

These projects and others such as Bird Island Cove Marsh Restoration, Matagorda Island Marsh Restoration and the Port O'Connor Nearshore Reefing site that are still ongoing are important to the health of Texas's coast.

CCA Texas is committed to ensuring that the Texas Coastal Habitat is healthy and looks forward to continuing its work with partners such as Texas Parks and Wildlife, Galveston Bay Foundation, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries, Aransas County, Harte Research Institute, Ducks Unlimited and others.

With the continued support of CCA Texas members, volunteers and supporters, habitat projects will continue to be reality and a benefit to the coast.

## Grass roots and conservation equal success

As you open the pages of this month's Currents Newsletter, CCA Texas will have already held one banquet, been a part of the Houston and San Antonio boat shows and is preparing for the All Valley and Coastal Bend shows as well.

Hunters are putting away their hunting gear and prepping their fishing gear, while the trophy trout enthusiasts have been at it for a couple of months now, chasing that once in a lifetime speckled trout.

January and February also signal the kickoff for CCA Texas across the state, as the planning ac-



*Shoreline grass protection added projects, nearshore reefing gained momentum, and the Concert for Conservation brought great music from Hank Williams Jr., Wade Bowen and 38 Special.*



ensuring a healthy coastal resource for the entire state of Texas.

The belief in CCA continues to be strong as evidenced by the continued growth not only in Texas but in states along the Gulf, Atlantic and Pacific.

The organization established its first inland state chapter when a group of passionate anglers in Nashville approached the organization about establishing a Nashville Chapter. Several anglers in the area regularly fish the Florida Panhandle and other areas, and wanted to be a part of the organization that made a difference for the coastal resources all along the United States coasts.

The event was held in November and was a sellout and great success. The continued success of CCA Texas and other state chapters across the nation point to a grow-

ing desire and belief that present day anglers must step up to the plate and take a responsible attitude to ensure that the present day generation and those in the future will be able to enjoy healthy and bountiful coastal resources. Many times the desire may be the same, but the approach by different organizations may be different. In the end, the key to any conservation effort is to put the resource first and everyone benefits.

2014 was once again a record setting year for CCA Texas and chapters across the state. Attendance and money raised were both at all time highs.

None of this would be possible without the continued support of volunteers and supporters at the grass roots level of all the local chapters.

The support of volunteers, members and sponsors is unparalleled by any other like organization in the state and across the nation, and CCA Texas is thankful for this support as it continues to move forward in

ing desire and belief that present day anglers must step up to the plate and take a responsible attitude to ensure that the present day generation and those in the future will be able to enjoy healthy and bountiful coastal resources. Many times the desire may be the same, but the approach by different organizations may be different. In the end, the key to any conservation effort is to put the resource first and everyone benefits.

**H**ow can you help? There are many opportunities to help in the coastal conservation efforts in Texas. Looking to volunteer? How about becoming an active member in your local CCA Chapter, taking part in a clean-up activity such as the Annual Crab Trap Cleanup or the Padre Island National Seashore Big Shell Cleanup, participating in Marsh Mania on the Upper Texas Coast, or simply carrying a trash bag with you every time you hit the water and picking up trash as you go along; or educating yourself about issues along the coast and becoming an active participant in the public hearing process. Opportunities are everywhere, and you do not have to look far to find them.

CCA Texas and the local chapters welcome new faces to the area banquet planning committees and chapter boards. Visit [www.ccatexas.org](http://www.ccatexas.org) or call the CCA offices at (713) 626-4222 and ask for your area chapter's Assistant Director and they will get you in contact with the right person or make suggestions on how you can get involved.

In closing, I recently found myself in a conversation with Capt. Jay Watkins after a recent trip on which one of his clients had caught a life-time trout. As the conversation carried on, Jay reflected about how everything just worked out perfectly: the planning, the preparation, the approach during the day of fishing, and lastly how once hooked, the fish was brought to hand just as it should be in a rewarding manner.

High fives and hugs were shared, photos taken and then the fish was released and the reflection began. We talked some more about it, and he closed with the fact that a lot of people never get to experience that once in a lifetime fish and that some are luckier and get to experience it more than once.

His last comment knocked me back in my chair and hit me hard. One of his very close and best friends is currently in a battle for his life with cancer. His comment was that his best friend most likely would never get to experience that opportunity again. This comment drove home the fact that each and every trip out we should stop and spend just a few minutes to enjoy what we are surrounded by, because that could be our last time out. Enjoy the resource and take care of it for the future!

—John Blaha

## CCA loses two dedicated conservationists

Herb Booth was one of the earliest supporters of the fledgling GCCA. Early on, he donated his wildlife paintings to raise funds, and recruited other artists to do the same. Booth was a passionate angler, bird hunter, and one of the nation's finest outdoor artists. He helped establish the Redfish Bay chapter, and was a supporter of CCA until his death.



Hector Mendieta was a longtime president of the MidCoast CCA chapter, a fine musician and expert builder. He worked intensely for months to bring a fishing pier at the CCA's Flour Bluff hatchery to completion. His goal was to give children of all ages, including children with handicaps, the opportunity to hook and land a fish. In return, he hoped they would gain a greater appreciation for the area's natural resources. It was fittingly dedicated as the Hector Mendieta Pier.



Painting of Herb Booth, "Fish Hawks," and photo of Hector Mendieta by Sam Caldwell

Report from TP&W Game Wardens

## Caught Redhanded!



In the early morning hours of November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Galveston County Game Wardens Robert Kana and Ray Canales were patrolling the east end of Galveston Island for illegal netting violations when they observed a suspicious vehicle in the area.

The vehicle continued to leave and return to the area they were watching. This part of Galveston Island is known for illegal netting concerns, especially during the flounder run. Using an unmarked unit and with the aid of night-vision equipment donated by CCA, Warden Canales was able to move to a position where he could observe the vehicle and its occupants. Canales watched as two suspects exited the vehicle and entered the waters near the south jetty. The Warden continued to watch as the suspects waded through the water and began to place fish into a sack from a gill net.

Approximately one hour later, the two subjects exited the water,

loaded the fish into their vehicle and proceeded to leave East Beach. Warden Canales advised Warden Kana that the vehicle was leaving the area at which time Warden Kana initiated a traffic stop.

In the vehicle Warden Kana found two occupants still soaking wet from being in the water and 121 flounder. Both men were placed under arrest for fishing with illegal fishing devices (gill nets) and for exceeding the legal possession limit of flounder. Using a patrol boat, Wardens Canales and Kana returned to the area of East Beach, Galveston Island, and were able to retrieve two gill nets from the water. An additional 127 fish were removed from the illegal fishing devices.



## CCA Plates for Projects



You've seen our CCA Texas License plates driving the roads of Texas. We would like to ask all of our 70,000 Texas driving members to consider ordering their own plate today. For just \$30 you can have this fantastic-looking plate, and CCA will receive \$22 to be used for our Habitat projects.

It will take you just a few minutes to order for your truck, car, or boat trailer. To place your order, input in your network browser (Google works best), **TxDOT Special Plate Order Application**. Follow the next thread to Coastal Conservation Association. These plates would also make great gifts for any fishing enthusiast. So drive in style and help support our Habitat projects at the same time.

If just half of our members drive with our CCA plates, it will generate almost \$800,000 each year to fund future Habitat projects. Now that is driving for a cause.

**Please support us and order your plate today!**

## Upper Coast

By Capt. Ralph Frazier

### Doldrums, but a wall hanger?

As we move from the doldrums of winter and head into spring, fishing in the Upper Coast will start to explode with action. Watch for those occasional warming days, as fish will be feeding more often, giving us a better chance to catch more and better numbers.

In early February and moving to mid-month, the back of Trinity Bay wade fishing with Corky's and Mirrolures can be extremely productive. Work the shell in Jack's pocket with the current moving either way, but remember that as the fronts come through, they will push the water out some of the prime areas, making them too shallow to fish, so watch the tides.

If you didn't catch the fish of a lifetime to go on the wall in December or January, you still have three months when the fish are still fat and not heading into the light weights caused by spawning.

February moving into March, one of my favorite spots is San Luis Pass, but **ALWAYS WEAR A LIFE JACKET WHEN WADING ANYWHERE CLOSE TO THE PASS.**

In the back bays, clear shallow flats with guts running every whichway are a great place this time of year to catch a wall hanger.

And, whether you challenge a light surf in waders and life jacket, wade a shallow stretch of a bay or driftfish the deeper waters, remember that courtesy on the water is catching. Know the weather before you go, and go comfortable. Tight Lines, and I hope everyone catches their fish of a lifetime.

—Capt. Ralph Frazier / 281-337-0321  
fraziersguideservice.com

## Middle Coast

By Capt. Gordon Taylor

### Slow action, but maybe a trophy

February will be a great opportunity to catch that personal best trout, but you will have to be patient with your lure presentation. A Corky worked really slow, as well as your favorite colored Bass Assassin, on the outside of Dagger Island in 4 to 6 foot water could produce some really big trout. You won't get as many hits as you do in the springtime, so make sure to really concentrate on your hook set.

For the bait fisherman, use sea lice or dead shrimp free lined with a small split shot in the ship channel across from the old Navy base in Ingleside for the annual big drum run. You can't keep any of these big drum, but they will provide a great experience for your beginner angler as well as the picture of a lifetime.

March will really start heating up for a variety of fish. You can catch trout, redbfish, and flounder using your favorite soft plastics and topwaters while either wading or drifting the flats of Hog Island, Ransom Island, or Dagger Island when the sun has warmed the bays.

The bait fisherman can enjoy an even bigger variety of fish working the jetties in Port Aransas. You can either fish from the jetties or anchor your boat near the rocks for some red-hot sheephead action using live shrimp. They are breeding this time of the month and will be aggressively feeding in big numbers. There will also be some big trout and reds feeding as well. Make sure to dress according to the weather during these two months and be prepared to catch some really nice fish.

—Capt. Gordon Taylor / 361-319-0099  
taylor99@cablone.net

## Lower Coast

Capt. Danny Neu

### Patience, patience, big trout

As February brings even stronger winds to the Lower coast, we'll be looking for those less-battered shorelines, with grass flats and clear water. They're there, if you plan according to the wind direction.

But, there is good news: waist-deep mud bottoms will be holding slightly warmer water, and maybe the biggest trout of the year. Wherever, patience can pay off with slow retrieves and the right lure. On those sunshine times, especially after a couple of days following a bitter cold front, gamefish can get intense feeding urges, and you should be there.

As February wanes and March gets closer, bigger tides will move into the back bays, pulling herds of mullet along, and reds and big numbers of specks will move with them. There will be a few bad-boy fronts moving through, but once again, remember the good news of patience—a day or so after that blue Norther moves on, the gamefish will be hungry and looking for action.

The rains of late 2014 should mean a really, really good spring, with April conditions coming along in the nick of time. My primary choice of lures begin with the Sand Eel Jr., in LSU purple. If you have the patience for using topwaters, my favorites include the Super Spook Jr, bone and/or chrome and blue. Be sure you have a variety of Skitterwalks.

Remember caution, conservation and to leave the bay better than you found it.

—Capt. Danny Neu 979-942-0165  
dneucharters@yahoo.com

*Great Action/Humor: "Fisheye View" by Chase Stanzel. For other Stanzel photos, see the front cover of this Currents newsletter and page 3.*



# CCA Texas Social Happenings

Happy 2015! We are now diving right back into banquet season and gearing up for another great year. Be on the lookout for more exciting videos of new projects CCA Texas is involved in, which can be viewed here: [www.ccatexas.org/project-videos](http://www.ccatexas.org/project-videos).

As always, thank you for joining in on the CCA Texas online discussion through our various social media platforms. It is because of YOU that we are able to spread the word about the positive impact CCA Texas is making on the Gulf!

In each issue of Currents, CCA Texas will feature a recent Facebook photo, Twitter Tweet, and Instagram photo. Please "Like" our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter and Instagram to get the latest updates from CCA Texas and become a part of the conversation!

## Facebook:

Eric Mui sent us this photo of him with his son Kaiden at the 2014 Poco Rojo Kid Fish Event. It was Kaiden's first time fishing, and this was the 2nd fish he caught! Kaiden was the winner in his age division with a total of 6 fish caught that day. Wow, way to go Kaiden, and welcome to the salt life!



## Twitter:

@IslandCampus (TAMU-Corpus Christi):  
@CCA\_Texas Extends Support of  
@SportfishCenter at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi <http://ow.ly/EGf10> #TAMUCC

## Instagram:

Merry Christmas! We were getting into the Holiday spirit here at the CCA office. What's your favorite ornament you'll be hanging up this year? We're a bit partial to this homemade CCA Texas one. :)



CCA Texas on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CCATexas](http://www.facebook.com/CCATexas)

CCA Texas on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/CCA\\_Texas](http://www.twitter.com/CCA_Texas)

CCA Texas on Instagram: [www.instagram.com/cca\\_texas](http://www.instagram.com/cca_texas)



TEXAS



Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

# Chapter Updates

## Alvin-Pearland

### Emery Sadler 713-501-2778

Monthly General Meetings: 7PM - First Tuesday of the month. Location: Spring Creek BBQ / 9005 Broadway, Pearland Tx. 77584

Feb 3 Anglers night out, SPEAKER: Shimano Pro Staff / March 3 Anglers night out, SPEAKER April 7 Anglers night out, SPEAKER / May 5 Anglers night out, SPEAKER / June 2 Anglers night out, SPEAKER / **Alvin/Pearland CCA Chapter Banquet June 18, 2015**

We welcome new board members who would like to get plugged in. Our monthly chapter meetings have a great speaker lineup and we will have a raffle. Bring a friend, a kid and get plugged in! —Emery Sadler 713-501-2778

## Aransas Bay

### Carter Crigler 435-830-5984

[jccrigler@hotmail.com](mailto:jccrigler@hotmail.com)

Happy New Year to all from the Aransas Bay Chapter. May 2015 bring you much pleasure and lots of fond memories from your time on the water.

Reminder, it's time to register for **Babes on the Bay "Sweet Sixteen."** As stated in the previous issue **online registration will be used exclusively to sign up for Babes on the Bay XVI.** Don't miss out on your opportunity for some unique items to celebrate the 16th Babes. Tournament colors will be neon blue and neon pink. Please visit the site ([www.babesonthebay.com](http://www.babesonthebay.com)) and review the registration process to determine if you have any questions. **The last day for regular registration is 4/15/2015. All registrations received after this date and prior to the 4/30/2015 cutoff date will pay a late registration fee of \$120.00.** If you have questions contact **Karol Scardino**, tournament director, at 361-386-0028.

**Mark your calendars: May 15-16, 2015: Babes on the Bay / August 8, 2015 Aransas Bay Chapter Banquet.** Tight lines —Carter

## Austin

### Scott Sanderson 512-637-1750

[scott@mbsquoteline.com](mailto:scott@mbsquoteline.com)

**May 7, 2015. If you like great food, winning cool prizes, and having an unbelievably good time, all the while supporting CCA, save the date because it marks the 2015 CCA Austin Banquet.** There's simply no event like it so plan on joining us again. Table and ticket information is available at [www.ccaustin.org](http://www.ccaustin.org). We'll no doubt sell out again this year so get your tickets early and don't miss out.

Our 2015 banquet boat has arrived and raffle tickets are on sale! Shallow Sport has done it again and this beauty has about every option imaginable. **Sitting on a Coastline Custom trailer it's a stunningly beautiful rig and ready to explore any water of your choosing.** Check her out at Cabela's in Buda, get an early look at Anglers' Night Out or take a peek at [www.ccaustin.org](http://www.ccaustin.org).

Tickets are \$100 and only 700 will be sold. You have four ways to get one. 1- Go to



Sincere thanks to Denbow Company, our boat sponsor, Wes at Shallow Sport Boats and Marty at Coastline Trailers for making this special rig possible.

*Chapter Updates are edited for brevity to allow everyone's voice to be heard. For the full version, go to your chapter's area in the CCA website. Drop by [www.ccatexas.org](http://www.ccatexas.org), click on **Local Chapters**.*

[www.ccaustin.org](http://www.ccaustin.org), 2- pick up an order form at Cabela's, 3- contact Boat Captain **Blake Masters** at [blakeat@gmail.com](mailto:blakeat@gmail.com), or just scan the QR code below. **Every year** tickets sell out well before the banquet so get yours now. There's even an early bird drawing for a Laguna Custom Rod and Shimano Curado!



Be sure and join us for our **Anglers' Night Out March 18** and keep up with everything going on our Facebook page, Coastal Conservation Association-Austin Chapter or at [www.ccaustin.org](http://www.ccaustin.org).

Best wishes for an outstanding 2015 and see you May 7! —**Scott Sanderson** 512-637-1750 [scott@mbsquoteline.com](mailto:scott@mbsquoteline.com)

## Bay Area

### Curtis Anderson 832-421-6377

## Brazoria County

### Wes Dingee 979-299-8245

Happy New Year! **The Annual Banquet date is set for March 19th this year. The venue will be the Dow Academic Center located at Brazosport College.** Act now to reserve event tables. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase soon. If interested in helping with the event in any way don't hesitate to contact any of the board members. Stay tuned to E blasts and the CCA web page for updates. Hope to see you there and thanks for supporting CCA. —**Wes Dingee** [wesdingee@gmail.com](mailto:wesdingee@gmail.com)

## Brazos Valley

### John Ben Strother 979-220-1738

[jbsunlimited@yahoo.com](mailto:jbsunlimited@yahoo.com)

Happy New Year CCA Members! The Brazos Valley Chapter is excited to get our 2015 Annual Banquet underway. Those planning to attend can expect another fantastic banquet with great art pieces, trips and merchandise mixed in the Live and Silent Auction. We have Sportsman Raffle Tickets available as well with 10 items up for grabs ranging from guns to Yeti's to rod/reel combos. We would like to extend our thanks to **The Great Texas Gun Company in Bryan** for helping us out with all of our firearms again this year.

**Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 12, we would love to see you at the banquet!**

Please contact me for more information regarding the event.

We had a great time at our Fall Club fishing trip to Matagorda. It was a perfectly timed event with the weather and fish cooperating. We would like to thank the **Fish Jump Inn** for the great accommodations again. Their house will sleep 10 people

# Academy®

SPORTS+OUTDOORS

**RIGHT STUFF. LOW PRICE. EVERYDAY!**

CCA makes marine conservation a reality. In addition to relentless efforts to educate the public, CCA also partners with organizations like Academy Sports + Outdoors to promote and enhance the present and future availability of coastal resources.



Selection and prices vary by store.

**59<sup>99</sup>**

**CCA Deluxe Tackle Bag**  
• Includes three utility boxes



**34<sup>99</sup>**

**CCA Tackle Bag**  
• Includes two utility boxes



**CCA Utility Boxes**  
• Two sizes available  
**2<sup>99</sup>-4<sup>99</sup>**



**5<sup>49</sup>**

**CCA 5-gal. Bucket**

Style CCA-5-GL-RED  
• Use to hold bait and more  
• Made in the U.S.A.



**9<sup>99</sup>**

**CCA Collapsible Waterproof Bait Bucket**  
Style CCA-SFTBKTB



**24<sup>99</sup>**

**Plano CCA Double-Layered Tackle Satchel**  
Style 115575



Contents sold separately.



# BIG CATCHES

## at low prices



Prices good February 1-March 31, 2015.

**139<sup>99</sup>**

**Abu Garcia  
CCA C3-5500 Baitcast Reel**

- Style C3-5500 CCA
- Gear ratio: 5.3:1
  - Four ball bearings



**Abu Garcia**  
FOR LIFE



**39<sup>99</sup>**

**CCA  
Landing Net**  
Style CCA-TEL-400



**39<sup>99</sup>**

**Zebco CCA Spinning Combo**

- Styles CCA40722M, NS3
- Aluminum spool and 11" handle.
  - Two-piece design
  - Five bearings
  - Use with mono or braid



**ZEBCO**

**39<sup>99</sup>**

**Zebco CCA Inshore 6', 6" Spincast Combo**

- Styles CCA733C, 20, NS3
- 11" EVA handle
  - Two-piece design
  - 90 yds./20 lbs.

and 2- big TV's for the fishermen to watch football when they can't catch fish.

It is not too early to start making plans for the **Brazos Valley CCA Banquet on March 12**. The 10 item raffle tickets are printed for the January 13th meeting. We will be having a general meeting at **C.J. Barbeque** and will have a speaker. All the people in the Brazos Valley that are CCA members and receive this Currents need to be at the meeting. As always, there are food, beverages, and plenty of fish stories. Give me a call, text, or email if you need more information. Have a Great New Year. Hope to see ya there – **John Ben Strother**

### Brenham

**Dennis Crowson 979-451-2472**  
[Dennis.crowson@hotmail.com](mailto:Dennis.crowson@hotmail.com)

We will hold our first regular meeting of 2015 on Thursday, January 22 at 6:30 pm at **Mike Hopkins Distributing**. We are planning to have stew and a speaker. Hope to see everyone out as we start off the New Year. For more information contact **Dennis Crowson** at (979) 451-2472 or [dennis.crowson@hotmail.com](mailto:dennis.crowson@hotmail.com). Thanks – **Dennis**

### Brush Country

**Hank Henry 361-215-6803**

### Centex

Welcome new president **Wayne Webb**  
**254-405-1300** [sheyhunt@aol.com](mailto:sheyhunt@aol.com)

### Central Houston

**Todd Buster Mobil, 713-545-1897**

After the success with last year's 22' Mowdy, for its 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet the Central Houston Chapter will be raffling a new 23' Mowdy Cat (similar to the one in the photo without the T top). The boat will be powered by a 200 hp Suzuki four-stroke engine and will be sitting on an aluminum trailer.

If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please contact **Todd Buster** at [tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com](mailto:tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com). Put this on your must-do list: **the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet will be held on April 30, 2015 at the Bayou City Event Center**. Tight Lines! – **Ian**



### Colorado Valley

**James Loehr 979-250-3958**

Hope everyone had a fantastic Christmas Holidays and a joyous New Year celebration. Can't wait to try out all the new fishing equipment gifts we acquired this year!

Our chapter is busy planning a General Membership meeting for January and discussing **our upcoming banquet which will be held on March 26, 2015 at the K of C Hall in LaGrange**. We will again have our **Sportsman's raffle** going on so please feel free to contact any of our committee members for raffle tickets.

Also, reserve your tables early because they went really fast last banquet. Hope you all are planning on joining us as it looks to be a keeper of a night. Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all! **James Loehr** (979-250-3958) **Eugene Ulrich** (979-249-7425)

### Corpus Christi

**Jay Gardner 361-658-7159**  
[jaygardner@scientist.com](mailto:jaygardner@scientist.com)

Greetings from Corpus Christi! **We are just a few short weeks away from our 37<sup>th</sup> annual**

**fundraising banquet on February 26<sup>th</sup> at the American Bank Center**. We have been working hard to get this one up and running as our date is early this year.

Banquet Chairman **Cody Roesener** has been getting it together nicely, as well as **Cliff Johnstone** with the facilities. Food and Beverage Chairman **Jake Herring** says that the food venue this year is going to be even better, and I can almost taste the grilled quail and shrimp now. Live Auction Co-chairs **David Harris** and **Corey Survant** say that the Live this year will include some new and exciting trips and items.

Boat Chairman **Joseph Briones** informs us that ticket sales for our Majek are doing well, please drop by during the weekends at Academy and get a ticket while you still can. Also make sure to contact **Jake Herring**, **Mike Henry**, or **Barrett Fines** to donate items for the Blackboard Auction. Get ahold of **Judy Arnold**, our Silent Auction and Raffle Chairman, to donate items, or if you'd like to sponsor a package for either.

If you need to get ahold of someone in the chapter, give myself or **Cody Roesener** (916-531-0078) a call and we'll direct you. You can also call the CCA-Corpus Christi Chapter phone (being handled this year by **Rachel Schmitt**) at 361-882-5199 to donate, sign up for tables, or to be a sponsor. Starting this year, you can also sign up online at <http://www.ccatexas.org/corpus-christi> and you can always call and bug **John Blaha** at 979-709-1085. We would like to thank

**Nyati Services, LLC** for being our hat sponsor again this year, thanks **YT** and **Virginia**. See y'all at the Banquet February 26<sup>th</sup>! – **Jay Gardner** Environmental Scientist, Naismith Engineering, Inc.  
[jgardner@naismith-engineering.com](mailto:jgardner@naismith-engineering.com)

### Dallas / North Texas

**Hal Thomas 972-612-1684**  
**It's time for the Annual CCA**

**Dallas Chapter Banquet at the Frontiers of Flight Museum on Thursday, April 16th, 2015**. Tickets, Tables and Sponsorship packages are still available.

Please plan to join us for another great event. This year we will continue our tradition of honoring our selection for **Sportsman Conservationist of the Year, Sam Caldwell**, for his many contributions to conservation and education across Texas and with CCA. Sam has been a constant influence to us for many years and we will recognize his efforts and talent at this year's banquet.

Also, we will have lots of great gear in the silent auction and raffle; a new Big-Board auction featuring trips and gear; and as usual, a fantastic array of live auction items including the notorious "Fish Fry for 30". Our goal is aggressive for both new members and impact for CCA. Please plan to attend and bring a friend.

Later, in May, CCA Dallas will be at **Tailwaters Fly Fishing Company, 2416 McKinney Avenue, Dallas, TX 75201** to cook lunch for their anniversary celebration. Our desire is to promote new memberships in CCA, share stories from the coast and enjoy food and fellowship with our friends as we celebrate another anniversary of one of our continuing sponsors. Come join us in May. See you there—**Henry A. (Hal) Thomas** (972) 768-3521 mobile / [hal.thomas@tx.rr.com](mailto:hal.thomas@tx.rr.com)

### East Texas

**Dr. Jim Norman 936-554-3165**

[jjnorman7@suddenlink.net](mailto:jjnorman7@suddenlink.net)

**The East Texas CCA Chapter is having their 9th Annual Chapter Banquet on Friday, March 6th, 2015 at the Nacogdoches Civic Center**. The doors open at 6:00 and tickets are \$45/individuals and \$75/couples.

This will be a great night that will include a fried fish dinner from **Clear Springs**, drinks, a live and silent auction plus many great raffles. Multiple levels of table sponsorships are available by contacting **Brent Rogers** at (936)554-4866 or emailing [brogers1969@suddenlink.net](mailto:brogers1969@suddenlink.net) for more information. By supporting the East Texas Chapter of CCA Texas, you are promoting and enhancing yourself as a conservationist for the coastal fisheries in Texas. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there! – **Brent Rogers**

### Fort Bend

**Robb Gaston 281-239-9755**

Hear ye Hear ye! **The 29th Annual Fort Bend Banquet and Boat Raffle—April 23, 2015 at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds**.



Good news: Fort Bend has the best and newest boat around! **We want you to win this 18.5' JH Performance 185x Outlaw with a 115 Yamaha motor and a Coastline Trailer for \$50.**

We are now selling tickets for this boat! Contact President **Robb** at 281-239-9755 or any Fort Bend member for a boat ticket. Don't want a boat? How about a table? **Purchase a Bull Red table for \$500 and get a few books of bucket raffle tickets for free!** Contact **Robb** or **Ren Davis** at 281-342-6828. Happy New Year and good luck! – **Robb Gaston**

### Fort Worth

**Hunter Baird 817-437-8351**

Happy New Year from your Fort Worth Chapter Board. With the holidays passing through like a tailing redfish, we took a breather to spend some time with families and friends but **trust me when I tell you that our full attention is turned to our annual banquet at the World Famous Joe T Garcia's in the historic Stockyards of Fort Worth. Mark your calendars for April 30<sup>th</sup> for the big night.**

The board has completely overhauled the sponsorship and table packages for this year so be on the lookout for updates. Also if you are interested in being a sponsor please reach out to **John Black** at [jonathan\\_black@ml.com](mailto:jonathan_black@ml.com) with questions or interest. There are some incredible packages being offered up this year with some brand new trips and gifts that this chapter has never seen! In the meantime, be on the watch for our Spring membership event which includes food and beverages sponsored by your local board. Thank you all for your continued support and never hesitate to send us some pictures of your fishing adventures to share. We would be happy to publish on social media or include some in our magazine! See you all soon. – **John Black**

### Galveston

**Dr. Ken Ellis 713-962-7731**

Happy New Year to all of our members. We are looking forward to an action-packed 2015. The

Annual Crab trap removal program is coming up. If you'd like to participate, give us a call.

We'll be hosting a Spring Membership meeting with a guest speaker so be on the lookout for emails with more information. We are also in the preliminary planning stages of a kids fishing tournament to be held in April. We'll be posting more information regarding this event on our web page.

**Our annual banquet will be held in August and as always we'll be featuring a terrific boat package as well as many new and exciting auction items and raffles.**

Good luck to all those chapters with spring banquets, we in Galveston wish you all the best for 2015. If you are on the water look for my orange boat in Galveston or Port Mansfield, if you see her, wave me down and say Hello. Tight Lines — **Dr. Ken Ellis**

### Golden Triangle

#### Trey Browne

409-338-0803 [tbrowne@ocbm-tx.com](mailto:tbrowne@ocbm-tx.com)

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. **We are pleased to announce we have set a date for our Annual Banquet for May 21st, 2015 at the Beaumont Civic Center.** Please save the date and make sure to come out. Last year was our best year ever and we are expecting even better things for 2015.

Our fishing report comes from our very own Board Member, **Capt. Jason Kuchera on Sabine Lake.** Following are Jason's tips: "As the winter sets in the temperatures are dropping and the north winds are blowing but that doesn't always mean the fishing cools off. From now to the first part of Spring you have the highest percentage chance of landing that trophy speckled trout! The temps can be cold, but those sunny days can mean warming waters on the mud flats that are close to deep water in the northern part of the lake.

The bite is not as fast and furious as fishing under the birds but odds are in your favor for the larger winter time trout. Don't discount redbfish; they will stay consistent in the protected waters of the bayous. Just remember big baits catch big fish. Corky Fatboys, Devil Tails, Soft-Dines or any big suspending jerk baits are good this time of year... and don't forget the winter time saying "When you think you are fishing slow enough, SLOW DOWN."

Good luck and good fishing! USCG CPT Jason Kuchera, [www.sabineadventures.com](http://www.sabineadventures.com), 903-780-8618.

We will announce our General Membership Meeting sometime in January through email and regular mail. Until then, take care and see you on the water.—**Joel Foxworth** 409-466-2614

### Greater Sugar Land

**Weems Turner 713-857-8897**

[wturner@ducommun.com](mailto:wturner@ducommun.com)

Our big event is fast approaching. **The 2015 banquet will be held at the Stafford Center again this year.** If you missed last year's banquet, then you missed out on a great new facility with plenty of room and some great food and prizes.

We are currently selling pre-sale sportsman's raffle tickets w/ many great prizes including guns, Yeti Coolers, Go Pro camera, spa day, CCA Life Time membership and several others. **The Banquet this year will be held on Thursday April 9, 2015 at the Stafford Center** and we will be featuring our signature crawfish boil again this year. Save the date so you don't miss out on this great opportunity. For ticket information, table sales or program sponsorships please contact **Weems Turner** @ [wturner45@comcast.net](mailto:wturner45@comcast.net) or **Brian Meuth** @ [bmeuth@ccatexas.org](mailto:bmeuth@ccatexas.org)  
Thank you —**Weems Turner**

### Greater Woodlands

**James Kay 281-363-4417**

[www.ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands](http://www.ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands)

To start off this February / March article I would like to spotlight one of our board members who has been active in conservation in the Port O'Connor area. **Tom Hans** has worked as a fishing guide for many years. Early in 2011, Captain Tom Hans spearheaded an operation involving a group of local volunteers to catch brood stock spotted seatrout for **Lake Jackson's Sea Center Texas** where the TPWD has engineered a Stock Enhancement Program to replenish bay waters.

At that time, **Jennifer Butler** with TPWD came to POC, commandeered the operation and instructed fishermen on the procedures involved to safely guarantee the success of catching and transporting the fish to be used. The result of two fishing excursions netted over 100 fish to be used as brood fish for our area. The numbers represent the total amount of fingerlings released at an average size of 35 millimeters each since that time.

As the year 2014 comes to a close, it is encouraging to find that almost all of the releases have taken place in our local bays compared to the total fingerlings released statewide. TPWD is aware of the decimation of the trout population in our area and is involved in a concerted effort to reverse this trend.

The present brood fish on hand have had a banner year of production. However, as they age, the fish are not as prolific and need to be replaced with younger trout. Upon being informed of this, Captain Hans lined up some volunteers and secured permission from the Ineos Plant supervisor to allow the TPWD fish tank truck access to a fishing area. Local Captains **Kirk Morgan** and **Doug McClung** and **Tom Hans** joined **Corando Chapa** of Ineos in catching forty more brood fish to replenish the aging stock. It will be rewarding to find that some trout that have been caught locally and more catches in the future will be a result of this ongoing program to restock our bays. Way to go Tom.

We will be having a General Membership Meeting (GMM) in **February** (or) **March 2015**. Please check our website for details. Look forward to a fantastic 2015. Keep Conserving...To Keep Fishing! —**James Kay**

### Guadalupe Valley

**Jon Eric Rodriguez 361-243-1017**

As quick as the holiday season came and went, so did our chapter banquet. Not even the cold crisp air could keep our local CCA members from getting out to the local venue in Cuero. **Russell Goebel** and **Joe Adams** did a great job getting through the different games and live auction. I'd like to thank all of our sponsors and volunteers. Without either one of them our event couldn't be possible. Can't wait to work with you this year. In 2015 my New Years resolution is to fish more! —**Jon Eric Rodriguez**

### Hays County

**Tim Young 512-573-7939**

[hayscountyycca@gmail.com](mailto:hayscountyycca@gmail.com)

### Heart of the Hills

**Jim Simmons** [fishtxsurf@AOL.com](mailto:fishtxsurf@AOL.com)

### Hill Country

**Welcome, new president  
Miles Engelke 830-303-1827**

We welcome Miles Engelke as our new president. We will celebrate the New Year with an **appreciation steak dinner** at **Freiheit County Store** and will elect a new President. I have enjoyed serving with a great group of people who share

the enthusiasm of CCA and all that it's accomplished. God Bless! —**Darlene Cook**

### Houston Homebuilders

**Welcome new chapter, and new president  
Mack Davis 832 381-6130**

Hope you had an amazing Christmas and an even better 2015 to come! Our brand new Houston Homebuilding Chapter is now up and running with new board members pulling together and selling tables for our **first annual fundraising banquet at the Houston Bayou City Event Center, held Thursday January 15th.** We had **Great food from Goode Company Barbecue** and lots of terrific silent and live auction items at this exciting event!

For details on joining this chapter, please contact **Mack Davis** at 832 381-6130. Thanks and have a safe and happy New Year! —**Mack**

### Houston Real Estate

**Dale Couch 281-953-2510**

Thanks to our longtime Directors, **Bill Wilson of Texas Capital Bank, Doug Goff of Johnson Development, Tim Drone of J Patrick Homes and Mark Welch of Weekley Homes** for their contributions to the success of our Chapter's growth. **Our next dinner is on Tuesday Feb, 10th. Put it on your calendar.** —**Dale Couch**

### Katy

**Clint Hilton 713-515-3991**

After a short winter break shooting Boone and Crockett deer and catching trophy trout, the Katy Chapter is back at it, and our Chapter support will make 2015 another banner year!

Our first cast of the year landed another trophy speaker. **The Texas Gourmet, Chef Bryan Slaven**, came out to sharpen our cooking skills - a benefit for our neighbors and families!

Chef Slaven discussed proper care from the field to the frying pan for the prime vittles Mother Nature provides us. He brought to attention ways to improve flavor, and flat out gave us some wisdom that'll help us whip up some better grub. It's pretty obvious, but if you don't take care of your critter when you kill it, it's not gonna be great when you grill it.

The Texas Gourmet also talked about proper seasoning and pairings for our wild fodder. Fortunately for us, we can look at his website, [www.thetexasgourmet.com](http://www.thetexasgourmet.com) for preparation ideas and seasoning procurement. This was Bryan's second visit with our chapter, and he fits in as "one of the guys"!

The Katy Chapter will be plugging away soon with banquet plans, too. Last year we sold out our venue, raffle tickets, and pretty much everything we offered (a good problem to have), so if you have any reservations about wiggling into the next banquet please take comfort that we are gonna find a way to make it better! If you'd like to be involved or have a great idea, we'd love to hear from ya!

We will have planning meetings in February, April, and May. If you want to plan your schedule to make room for our speaker meetings, you can do that too. We have speakers in January, March, May, July or August, and October. We always meet **the 3rd Wednesday of the month, and gather at Red River BBQ on Mason Road.** The Katy Chapter continues to grow and have more fun. If you like fun and camaraderie I hope to see you at a meeting. Cheers! —**Clint Hilton**

### Laredo

**Jesse Martinez** [jmartinez@bushlan.com](mailto:jmartinez@bushlan.com)  
956-763-5555

### Lee County

**Jason Seale 979-412-0270**  
jason@basslerenergyservices.com

**Live Oak**  
**Brad Kotrla 979-732-1669**

**Lower Colorado**  
**Tim Munos 979 332-2876**

**Lower Laguna Madre**  
**Oscar Garcia III 956-491-8148**

**Mainland**  
**Eric Minor**  
**281-534-6242**

**Matagorda Bays**  
**Chad Hensley 979-543-2734**

Well, the New Year is here and is full of high hopes and resolutions. As of writing this letter we have mailed out boat bid letters with hopes of ordering our chapter raffle boat by February 1. A big thanks goes out to the support our local Matagorda Bays fishing guides give us each year. These guys donate a trip for our **Jim Ehman Memorial Guides Cup** which we auction at our banquet. If anybody is looking for a fishing trip around the Matagorda area try one of these great guides: **Capt Tommy Countz, Capt Nick Stillwell, Capt Dwayne Newbern, Capt Rob Cumming, Capt Leighton Keen, Capt Jimmy Riddle, Capt Scott Reeh, Capt Kenneth Hauf III, Capt Stan Sloan, Capt Kenneth Hauf II, Capt Ozzie Arnold, Capt Walt Schelle, Capt Troy Keen, Capt Walt Wendtland, Capt Charlie Paradoski, Capt Lee Warmke, Capt Mark Talasek, Capt Bink Grimes, Capt Jesse Arsola, Capt Ken Sabin, Capt Floyd Ciruti, Capt Kit Caston, Capt Kevin Kosick, Capt Nate Koenig and Capt Tommy Alexander.**

Also please keep **Capt Jessie Arsola** in your thoughts and prayers as he battles cancer. Capt Jessie is a great guide and has been a great friend to the chapter for many years. We are looking forward to a great 2015, and as mentioned before a thanks to all our chapter members and our continued support from our sponsors. For any information about the chapter feel free to contact me. —**Chad Hensley (979) 543-2734**

### **MidCoast**

**David Jenkins 361-578-5580**

Today was a sad day. My friend, Hector Mendieta did not wake and is now in the hands of our Lord and Savior with his loved ones and waiting for us to come to meet him again. His wife, Nancy, needs all of your prayers in her time of grief. Please pray for her comfort in her time of mourning. Thanks —**David Jenkins**

### **Northeast Houston**

**Jason Law 713-898-8594**

### **Northwest Houston**

**Alan Massey 281-414-6341**

We would like to invite all CCA members and friends out to our next General Meeting on February the 3rd at 7:00 PM. It will be held as usual at **Houston Distributing in the Stein Room**. We are excited to announce our speaker will be **Captain Zane Starr with Gulf Coast Fishing Trips**. He has been a full time fishing and hunting guide for 10 years. Please check them out at [www.gulfcoastfishingtrips.com](http://www.gulfcoastfishingtrips.com). We will be raffling off a fishing trip with Captain Starr, so everyone please come and give a listen. You might just win a guided fishing trip!

Our April 7 speaker will be **Sam Caldwell**. A longtime GCCA/CCA member, Sam plans to present a video about the GCCA and early CCA, **The Endangered Crescent**. Made in 1981, the

video won a national award, and was shown extensively on TV, and at organizational meetings in Louisiana and Georgia. The video was listed as a crucial reason Florida and East Coast chapters joined the movement.

The Northwest Houston Chapter has a lot planned in the near future. Please save the dates of these events... our **Fish Fry will be on April the 7th** and **Kid Fish will be on May the 9th**. We look forward to seeing y'all there! —**Loretta**

### **Orange County**

**Scott Bandy 409-988-3667**

[sabandy@gmail.com](mailto:sabandy@gmail.com)

As we head into 2015, I am pleased to say 2014 was a great success for our chapter. **Our 7<sup>th</sup> annual Banquet is set for August 20<sup>th</sup> so mark your calendars now and don't miss out.**

2015 has a lot of opportunities ahead for us as a chapter. **The 2015 Crab Trap Clean-up** will be one of the biggest Sabine Lake has ever seen since we were able to get Louisiana on board to close their season at the same time as Texas. It will take a Joint effort from Sabine-Neches, Golden Triangle, Orange County, and Lake Charles CCA chapters to make this a success. If you want to get involved contact your local chapter.

Orange County CCA also has more opportunities to get involved in the community with the **Orange Community Trash -Off set for February 28<sup>th</sup>**. Contact **Scott Bandy** if you would like to join our team. Don't forget that the 2015 BASS MASTERS ELITE Series will be making another stop in Orange on March 19<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Finally, in closing I would like to welcome aboard our newest Vice President, **Davis Dixon** who will help out greatly. Orange County CCA meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at **Roberts Meat Market & Steakhouse**.

For more information about Orange County CCA contact **Scott Bandy** [scottbandy77@yahoo.com](mailto:scottbandy77@yahoo.com), **Louis Moore** [Louis.moore@yahoo.com](mailto:Louis.moore@yahoo.com) or **Davis Dixon** [dcdixon149@yahoo.com](mailto:dcdixon149@yahoo.com) or check us out on FACEBOOK. —**Scott Bandy**

### **Port O'Connor**

**Bill Moore 361-983-4690**

As the holiday season has come and gone, we again thank all who helped make the 2014 annual POC CCA Banquet another success. A special thanks to our table sponsors: **Bull Red Tables, Ann and Mitch Brownlee, Capital Farm Credit, Carl Ray, Central Drug - Victoria, Coastline Trailers, Fishing Tackle Unlimited, Ted and Weslene Gaetjen, Kneipp Properties, LLC., Liftwater Construction, Inc., Bill Moore, RJW Consulting, LLC., Paula and Chris Smisek, Sonny's Marine, Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine, Dain And Judy Whitworth and Wade Wilson. Trophy Trout Tables: Alligator Head Riffraff, Bernie's Boats and Motors, Inc. Cindy Spears Real Estate, LLC, Coastal Bend Marine, Dublin Real Estate, Fish Dancers, McMahan Goodwin, Krause, Midcoast CCA, Salty Dogs, Siegler Insurance Agency, Inc., Floyd Skipper, Tigrett Real Estate and Ulrich Ranches.**

The Chapter is currently working on setting the date for our 2015 general membership and banquet appreciation meeting. All our members and potential members are invited to come together for a great time, as we continue to work to support the conservation of our bays and marine resources. If you have any questions, give us a call or better yet, come visit us in POC—"where it all began." —**Bill Moore 361-983-4690**

### **Prairie**

**Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103**

Hope everybody had a great Holiday. We are in the planning stages for our **2015 fundraiser banquet that will be on Thursday, April 2 at the Cat**

**Spring Hall**. We are hoping for a sellout crowd this year. We will have our famous Card and Cap Game raffle along with a Live and Silent Auction. There will be corporate tables available for purchase. If interested, contact **Kirk Hoppe** at 979-885-8868.

We are also looking for Cap Sponsors. So, if you're interested in donating a full, half or quarter-deck of cards, contact **Lori Wietstruct** at 713-992-7874.

In February, we will have our annual **Chili Apperception/General Membership Dinner at the Cat Spring Tin Building**. Contact one of the Board Members, or check the CCA website for the exact date. And again, the chili will be prepared with the secret **Kirk recipe**.

On December 20, we had our annual Prairie chapter Christmas party that was held at **Randy Goebel's** place. He had a huge 20-30 foot cedar tree decorated with lights and ornaments. Randy prepared beef fajitas (delicious) and plenty of snacks and desserts. Of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus were there to give the kids presents. After the kids opened their gifts, we had our Chinese Christmas Gift Go Around. You could either pick a gift or steal from someone. There were many gifts that made it around the room many times. Hope everybody has a great 2015 —**Ron Chess 979-525-9254**

### **Redfish Bay**

**Norman Oates 361-758-0266**

We're looking forward to 2015! With a great board, Redfish Bay chapter members, and sponsors/donors, we expect great things for all of our events.

**Our Annual Banquet is scheduled for April 18, 2015**. As always, it will be a family oriented evening with good food and items of interest for everyone. Almost half of our attendees are spouses or friends. Our sponsors and donors ensure great variety for the live auction, silent auction, and raffles. Put it on your calendar now. Don't miss this fun event!

**Our Take a Kid Fishing event will be the first weekend in June**. It will be at **Woody's Sports Center** in Port Aransas. There will be a signup and meal on Friday evening, fishing is Saturday morning until noon, and the awards ceremony is right after fish weigh-ins and **hot dogs**. Young fisherpersons really enjoy this event, and it is designed to make them happy. As **Glenn Martin** says, "the rule is that there are no rules - this is for the kids."

Our **Beeville Fish Fry** will be the Thursday night before the start of dove season. Like our banquet, there is something for everyone in the live auction, silent auction, and raffles. We always need volunteers. Contact me on 361-758-0266 if you would like to be on the Board. We volunteer for a great conservation organization!

*I am proud to announce that a group of experienced and motivated volunteers in Aransas Pass are arranging a fishing tournament to honor our U. S. Veterans. The tournament is scheduled for May 1 & 2, 2015, at the Redfish Bay Boathouse on Conn Brown Harbor. The goal is 200 to 300 vets the first year. Not only does the tournament honor the vets, but all proceeds will go to the Fisher House - an organization that helps military families. For more information about the tournament, donations, and participation, visit [www.Vetsfishingwithvets.us](http://www.Vetsfishingwithvets.us). Please notice that the*





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first "V" is capital-  
ized. —Norman C.  
Oates 361-758-0266  
H 361-790-2748 C

**Rio Grande Val-  
ley  
George McCaleb  
956-984-8688**

[gmccaleb@hotmail.com](mailto:gmccaleb@hotmail.com)

**The Rio Grande  
Valley is in full  
planning mode for its 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet to be  
held Thursday, April 23, 2015 at the Pharr Events  
Center.** The chapter is working hard to put on  
another great event that can be enjoyed by ev-  
eryone with lots of opportunities to buy great art-  
work, hunting and fishing trips, and those spe-  
cial couple and friend getaways.

This year's banquet will once again have  
our annual boat giveaway sponsored by **L&F  
Distributors**. Thank you L&F for your continued  
support. **This year's boat is a 2015 200 Dargel  
Skooter powered by a 2015 150 HP Evinrude mo-  
tor and sits on a custom aluminum trailer.** Tickets  
are \$100 each and only 450 tickets will be sold.  
Don't miss out on this opportunity to win a great  
boat for the Laguna Madre, provided once again  
by **L&F Distributors and Dargel Boats**. For more  
information about the boat and how to purchase  
tickets, contact Louis **Zimmerer** at 956-373-0799 or  
[lmz01@yahoo.com](mailto:lmz01@yahoo.com).

**The RGV Chapter has added another raffle  
for the 2015 year.** The chapter will be selling up  
to 1,000 2015 calendars for 100 each and this will  
put you in a drawing for 52 guns with the chance  
to win as many times as your name is drawn.

The chapter will hold a social event on  
May 20, 2015 at the **Elk's Lodge in Weslaco**. The  
doors will open at 5:30 PM and all guns will be  
drawn that evening. After each drawing the win-  
ning ticket will be placed back in the tumbler  
giving all buyers the chance to win multiple  
times. Don't miss out on this great opportunity.  
For more information and how to purchase tick-  
ets, contact **Hayden Ellis** at [hellis@swkins.com](mailto:hellis@swkins.com) or  
**John Blaha** at 713-626-4222 or [jdblaha@ccatexas.org](mailto:jdblaha@ccatexas.org).

The RGV Chapter asks everyone to please  
remember the Terry Gray family in your thoughts  
and prayers. Terry passed away December 20,  
2015. Terry was a longtime member of the RGV  
Chapter board, a past Chapter President, mem-  
ber of the CCA Texas Management Committee  
and a past CCA Texas President. Terry was in-  
volved in the local community and the entire val-  
ley as well and will be missed throughout the  
valley and the Texas fishing community.

The RGV Chapter board welcomes and en-  
courages new board members. If you are inter-  
ested in helping the chapter out, please contact  
Chapter President **George McCaleb** at 956-984-  
8688 or [gmccaleb@hotmail.com](mailto:gmccaleb@hotmail.com) or **John Blaha** at  
713-626-4222 or [jdblaha@ccatexas.org](mailto:jdblaha@ccatexas.org). —**George  
McCaleb**

**Sabine-Neches  
Darin Johnson 409-790-9855**

Well it's that time again! Time for the Sabine  
Neches 2015 Banquet! You still have time to get  
your tickets and be a part of a great evening of  
conservation, food, prizes, cold drinks and great  
company! It is sure to be one of the hottest tickets  
in SE Texas. Aside from the banquet the **Crab  
Trap Cleanup this year on Sabine Lake** will be a  
joint effort with our friends from Louisiana! We  
are going to be cleaning up our home lake with  
the assistance of other chapters in SE Texas  
along with the LA chapters.

Let's recap, 1) **2015 Banquet and Crawfish  
Boil on Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Bob Bowers  
Civic Center**, 2) **Crab Trap Cleanup on Sabine  
February 20<sup>th</sup>!**



**RGV's 200 Dargel Skooter powered by a 2015 150 HP  
Evinrude motor, sitting on a custom aluminum trailer.**

to mention that? Until then, tight lines to all! See  
you on the water! —**Darin M Johnson** (409) 790-  
9855

**Sam Houston  
Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908**

I hope everyone is excited for what this year  
will bring. From looks of all the winter fish re-  
ports the fish have been very active, but I know  
we are still looking forward to some warmer  
weather. Until next time get out on the water  
and enjoy the outdoors. — Happy fishing—  
**Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908**

**San Antonio  
Jimmy Gibson 210-287-4378**

Our chapter volunteers group is well into the  
planning stages for 2015 so let me give you an  
update on what we have planned. First, let's  
talk about the **Boat Show January 29<sup>th</sup> thru Feb-  
ruary 1<sup>st</sup>**. We will be in full force at our booth. If  
you get this Currents in time, come by and re-  
new your membership, pick up a new CCA San  
Antonio shirt, a CCA Cap, stickers or just bring  
us a new fish story and pictures. We just might  
put you on our Web Page.

Next on my list is our second "CCA Hooked  
on Clays" **Sporting Clays Shoot** to be held at the  
National Shooting Complex, 5931 Roft Road, San  
Antonio, **Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Registration will begin  
at 11:30am, shoot at 1 pm. Teams will be com-  
posed of 5 shooters. There will be great prizes  
for the top teams, give-  
aways and BBQ  
served after the  
shoot.

If you  
missed last  
year's event,  
we had a  
"Blast" so  
don't miss it  
this year. That  
said, organize  
your team and  
get signed up. Individual shooters are always  
welcome and will be assigned a team. Cost is  
\$125.00 per shooter and we expect a big turnout.  
Our web site will have all the details.

**On to our 2015 BANQUET scheduled for  
Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup>, doors open at 5:00 pm.** It's go-  
ing to be bigger and better than ever. We have  
some great new sponsors, secured new auction  
items and new trips, and thanks to our generous  
sponsors we will again give you a great chance  
to win from boats to 4 wheelers, and the list  
goes on.

Mark your calendars and plan to enjoy an  
evening with friends, business partners, and  
CCA volunteers at an event that always creates  
memories. More details, tables costs and indi-  
vidual ticket information is on our web site or  
contact **Joe Eaton** at (210) 599-3690 or E-Mail Joe  
at [jeaton@eatoncontracting.com](mailto:jeaton@eatoncontracting.com).

Your San Antonio CCA Chapter is always  
looking for individuals to volunteer their time,  
resources and thoughts as to how we can better  
serve this organization. Come join us and have

To say we are go-  
ing to be busy is an  
understatement! If  
you are interested  
in participating in  
any of these events  
give me a call, we  
always have a seat  
at the table. Oh  
yeah, the fishing on  
Sabine is pretty  
good right now.

How could I forget  
to mention that? Until then, tight lines to all! See  
you on the water! —**Darin M Johnson** (409) 790-  
9855

some fun working on our banquet committee,  
sporting clays shoot committee, be a part of the  
beach cleanup weekend, crab trap pick up, or  
be a part of our interchapter fishing team.

You will enjoy our group and get satisfac-  
tion knowing you contributed to our efforts to im-  
prove our coastal marine habitat. We have fun,  
enjoy putting events together, like fishing week-  
ends and would welcome you to our group.

Remember our first battle cry "SAVE THE  
REDFISH ". Thank you for doing your part. Until  
the next Currents travel safely.

*"If we concentrated on the more important  
things in life, there would be a shortage of fishing  
poles."*—**Jimmy Gibson**

[jimmy.gibson@CSTBrands.com](mailto:jimmy.gibson@CSTBrands.com)

**San Bernard**

**Jayson Zahradnik 281-202-8438**

Hello, all. **Just a friendly reminder that our an-  
nual banquet is coming up fast. It will be Thurs-  
day, February 26, at Riverside Hall in East Bernard,  
Texas.** Better consider a presale raffle ticket for  
our banquet. This year's prizes are a little dif-  
ferent: Grand Prize: **Polaris Ranger 570 Crew  
Cab!**

Also on the ticket will be a **Bushmaster AR  
Optic ready .223, Beretta A300 Outlander 12 Ga.,  
Weatherby VGD2 Bolt 7mm Mag, 65 quart Yeti  
cooler, and a Sony GPro Camera.** Six great  
prizes this year! Tickets are \$100 each and there  
will only be 300 tickets sold. For tickets you can  
call **Jayson Zahradnik** at 281-202-8438 or **Kenneth  
Schatz** at 979-533-4385. Corporate tables will  
also be available with details to follow.

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday  
season and hope Santa brings everyone the tro-  
phy trout we all wish for. Fish on! —**JZ**

**San Gabriel**

**John Melnar 512- 497-8284**

As the New Year arrived, our banquet com-  
mittee has been working on a new venue for our  
banquet. We are excited to announce that we  
have selected the **Cedar Park Center, home of the  
Texas Stars**, to host our banquet. Unfortunately  
**we are still waiting to confirmation from the CPC  
on our preferred date for the event. We still plan  
on having the event in the late July/ mid-August  
timeframe.** More details to come as they de-  
velop. One the main reasons for this move is ca-  
pacity. We have been limited in space in the  
past, allowing only around 300 guests. This year  
we are setting a goal of 500 guests. So I hope ev-  
eryone will attend. Along with the growth comes  
more need for help, so if you would like to get  
more involved please feel free to contact me.

Another reason for this move was the continued  
and increased support of **Don Hewlett Chevrolet**.  
Don Ross and his team have raised the bar once  
again and will continue to be our Title Sponsor!

Keep an eye on your inbox for more details  
on the banquet. —**John Melnar 512-497-8284**

**San Jacinto**

**Jim Wilson 713-828-7639**

**Southwestern**

**Robert Hart 830-879-5541**

**TAMU**

**Cameron Blackwood 713-591-7097**

**Texas State University  
Ryan Wishnow 832-444-3598**

[rw1303@txstate.edu](mailto:rw1303@txstate.edu)

**Tomball/Magnolia**

**Matt Maddox 281-770-7858**

**Tri-County**

**Jason Trial 830-570-2988**

**Trinity Bay**

**Gerald Payne 281-385-2894**

Here it is... already February of 2015 and **the count-down is on as our chapter has until August 21, 2015, to prepare for the annual banquet to be held again in Baytown, Texas.** In case you were unable to make last year's event, the new spacious facility was a hit, generating more attendance and funds raised! We are currently looking at several ideas for this year, to include reforming our raffle into a multi-item package.

If you are interested in participating in any of our chapter functions please let us know. We have monthly meetings in Baytown, Texas on the first Wednesday of each month. We have a great bunch of individuals that dedicate themselves towards the work of CCA and have a lot of fun doing so. —Gerald "Get er Done" Payne

**Trinity Valley**

**John Hebert Jr 936-334-2528**

With the new year upon us, we want to thank everyone who made 2014 a great one. We had a successful fishing tournament and banquet. We hope to make this year even better by increasing our activity and building our chapter.

If you would like to become more involved, please contact **John Hebert** at 936-334-2528 or **Jennifer Creel** at 936-334-2314. We have a general meeting every other month on the third Tuesday. Our next scheduled meeting is March 17, 2015 at **Navrozsky's in Liberty** and we would love to see you there. —Jennifer Creel  
[www.youuniquebyjenncreel.com](http://www.youuniquebyjenncreel.com)

**West Houston**

**Mike Ayers 832-248-9352**

After a brief break for the Holiday's, 2015 is off to a fast start and we hope everyone is settling into the New Year. **Please circle Thursday, May 14th on your calendars and plan on joining us for the 29th Annual West Houston CCA Crawfish Boil & Banquet!**

This year's event is shaping up to be another great one and the board is busy working on several new items for the raffles and auction. We are also putting the final touches on the guest speakers for our General Membership Meetings this year.

Please check our Facebook page (West Houston CCA) and/or the West Houston Chapter page on the CCA Texas website for dates as they are announced. If you are interested in getting more involved with the chapter, we would love to hear from you. Please contact one of the board members and we would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Until next time, stay safe out there and happy fishing!

—Mike Ayers

**West Texas**

**Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499**

The West Texas Chapter will host its 12th annual banquet on April 2 at Midland Country Club. Cocktails begin at 6:00 pm. For table inquiries or any other questions, please call: **Craig McDonnold**.....432-6823499 / **Reece Boudreaux**.....432-7703536.

Thanks for your support —Craig



**TEXAS WILDLIFE ART**

**"JACK" by Herb Booth**

A Tribute to John "Jack" Cowan (20 x 30" Giclee')



- > John Cowan
- > John Dearman
- > Sam Caldwell
- > Herb Booth
- > David Drinkard
- > Al Barnes



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AND ON.  
AND ON.**



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## Great Photos

Tips this time from just a few of the great photographers who have graced our pages. Also—all photos sent to Currents will be forwarded to Kim Ogonosky's social media. If you want attribution, your name must be at the front of the jpeg title, like the photo on the right: *Pauline Osburn, Crab Snacker*.

### A few tips from winners:

**Kim Ogonosky on her award-winning techniques:** For still photography, I use the Nikon D60 Digital SLR. Beginner photographers should consider this camera because of its superb quality and straightforward design. When shooting videos for the CCA Texas Habitat program ([www.ccatexas.org/project-videos](http://www.ccatexas.org/project-videos)), I use a Canon Vixia HF M500. The camera also has a microphone output, a necessary component when filming interviews out on the windy waters. While complex in its features, this is also a user-friendly camera.

**Pamela Parsons:** I'm now using a Nikon coolpix s9400. My best advice is to be out on the water often and take lots of photos particularly when the sun is overhead.

**Pauline Osburn has sent us many swell bird images:** I use a Canon D60. The lenses I use most in my bird and landscapes pictures are an 85 x 200 mm and a 70 x 300 mm. Looking into purchasing a 100 x 400mm soon. A few tips:

Use the longest lenses you have or are the most comfortable with. Tripods are highly recommended but I get some awesome shots just by hand holding the camera. Use a polarized lens when shooting by the water. Finally, *Patience, Patience, Patience!* To be able to capture the perfect shot I will just sit, watch and wait. The reward is getting that one shot you're looking for; the one that you and your fans will love.

**Chase Stanzel has provided Currents with some excellent action photos.** I use a GoPRO 3 Black but am on my third camera this season, either replaced or lost to the drink. I use a custom camera pole my father and I made. When on a boat I use the pole with the camera in burst mode to increase my chances of a good shot. Also, knowing the fish and how they fight helps you get in the right positions. The only tips I have are, go often, be prepared,

and take as many photos from various angles as possible.

**Norman Oates:** Cedar Bayou cover shot; the Canon PowerShot G-15. It is a great small camera (they now have a G-16). It shoots RAW (or jpeg), has a real viewfinder, has a 4x zoom, accepts larger flashes, and has manual or auto shooting capabilities (virtually the same options that I have on the Canon 7D). 



Caption and description example: *Pauline Osburn, Crab Snacker*.

## The Last Laugh

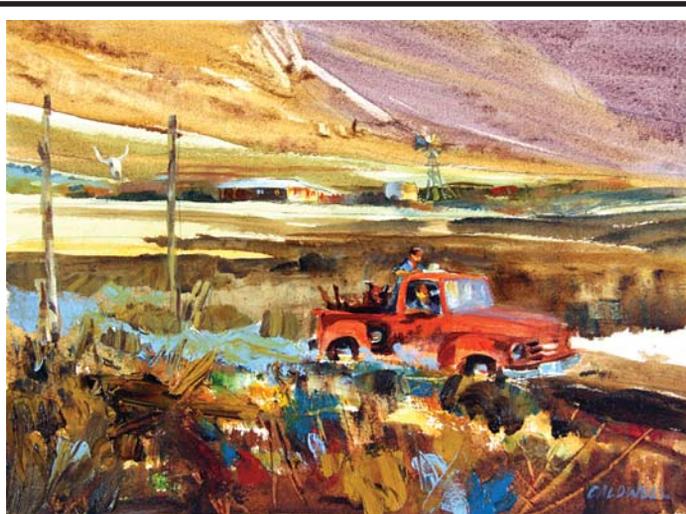
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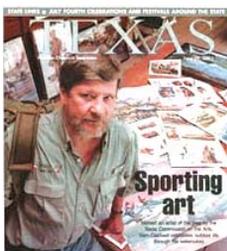
[BenKocian.com](http://BenKocian.com)



## Road to Marathon

A small study for a large oil, available at the upcoming Houston Real Estate banquet, Feb. 10.

Drop by my Web Cave for recent and ancient paintings, and a visit to the D-Day beaches of Normandy.



[samcaldwell.com](http://samcaldwell.com)

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# Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Suite 100 / Houston, TX 77024

**CURRENTS NEWSLETTER**  
February / March 2015

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*Looking back at a really great year.*

*Great Fisheye Photo by Chase Stanzel*

## U.S. Coast Guard Air & Sea Rescue

National Response Center: 800-874-2143  
Port Isabel: 956-761-2668  
Corpus Christi / Marine Safety Office:  
boating emergencies, chemical and  
oil spills: 361-888-3162  
Port Aransas: 361-749-5217  
Port O'Connor: 361-983-2616  
Freeport: 979-233-3801  
Houston, Galveston: 409-766-5620  
Sabine: 409-971-2195

The Texas Parks & Wildlife website is your starting point for almost anything you need to know about outdoor Texas, including links to many areas. Visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us> To focus on fishing and boating, visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/>



Current size, bag and possession limits are now available through the Texas Parks & Wildlife website: TPWD has a number to report game violations. **1-800-792-4263.**  
A partner with CCA in aiding Texas game and Game Wardens is Operation Game Thief. Drop by and put this website on your favorites list: <http://www.ogttx.com/>



## COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (including STAR Entry)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ (Member ID for renewing members only) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### Method of payment

- Check/Money order
- Charge to my:
- MASTERCARD
- VISA
- AMEX
- DISCOVER

- MEMBER: \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ Membership card, decal, bumper sticker, Texas CURRENTS newsletter & TIDE magazine.
- ASSOCIATE: \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ Per each family member. All membership privileges except TIDE and CURRENTS.
- PRINT MEMBER: \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ All of the above plus CCA Texas print of your choice.
- LIFE MEMBER: \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ CCA Life Membership piece, print, plus member gifts. Payable in four \$250 installments.
- STAR ENTRY FEE: \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Tournament entry fee. Must be a current CCA member.
- NEW TIDE: \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Tide newsletter, decal.
- NEW TIDE / Star: \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ **Members 17 and under only** Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Same as above, plus "FREE" STAR Tournament entry. Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ By entering this tournament, I agree to be bound by the STAR Tournament Rules, Release and Indemnity Agreement. I understand that there are specific rules governing the conduct of the tournament and that upon request a copy will be mailed to me. 6919 Portwest, Suite 100 / Houston, TX 77024 / 713-626-4222 / Website: [www.ccatexas.org](http://www.ccatexas.org)