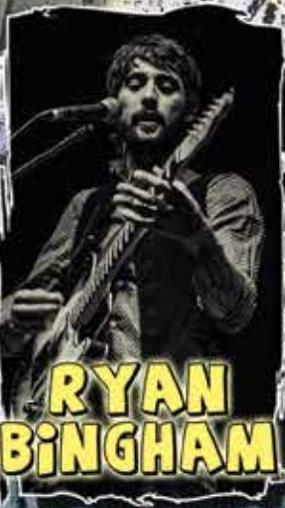
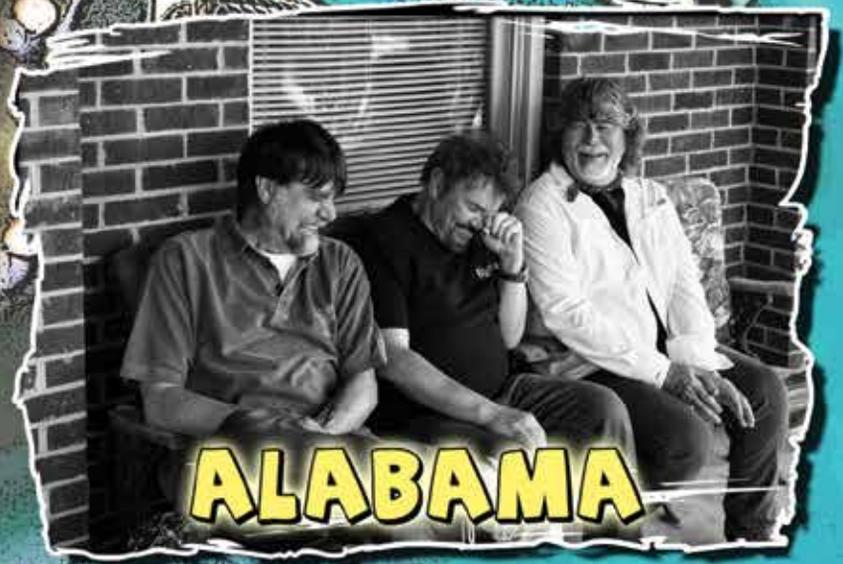
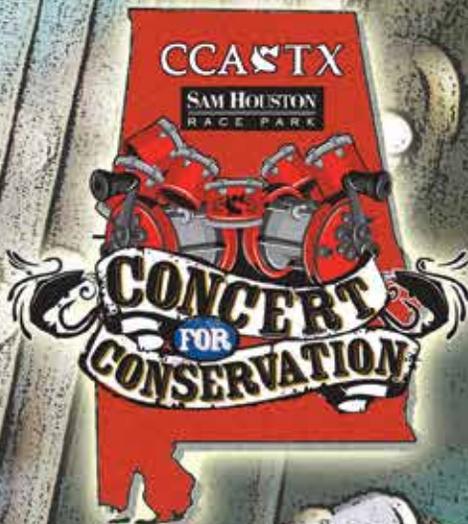


# CURRENTS

April / May 2016



## 5th annual CCA CONCERT FOR CONSERVATION SATURDAY MAY 21ST at SAM HOUSTON RACE PARK



**TICKETS**  
**AVAILABLE** *at*  
**CCATEXAS.ORG**  
*or* **SHRP.COM**

# Oyster Lake Shoreline Protection Project Completed

By John Blaha

Shoreline degradation is an ongoing issue that challenges coastal habitat up and down the Texas coast.

Shoreline degradation is the result of many issues, some manmade and others natural. Manmade is-

projects that were implemented to protect eroding shorelines, re-nourish shorelines and to prevent the breaching of one ecosystem into another. These projects include a joint effort with Ducks Unlimited Texas and others for shoreline protection along the ICW in the JD Murphree Wildlife Management Area and along the ICW just north of the San Bernard River, where import-

CCA Texas also worked with Ducks Unlimited and others in Cow Trap Lake (Brazoria County) where marsh shorelines were losing ground to the elements yearly.

Other efforts included those with TPWD in Bird Island Cove in West Galveston Bay and Snake Island Cove with the Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF), also in West Galveston Bay.



Above, initial planting, June 17, 2014. Below, Oyster Lake aerial – Drone shot from Galveston Bay Foundation. Other photos from grass planting day also show the reef balls from phase one. Photos from Lisa Laskowski.

issues include development, the creation of channels through sensitive marsh for commercial purposes, the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) and others.

Natural issues include consistent prevailing winds impacting shorelines, hurricanes, winter storms and other effects of Mother Nature. CCA Texas's Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT) program has taken part in several

ant fresh water marsh lakes were being threatened by salt water intrusion from the ICW.

The latest effort to help protect and restore shoreline degradation was recently completed on the far western end of



On cover: Concert Art from the hand of award-winning artist Kim Ogonosky

West Galveston Bay along the Oyster Lake shoreline. This shoreline separates West Galveston Bay from Oyster Lake, a sensitive estuary lake accessible from the ICW and connecting creeks from Bastrop Bay.

Over time, it is estimated that over 650 feet of shoreline has been lost on the West Galveston Bay side, and 150 feet on the Oyster Lake side since the 1940s due to prevailing wind, currents and hurricanes. Furthermore, the rate of erosion appeared to be accelerating, as since 1995 up to 175 feet of shoreline was lost on the West Bay side and 55 feet from the Oyster Lake side.

This project was a multi-phase undertaking that used different types of breakwaters designed specifically

for shoreline protection and re-nourishment, and stretches across approximately 5,200 linear feet of critical habitat.

**P**hase I of the project placed 950 feet of shoreline breakwater along the West Galveston Bay and Oyster Lake shorelines. Another 500 linear



feet of reef balls were placed along the West Galveston Bay shoreline in a 3-wide configuration, and an additional 450 linear feet along the Oyster Lake shoreline in September 2013.

The impacts of the breakwater were seen quickly and between September 2013 and June 2014 in the

natural deposition of 1,100 cubic yards of material accumulating behind the breakwaters, thereby triggering the rebuilding process.

In June 2014, volunteers planted more than 2,000 smooth cord grass sprigs covering .75 acres in the area between the existing shoreline and the breakwater on the West Galveston Bay side. This cord grass was provided by project partner NRG and, since the original planting, the grass has been spreading and filling in the entire planted area.

**P**hase II construction began in October 2015. This phase of the project utilized limestone riprap to form the breakwater. This breakwater was built in segmented fashion to allow water to flow freely in and

out behind the breakwater and deposit materials that will eventually rebuild the shorelines.

**P**hase II was completed in early January 2016 and 4,786 feet of breakwater that protects 5,150 feet of shoreline are now in place to protect Oyster Lake and the vital ecosystem services that it

*The impacts of the breakwater were seen quickly and between September 2013 and June 2014 in the natural deposition of 1,100 cubic yards of material accumulating behind the breakwaters, thereby triggering the rebuilding process.*

*Below, initial planting, June 17, 2014.*



*Continued on page 8*



# 27th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo

**Don't Miss the Boat!**  
**Register by FRIDAY, APRIL 29 to Get in the Early Bird Drawings!**

Memorial Day weekend will be here before you know it! Mark your calendars, then SPOOL UP AND GET READY for the 27th Annual CCA Texas State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo (STAR) sponsored by the Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Home Corporation and Capital Farm Credit. The 2015 CCA Texas STAR drew over 48,000 participants to the Texas coast and a total of 118 anglers were the lucky recipients of some very impressive prizes and scholarships, making it one of the world's largest saltwater fishing tournaments. This year's event begins at sunrise on Saturday, May 28 and ends on Labor Day, September 5 at 5p.m. Could this be your year to claim one of over \$1,000,000 in prizes and scholarships?! Don't forget, by signing up now you could win one of the many fabulous prize offerings just for registering early! The CCA Texas STAR "Early Bird" Promotion will again offer another awesome "grand prize" boat package! The Dargel 210 Skout with a Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax motor and McClain trailer, a prize package valued at around \$40,000!

For those anglers who forget or procrastinate thinking "it will never happen to them or their kids", here's a story from Elgin resident, Nick Elliott that should convince you to get your 2016 CCA Texas STAR fishing insurance before wetting a line. On the morning of June 13, 2015, Nick Elliott decided to run out and fish the Port O'Connor jetty wall. The last red Elliott caught to meet his limit was a healthy 23 inches that immediately went into the ice chest. Nick and his buddy fished a little longer, then decided they better count to make sure they weren't over their limit. As soon as Nick picked up the last fish, he saw it... 2015 CCA Texas STAR TAG #TA694! Then the weirdest feeling of extreme joy, on top of deep sorrow came over him as he knew he was not signed up for the tournament. The bait shop where Nick usually launches offered instant

STAR registration, but since they didn't have live shrimp that morning, Nick went to another one down the road that had live shrimp. That was probably the biggest mistake of the weekend and everyone at the cleaning table let Nick know it. Even the game warden felt bad for him. Nick plans to mount his tagged red fish as a reminder to sign up every year before going fishing.

Sadly, Nick did not get to pick up a loaded Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT SuperCab, pulling a brand new 23' Haynie Big Foot boat rigged with a Mercury 150L Pro XS OptiMax motor and Coastline trailer prize package at October 2015 CCA Texas STAR Award Ceremony. Our sincere condolences, Nick. Better luck in 2016!



Nick Elliott with the Tagged Redfish that would have been worth an \$80,000 truck and boat package had he not procrastinated registering for the 2015 CCA Texas STAR!

**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 2016 TEXAS STAR entrant. CCA membership fee is \$30 annually and the 2016 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 2016 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 Member incentives available to CCA Texas STAR participants. Be sure and register now to get into the Early Bird Draw-

ings. Several prizes will be given away and they're sure to be a reel catch! Be sure and get everyone signed up for the 2016 STAR! Please see below for more details:

**2016 EARLY BIRD DRAWINGS!** Don't forget, by signing up now you could win 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 by Friday, April 29 at MIDNIGHT! The "Early Bird" Promotion will again offer another awesome "grand prize" boat package! The awesome Dargel 210 Skout with a Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax

## 2016 STAR Early Bird Drawing Deadline to enter is April 29th

\*\*\* GRAND PRIZE \*\*\*

Dargel 210 Skout, Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax 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  
 Fifteen (15) CCA Special Edition Posters

motor and McClain trailer - a prize package valued at around \$40,000! Everyone ages 21 and over that signs up now through April 29th 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 April 29th will automatically be entered for the 20 other great "Early Bird" prizes.



Terry Sharp of Round Rock was the lucky winner of the 2015 "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 2016 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!



2016 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT SuperCab with Haynie 23 Bigfoot, the Redfish Division prize.



**BEST IN TEXAS**

**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 \$30 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 2016 CCA Texas STAR participants will once again be 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.

**CCA Texas STAR Platinum Print Membership Package, Series VI** - Just as rainfall supercharges the bay systems, CCA Texas STAR is supercharged to announce the premium artwork line-up for the 2016 STAR Platinum Print offering. NEW this year is Good Morning Cedar Bayou, by the legendary Sam Caldwell. Recognized as the Texas State Artist in 2004, Sam's work is already a staple in many CCA member collections. His technique in diluted oils explodes the colors in an action scene that pays tribute to CCA's latest finished project, the newly opened Cedar Bayou. Envision yourself and your son, together, right there in the surf, in search of an elusive STAR-winning trout. Thank you, Sam, for sharing this gift! And for David Drinkard fans, STAR Platinum collectors can marvel over his next work in the series, King Ranch Shoreline. CCA outdoorsmen who hunt and fish will want this iconic scene of a trophy buck watching redfish action with pintail overhead... a Texas heritage, with a classic Drinkard sunrise... this one, indeed, captures it all! These amazing prints will have you wishing you were there! Specially commissioned for STAR members only, these beautiful pieces commemorate the precious opportunity found in Texas' blessed resources. Package includes your CCA membership

(new or renewal), your 2016 CCA Texas STAR entry, plus your choice of either of these fine signed, limited-edition prints created exclusively for STAR, all for \$125! These one-of-a-kind prints are worth this price alone. If you would like to consider one, or several, of these limited-edition packages, go to: <http://www.startournament.org>. For more details and/or to place your order with the STAR Dept., call (713) 626-4222. To ensure delivery in time for Christmas, please place your order by February 1, 2015.

**STILL AVAILABLE!** CCA Texas STAR Platinum Print, Series I, II, III, IV, V - STAR Reds, STAR Sightings, School Is In Session, Working the Spoils and Split Screen are still available. If you haven't purchased yet and would like to begin your CCA Texas STAR Platinum Collectible Series, please contact the STAR Dept. and we can get you fixed up. To own all seven of these commemorative pieces, purchase yours today before they're all gone! Proceeds from the sales of Platinum Packages will help us continue to fund the STAR scholarships.

**2016 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 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 2016 will continue to offer the same amazing prize line-up this year! 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 2016 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 \$25,000 college scholarship, in lieu of the truck.*

*STAR has reached \$5,525,000 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.*

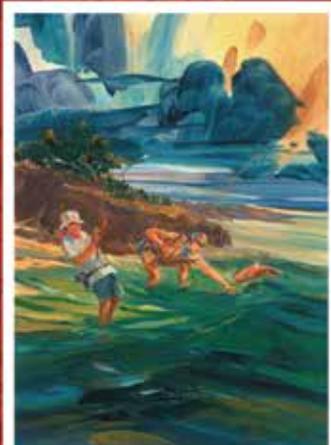
## COLLECT THE 2016 STAR PLATINUM PRINTS



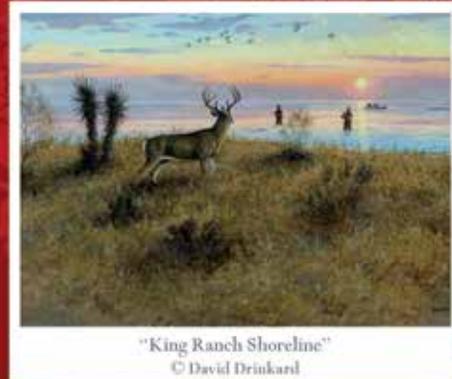
*Two choices...one great cause!*

Act now to own ONE or BOTH of these signed, limited-edition prints! Renowned artists Sam Caldwell and David Drinkard showcase their unique styles exclusively for CCA Texas STAR 2016. Pick your favorite or buy both!

*CCA Membership and STAR registration included with your purchase.*



"Good Morning Cedar Bayou"  
© Sam Caldwell



"King Ranch Shoreline"  
© David Drinkard

*Proceeds from the sale of these limited-edition packages will help us continue to fund the STAR scholarships.*

[ccatexas.org](http://ccatexas.org) ★ [startournament.org](http://startournament.org)  
(713) 626-4222



All NEW Trout Division Prize - the Mowdy 22' V

**Trout Division - ATTENTION TROUT ANGLERS!**

We are thrilled to announce an ALL new prize offering for this division! Winners in the upper, middle, and lower coast regions will each take home the awesome Mowdy 22' V boat with a Suzuki DF150 motor and Coastline trailer. The 22' V hull design is the perfect boat to handle shallow and rough water and remain completely dry. Mowdy fishermen know that the V-Hull is the most versatile hull on the market. With its 8" draft, the Mowdy gives you all of the best that a fishing boat has to offer. In true Mowdy heritage, the 22' offers everything that you expect from the Mowdy name. 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.

**Offshore Division - ATTENTION BLUE WATER ANGLERS!**

Hoffpauir 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 - ATTENTION INSHORE ANGLERS!**

We have an exciting new, versatile Inshore Division Boat Prize for 2016! Winners who land the heaviest flounder, sheephead and gafftop will each take home the awesome Shoalwater 19' Cat boat with a Mercury 115 ELPT 4S motor and McClain trailer. The 19' Shoalwater Cat floats and runs shallower due to less deadrise in the bow and less weight resulting in an excellent ride in extremely shallow waters, plus runs well in moderate chop, due to the tunnel hull design. The 6" draft will al-

Inshore Division - Shoalwater 19' Cat boat with a Mercury 115 ELPT 4S motor



low you to get shallower than most flats boats that are much smaller.

In the past twenty-one years, STAR has awarded \$5,525,000 in college scholarships to 174 fisher-kids across the state, ranging from 6-17 years of age and 2016 continues to offer plenty of reason for everyone to round up their kid(s), a rod and reel and head for the water. And, now we're thrilled to announce even more reason to get your kids and teenagers out on the water! We're increasing the seven \$20,000 scholarships to \$25,000!!!

**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.

**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 Sheephead Division** - This division gives entrants age 6-10 a chance to win a \$50,000 college scholarship for the largest sheephead 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 \$25,000 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.



**StarTeens Inshore Division** - This youth scholarship division is open to all New Tide members ages 11-17 and awards a \$25,000 college scholarship for each fisher-teen with the largest flounder, gafftop and sheephead

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 2016. "New Tide" STAR participants at least, 6 - 17 years old in 2016, are eligible for a bonus drawing that will net one lucky youth a \$25,000 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 Dargel 210 Skout with a Mercury 150 motor and McClain trailer.

Major sponsors for the 27th Annual CCA Texas STAR

Tournament include: Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Home Corporation, Capital Farm Credit, Mercury Marine, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, Rio Ammunition, LP Building Products, KTRK-abc13, Houston Community Newspapers, Haynie Boats, Mowdy Boats, Hoffpauir Polaris, Dargel Boats, Shoalwater 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!

**STAR TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR'S NOTES**

We would like to salute our STAR title partners for supporting CCA's mission of conservation, habitat improvement and over \$5 million in scholarships collectively for over 38 years. Heck, you may even discover many serve on the volunteer boards at your chapter.

**Here are some thoughts:**

If you want to see all the various options and colors available on Ford trucks, just attend a CCA banquet. Talk about a parking lot of fine trucks! The Texas Ford Dealers have invested in CCA for over 20 years. Who else would actually produce a TV commercial and pay for massive air time to highlight CCA's resource enhancement activities? Not to mention the "lure" of catching tagged redfish in STAR and winning one of the five trucks. These outdoorsmen back it up. Even if a kid not of legal driving age catches a tagged red, these friends will provide a scholarship instead.



**BEST IN TEXAS**

Having partnered with CCA for over a dozen years, most members know Tilson specializes in building exactly what you want, wherever you want it. You can imagine the kinship with your builder - Tilson's president donates his time as president of the Houston Big Game Fishing Club. When you get your dirt, consider the multiple options that Tilson Homes can provide. Outstanding partners!



Nobody likes the down oil economy in Texas but if ever there was a time to find your piece-of-heaven in the country or on the bay, this is it. Capital Farm Credit can make your dream happen. CCA members report solid professionals really ease the process and make the numbers work for you. Indeed, as just hunters and fishermen like we all are, our friends at Capital Farm Credit even pay annual cash dividends in appreciation for the business! Thank you, gentlemen. Appreciate your support of our mission here too.



Thanks to you, our member, for appreciating the serious intent of STAR partners. Every single one earns your consideration and hopefully your patronage. And we can all be grateful our mutual efforts have produced the hottest inshore fishery for years to come. Now let's get out there and get after them. Good luck and God Bless in STAR 2016!



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This is the issue of April/May 2016  
Vol. 34, Issue 3



Two big winners at the Sabine-Neches banquet

## Moderno's Grilled Redfish Tacos

**Makes 2 tacos** Two 2oz Fresh Redfish filet pieces  
1 Tablespoon Cajun Seasoning / Salt & Pepper to Taste / Olive Oil / 4 Corn Tortillas / Jalapeno Cilantro Ranch (recipe below) / 1 Bag Shredded Cabbage Slaw / 1 Bunch Cilantro / 1 Lime

Coat the redfish filets lightly in Cajun seasoning, salt & pepper. Coat with olive oil and then place on a hot grill for approx. 12 minutes – 6 minutes on each side. Meanwhile, place each corn tortilla individually in a sauté pan over medium heat until they are warm and soft to the touch. Stack 2 tortillas together on a plate for each taco. Place one redfish filet on each taco. Add shredded cabbage slaw and top with jalapeno cilantro ranch. Garnish with fresh cilantro and a lime wedge on the side. Serve with rice and beans.

### Jalapeno Cilantro Ranch

1.5 cups ranch dressing / ¼ cup pickled jalapenos

¼ cup fresh cilantro leaves

Puree all ingredients together in a food processor or a blender



Moderno Tacos & TexMex. Visit our website: [www.motacos.com](http://www.motacos.com)



## Caught Redhanded!

Reports from TP&W Game Wardens



On February 29, Galveston County Wardens apprehended two anglers who were 81 red snapper over the limit. Multiple cases and civil restitution are pending.

On December 11, 2015, Galveston County Wardens were conducting gulf shrimp boat inspections. One vessel was found with 111 spanish mackerel over the limit, 96 sheepshead over the limit, possession of lightning whelks and possession of red snapper in a closed season.

On October 10, 2015, Galveston County Wardens were conducting gulf shrimp boat inspections and found one vessel with 18 bags of ling, undersized ling, and possession of red snapper in a closed season.

WF Skeen  
Major Game Warden  
Region IV LE

Texas Game Wardens serving Texans  
since 1895-Law Enforcement Off the Pavement



## We want you to fish for us!

CCA Texas and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) encourages volunteers to help with fishing surveys for the East Galveston Bay Reef Restoration project. It's critical to have data and you can be that important Fishing Scientist.

The \$3.7 million project restored approximately 140 acres of oyster reef in the East Galveston Bay system. Areas restored include one location on Hannah's Reef, two locations on Pepper Grove and two locations on Middle Reef.

This effort continues to be an important part of the project. As a Fishing Scientist, your efforts will be critical in understanding the benefits of oyster reef restoration all along the Texas coast. Contact: Bill Rodney (TPWD) at 281-534-0127

[bill.Rodney@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:bill.Rodney@tpwd.texas.gov)

Or, Bryan Legare (TPWD)

at 281-534-0103

[bryan.legare@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:bryan.legare@tpwd.texas.gov)

Or, John Blaha (CCA Texas)

at 713-626-4222

[jdblaha@ccatexas.org](mailto:jdblaha@ccatexas.org)



## Ellen Ohmstede Retires From CCA

Ellen Ohmstede is retiring from CCA after 20 years. Ellen started with CCA as a Banquet Assistant in 1996. After several years, she was promoted to an Assistant Director position working with our local chapters with their fundraising efforts. Under her leadership, her chapters have continued to grow and have played an important part in the success of the organization.

Ellen has been a tremendous asset to CCA, and a personality we will not be able to replace. We wish her the best in her future endeavors, and will always be grateful for what she has contributed to CCA during her 20 years. From all of the CCA volunteers and staff; Ellen we thank you!

Executive Director Robby Byers presents service award for 20 years to Ellen Ohmstede.



# Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

## BUILDING A FUTURE FOR TEXAS MARINE HABITAT



—Continued from page 3



provides.

The final steps in the project are to accomplish baseline data collection for annual monitoring and developing a grass planting strategy for the entire project.

Partnerships are crucial in completing projects such as these and CCA Texas is proud to have been a part of the project through the direct contribution of \$200,000. This was important as it established groundwork for GBF to secure another \$270,000 in matching dollars. These funds along with other funds from project partners bring together many groups in the common cause to help protect and restore vital coastal habitat along the Texas coast.

Project partners included Galveston Bay Foundation, CCA Texas, Ducks Unlimited, NOAA, Texas General Land Office, Galveston Bay Estuary Program, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund and US Fish and Wildlife Service.



*TOWA Conference: The CCA booth was a central point as Kim Ogonosky's videos repeated, along with Chris Smisek's Cedar Bayou opening video.*

The Keynote Spokesman, **Carter Smith**, TPWD Commission Chairman expressed his gratitude for all that CCA does to make the Texas outdoors a better place.

**David Sikes** of the Corpus Christi Caller Times is the outgoing TOWA President. He may have heard the rumor we spread that someone else was to be the L.L. Wilke Award winner. Wrong. Winner of TOWA's highest award for service to the Texas outdoors was David Sikes. —**Sam Caldwell**



## CCA communicators again seize top state awards

**Kerrville, TX**—*The Texas Outdoor Writers Association (TOWA) presented awards for excellence at the YO Ranch Hilton Hotel.*

**Heather Peterek** took First Place in Special Projects-Conservation for "Building Conservation Trust," And Third Place, Outdoor Publications for *Rising Tide*. Heather also took a Third Place in Outdoor Webpage category for the new *Building Conservation* website, [buildingconservation.org](http://buildingconservation.org). Great wins against tough competition.

**Kim Ogonosky** almost ran the table in the Outdoor Television Video category with Second and Third Places.

**Ted Venker** took First Place in Original Internet Story Blog, "Angling Matters." And, a huge win, Second Place for Outdoor Publications, *TIDE Magazine*.

**Sam Caldwell** took First Place for a Currents front cover painting, "Nearshore Reefing in Action."

There was standing room only at the CCA Booth to watch Kim Ogonosky and Chris Smisek's videos.



Heather Peterek



Kim Ogonosky



Ted Venker



Sam Caldwell

## Upper Coast

By Capt. Billy Penick

### Focus on Matching The Hatch

Spring is here, water temperatures are rising and game fish are on the move! Throughout April, anglers should focus on following the schools of trout and redfish from their muddy bottom winter grounds, to hard-bottom flats. I like to focus on the first flats off the main channels and at the mouth of ditches. The key to finding the right flat is finding the water that stays decent in color and has a rising water temp every day.

Moving into April, I really focus on "matching the hatch" when it comes to lure selection. I often find the smaller plastics and topwaters get more bites than the larger swim bait style lures. Reason: smaller baitfish are more prevalent, so on they're first on the menu for all gamefish.

April and May, my main go-to lure is a Berkley Havoc on a jig head. I also throw Sebile flat belly walkers in shad color during the early spring to a get a reaction bite.

Spring brings out the warm-weather boaters all over the lakes and bays every year. There are lots more of us out there now, so boat courtesy and being careful of your surroundings is very important.

Galveston bay has been and will stay on fire throughout the spring leading to summer, while the fish are moving out from the backwaters. This will be a great time to take a kid fishing this spring!

I offer different styles of trips to accommodate every angler, as you can see on my website below. Know the conditions before you go, make your plans, remember that conservation of the resource is your responsibility— send the big girls back for further duty. Be safe, and tight lines — **Capt. Billy Penick III** / 281-415-6586 / [penickbilly@yahoo.com](mailto:penickbilly@yahoo.com)  
Tidewater Outdoors / 281-813-0182

## Middle Coast

By Capt. Stephen Boriskie  
*Cool, windy, choppy, great!*

April and May are times of wonder and amazement. You wonder if the weather is going to cooperate, and there are times of amazement at how good your catch was that day.

This is my second favorite time of the year (right behind the Fall) for similar reasons. Like Fall, Texas weather can be erratic followed by days of perfection. Wading with soft plastics in your favorite colors works very well. For me that's an assortment of Texas Trout Killers and Killer Flats Minnows in root beer, morning glory, chicken on a chain, and roach, all with either a chartreuse or fire tail. I love Corky Devil's as well in similar colors.

Topwater's like the Super Spook Junior in most any shiny color are fantastic this time of year too. My buddy Tim always says, "I'll be using something that rattles and floats!" Mix it up to see what's working, at day break with a darker color. Move to lighter colors to shiny as the sun get's up. Take your time on the wade; don't move too fast. Slow the retrieve at times; the tortoise may win this race at the end of the day.

My live bait customers enjoy this time of year and I gotta say it's a fun time to be the guide. Most of the day is spent baiting hooks with live shrimp, netting fish and then doing it all over after the ensuing high fives. Plenty of bait this time of year and plenty of fish to catch around these parts and all over the Texas coast.

It's going to be WINDY, it's most likely going to be COOL, and it's definitely going to be CHOPPY on the water. Dress for the conditions and you can STAY AT THE FISHING longer and enjoy it more. Of course, use good judgement on the weather and keep an eye to the sky but don't let some drizzle and 60 degree temps. with lighter winds keep you from enjoying a great day on the water.

— **Capt. Stephen Boriskie**  
Bay Flats Lodge / Seadrift, Texas [bayflatslodge.com](http://bayflatslodge.com)

## Lower Coast

By Capt. Sally Black  
*And now it begins...*

With life-giving rains, all areas of the Lower Texas coast—from Corpus Christi to Port Mansfield—are now back in good shape, and will only improve in the coming months.

Baffin Bay is a shining jewel of trout green water, crystal clear shorelines and grass growing in abundance. This new beginning for Baffin Bay, after a long drought and a brown tide event, has been highly anticipated.

The bay has been living up to her reputation for producing some really big trout and that will continue through April and May. With all kinds of bait in abundance, whether fishing on the rocks, shorelines or sight casting with a fly rod, some really fun days of fishing are here.

Big trout are eating big mullet, trying to fatten up for the spawn which usually occurs sometime in May, when water temperature reach 75 to 80 degrees and stays there. Mullet, lots of blue crabs, shrimp, glass minnows and pin perch— it's a smorgasbord for all fish the next two months!

Top water action will be hot, with Saltwater Assassins in light colors on our signature, "Black's Magic" a super light 1/32 ounce jig head with a 1/0 hook, coming to a tackle store near you!

Natural colors are the key, including white, and all spectrums of it, whether straight tail or paddle tail. Top waters will include the "One-Knocker Spook," the "Skitterwalk" and the "Super Spook Jr." The well-known "Rocks of Baffin," which in essence act like a coral reef, are holding bait and all kinds of fish, including good, solid keeper trout, big reds and lots of black drum. Whether drifting the deeper rocks or wading the shallow ones, the rocks of Baffin are a great place to start for a fresh fish dinner, and maybe that trophy of a lifetime.

Fly fishermen will stalk the super shallow edges for cruising or tailing redfish, black drum or a laid-up big trout lurking in the grass or sand pockets. These shallow water fish just can't say no to a #4 Clouser in white or small white crabs tossed to the right place.

April and May are the start of a great season of fishing on Baffin Bay. The "new" Baffin Bay Rod and Gun has opened its doors after a devastating fire and a two year journey to rebuild, bigger and better! Now, the lodge can sleep 20 people in great comfort and in a beautiful setting. Chef JJ is serving up five-star meals and the rest of the staff, including some great new guides, are helpful and happy. It's been a long road, but the dream of the Capt.'s Black has now become a reality.

Don't miss two of the best months to fish on Baffin Bay. We hope to see you in the "new" Baffin Bay Rod and Gun Lodge— a great place to stay for your adventure of a lifetime!

— **Capt. Sally Black / Capt. Aubrey Black**  
Co-Owners, Baffin Bay Rod and Gun  
[www.BaffinBayRodandGun.com](http://www.BaffinBayRodandGun.com)  
Facebook: Baffin Bay Rod and Gun

Captains Sally and Aubrey Black are longtime CCA supporters, with credits for many high dollar donations to CCA banquets, and educational appearances at chapter events. After a disastrous fire, they have recently rebuilt and improved their lodge on Baffin Bay. Drop by their website for a preview. Best wishes to our CCA friends on Baffin Bay. — **Sam Caldwell**



**ALABAMA**  
**Ryan Bingham**



# Coming your way May 21!

**Fifth Annual  
CCA  
Concert  
For Conservation**

**Information and  
tickets available at  
[ccatexas.org](http://ccatexas.org)  
or  
[shrp.com](http://shrp.com)**

# CCA Texas Social Happenings

If you haven't been by the fresh new CCA Texas website, stop on by [www.ccatexas.org](http://www.ccatexas.org) to see all of the great changes that have been made!

Banquet season is in full swing, so make sure you stay in the loop by liking us on Facebook and following us on Twitter! 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, Instagram, and YouTube to get the latest updates from CCA Texas and become a part of the conversation! Want to submit a photo of a great catch or fun times at a CCA Texas event to be featured on one of our social media platforms? Email it to [webmaster@ccatexas.org](mailto:webmaster@ccatexas.org) for consideration!



## Facebook:

Our Texas Gulf Coast really is spectacular! Check out this beautiful photo Brian Davis sent to us. His father snapped this great shot in Port O'Connor.

## Twitter:

@CCA\_Texas: Concert for Conservation (5/21) tix on sale now! Feat. @TheAlabamaBand & @RyanBingham!



## Instagram:

@cca\_texas: Avid angler, 13 year old Mack Helble, caught this beauty in Port Aransas. Nice work, Mack! We love to see parents taking their kids fishing! #joincca #conservation #takeakidfishing



## Facebook:

[facebook.com/CCATexas](https://www.facebook.com/CCATexas)

Twitter: [twitter.com/CCA\\_Texas](https://twitter.com/CCA_Texas)

Instagram: [instagram.com/cca\\_texas](https://www.instagram.com/cca_texas)

YouTube: [youtube.com/ccatexasprojects](https://www.youtube.com/ccatexasprojects)

# Chapter Updates

## Alvin-Pearland

Emery Sadler 713-501-2778

Monthly General Meetings (Anglers Night Out): 7PM - First Tuesday of the month.

Location: Spring Creek BBQ  
9005 Broadway, Pearland Tx. 77584

2016 Meeting schedule:

March-1 Speaker: Capt. Billy Penick of Gypsy Guide Service

April-5 Speaker: Capt. Mike Cacciotti of Mike's Fishing Service

May-3 / June-7

July-August- NO MEETING,  
GONE FISHING

September-6 / October-4

Alvin/Pearland CCA Chapter Banquet June 16, 2016, 6pm.

Location: Knights of Columbus Hall, 2320 Hatfield Road, Pearland Tx 77581.

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

Chapter Updates have been 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), and click on Chapters.

correct information before you enter the registration process.

The last day for regular registration is 4/15/2016. All registrations received after this date and prior to the 4/30/2016 cutoff date will pay a late registration fee of \$120. If you have any questions, email Karol at [CCABabes@gmail.com](mailto:CCABabes@gmail.com) or call her at 361-386-0028.

What a difference a year makes in weather conditions for the Billy Sandifer Big Shell Beach Cleanup! Beach/tide conditions for the 2015 cleanup resulted in a hasty retreat due to a rising tide washing out the last signs of a track to follow on the drive out to a most

beautiful, warm, sunny day with low wind and tides for the 2016 cleanup. Better conditions could not have been planned.

Again the Aransas Bay Chapter had a good turnout of veteran supporters, to our active winter Texans and a number of first time volunteers. A good time for all.

Chapter support of the Abandoned Crab Trap Project reminded all of us of the importance of the project. One gets a

great sense of accomplishment when they release crabs from an abandoned crab trap and follow-up with the removal of the death sentence it has been to so many crabs. Continued support of this project is vital to a viable and healthy ecosystem.

## Mark your calendars:

May 13-14, 2016: Babes on the Bay  
August 13, 2016: Aransas Bay Chapter Banquet —Carter Crigler

## Austin

Josh Cook 512-656-2964

Fellow CCA Members – Your wait is near-



Aransas Bay Chapter volunteers, 2016 Billy Sandifer Big Shell Beach Cleanup

## Aransas Bay

Carter Crigler 435-830-5984

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

Registration for Babes on the Bay XVII will have been underway for two months by the time you are reading this. Do not delay, make your team registration today by going to [www.BabesOnTheBay.com](http://www.BabesOnTheBay.com) and click on the registration tab. Online registration will be used exclusively for the event.

Karol and her team have found some really awesome items for the swag bag this year, so get registered to insure you get the correct tee size. One person registers the entire team, so make sure you have everyone's



Sincere thanks to Denbow Company Inc. and S.WATTSGROUP, our Austin chapter boat sponsors, Wes at Shallow Sport Boats and Marty at Coastline Trailers for making this special rig possible.

COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

TEXAS

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube icons

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube!

ly over! **The 2016 Austin Banquet, presented by Covert Chevrolet and Independence Title, is just around the corner. Mark your calendar, purchase your table, and plan to rally for your organization on May 12th.**

It was through your support that the Austin Chapter set yet another fundraising record in 2015. Let's shoot for a four-peat! There will be top-notch food, drinks for all, and Charlie Robison on stage. Up for grabs will be exotic trips, tons of guns and fishing gear, Yetis, boats, trucks, and over \$100,000 worth of raffle items. With all that on the agenda the evening will prove to be exciting. Go to [www.ccaustin.org](http://www.ccaustin.org) for table and ticket sales as well as any additional info. Seating for this banquet is sure to sell out, so don't delay in purchasing your spot!

A special thanks goes out to all of our generous sponsors. It's through their commitment to CCA that the Austin Banquet shines like no other. Space constraints don't allow us to acknowledge all of our sponsors in this newsletter. Please take a minute and check out the complete list of sponsors on [www.ccaustin.org](http://www.ccaustin.org). These folks support the mission of CCA and, as members of CCA, we should all support their businesses as often as possible.

Shallow Sport has done us proud once again. Our banquet boat – a 21' Modified "V" carries about every option imaginable. Sitting on a Coastline Custom trailer, it's a stunningly beautiful rig, ready to explore any water of your choosing. Check out a picture of this rig (and consider buying a chance on her) by visiting the website. Or if you find yourself in Buda, visit Cabela's and get a first-hand look – she's sitting out front. There are limited tickets for a chance to win this beauty. So, once again, I suggest you don't delay!

One final word – be sure to "Like" CCA Austin on Facebook and spread the word. See you on May 12th! – **Josh Cook**

### Bay Area

**Curtis Anderson 832-421-6377**

### Brazoria County



*Full house for Brazos Valley*

**Wes Dingee 979-299-8245**

### Brazos Valley

**John Ben Strother 979-220-1738**

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

The 24th annual Brazos Valley Banquet is in the record books. We opened the doors at 5:30 March 3rd and had a 400+ crowd join us. Our team of volunteers put it together like a "well oiled machine" and would like to thank them for all the hard work. We had several new faces on the committee that fell in to help just like our veterans and we hope they will continue the support.

The crowd was entertained by walls lined with tables of silent auction items, ticket raffle, bucket raffles, and games. Our sponsors supplied a lot of unique items to bid on and CCA had a great line up of trip, art, and usual. Everyone was served a excellent meal from **C&J Barbecue** and quenched their thirst from **Hillard Distributing and Luke's Bartending**. Auctioneer **Ed Phillips** and his spotters entertained the crowd and our ticket sales girls did a

great job. Because of this team we grossed the most in our 24 years.

We now need to thank the great people and sponsors of the Brazos Valley from who supply the monies the make this a success. Without them we would not accomplished the goal we set this year "A BIG Thank You". Everyone that participates at the banquet is making a insurance that future generations will have a coast like we have.

Now that this is done our focus is going fishing. Old man winter gave us extra days this year and hope everyone got to take advantage of some. The spring is here and we are going to put a club trip together for May.

We need our Brazos Valley membership to come to our meetings and give us some input to where we should go. Our meetings are held at the **Brazos Center Pavilion on the second Tuesday each month**.

We have food, beverages, raffle, and lots of fish stories so come join us. If you need more information call, text, or email us. Don't forget those re fish license plates because a big part of the money goes directly to CCA. – **John Ben**

### Brenham

**Dennis Crowson**

**979-451-2472**

The Brenham Chapter of CCA held their February monthly meeting on February 25th at **Mike Hopkins Distributing, Matagorda guide, Tommy Alexander**, had a very informative presentation on current fishing techniques in the Matagorda area as well as some great wild hog-fishing tips!



*Central Houston's 22' Mowdy powered by a 175 HP Suzuki 4-stroke engine. Thanks again to Mowdy Boats and Coastline Trailers.*

Everyone is invited to our March meeting on March 24th when **Gerald Herrmann** will be presenting on rod and reel care.

Individual tickets and a limited number of tables are still available for the **Chapter's annual crawfish banquet on April 28th**. For information see the website or contact **Brandon Marth** at (979)525-9328. <http://www.ccatexas.org/chapters/inland/brenham/>

The Brenham CCA chapter is sponsored by

**Mike Hopkins Distributing**. For more information contact me at 979-451-2472 or [dennis.crowson@hotmail.com](mailto:dennis.crowson@hotmail.com) – **Dennis Crowson**

### Brush Country

**Welcome new president, Brenda Ballard**

**361-296-4037**

Our annual Fish Fry Banquet in November 2015 was a big success. Thanks to all of our sponsors and underwriters for their donations.

We will be hosting our annual **Dean Ash Memorial Baffin Bay Shoot Out May 28, 2016**. For more information please contact us at [brushcountrycca@gmail.com](mailto:brushcountrycca@gmail.com).

Our chapter is always looking for new members and directors. If you are interested in donating your time to a great organization please contact us at [brushcountrycca@gmail.com](mailto:brushcountrycca@gmail.com) or call me at 361-296-4037. – **Brenda Ballard**

### Centex

**Wayne Webb**

**254-405-1300** [sheyhunt@aol.com](mailto:sheyhunt@aol.com)

### Central Houston

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

**The 40th Annual Central Houston CCA Banquet**

**will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2016**. Once again, the banquet will be held at **Bayou City Event Center, located at 9401 Knight Road, Houston, Texas**.

We will be raffling a 22' Mowdy powered by a 175 HP Suzuki 4-stroke engine. The boat and engine will be sitting on an aluminum Coastline trailer. Thank you to **Mowdy Boats and Coastline Trailers** for their continued support of the Central Houston Chapter. If you are interested in purchasing a table, individual ticket, or raffle ticket you can contact **Todd Buster** at [tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com](mailto:tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com) or **Coleman Todd** at [coleman@ccatexas.org](mailto:coleman@ccatexas.org).

– Todd

### Colorado Valley

**Eugene Ulrich 979-249-7425**

### Corpus Christi

**Jay Gardner 361-658-7159**

[tarponchaser@mail.com](mailto:tarponchaser@mail.com)

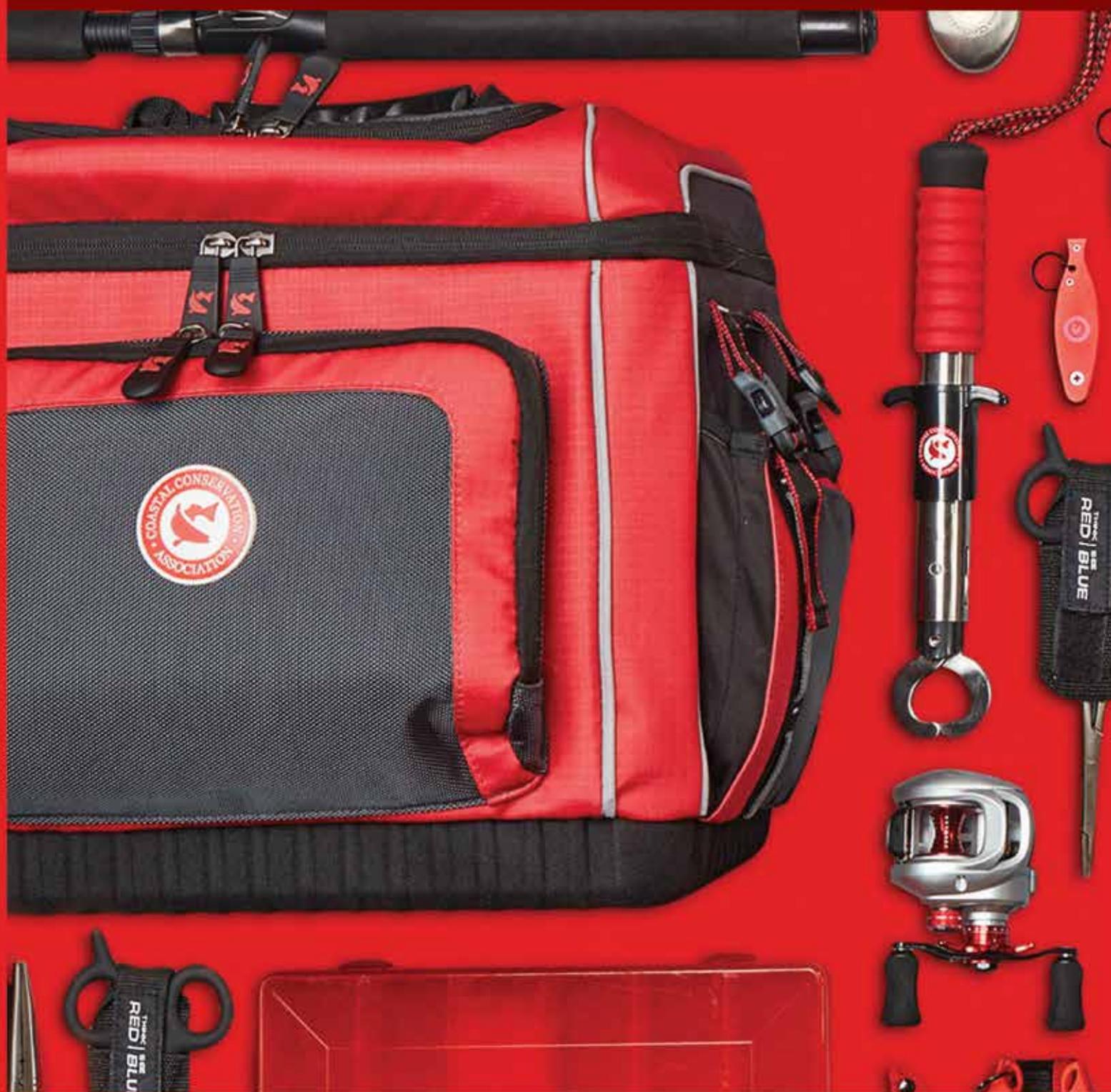
Greeting from the Coastal Bend! We're trying to catch our breath here as we just put our 38th annual banquet to bed at the beginning of March. Wow what a turnout! Thanks to all of our attendees and sponsors for this great event, bigger and better every year! Thanks to all of our sponsors who make the event what it is, from **Andrews Distributing, L&F Distributing, Gulf Tractor, Academy, Caller Times, Mattress Firm, Flint Hills, Premier Yamaha**, and all the rest of our sponsors who come on board with us. I would also like to thank **Nyati Services, Inc.** and especially **YT and Virginia** for your support and patience as the hat sponsor. Of course thanks **Will Ohmstede, Jr.** for the cozies and **Mark Afram** for the guns.

A big thanks goes to **Cliff Johnstone** for taking on the monumental task of serving as **Banquet Chair**; you crushed it Cliff! Co-Chair AND Boat Chairman **Joseph Briones** also was huge on getting it all done! Thanks to **Jake Herring**, Food and Beverage Chairman, for getting a great spread together and additional supplies we needed at the last minute.

Silent auction, raffle, and blackboard Co-Chairpersons **Judy Arnold** and **Valerie Chilton**, with the team of **Angie, Colin, Alex, Kesley** and the **TAMUCC Island Anglers** put together one of the best tables of items that I have ever seen; there were tons of great art and prizes, and they hit a home run.

Thanks to new facilities chair **George Hill** for helping coordinate with the American Bank Center,

# KEEP THE COASTS CLEAN



**Join Academy® Sports + Outdoors in partnership with the CCA to**  
With each purchase of CCA branded gear, a portion of the proceeds will help in the efforts to p



the place looked great. **David Harris and Corey Survant**, made sure the Live Auction did better than they've ever done. Thanks to **Bruce Laser** (Treasurer) and co-chair **David Norris** for getting the Guides Cup together.

Thanks to our AD **John Blaha**, and of course **Randy Poelma** (past President) for making sure that we did it right. Thanks to the stand-out board-members this year (**Troy Adler, Rodney Gamez, Dr. Robert Vega, Paul Silva, Dr. Arnold Villarreal, Jeff Smith, John Fry, Mark Fling, Clint Smith, John Arnim, the Hybner brothers, Robbie Robinson, Brittany Flores, Jesse Torres, Courtney Johnstone, Tyler Thorsen, George Hill, Brad Zunker** and many others) for showing up to the meetings, getting it done, and making sure everyone had a great time, all in the name of conservation.

We'll be preparing to host the **Return of the Poco Rojo Kidsfish event, the Guides Cup, and the ever popular Babes on Baffin Ladies fishing tournament**, heading into our 12th year.

**Lauren Roesener** will have more updates on the Babes website as time gets closer. Stay tuned, and drop me an email at tarponchaser@mail.com to learn how to participate. —**Jay Gardner**

### Dallas / North Texas

**Hal Thomas 972-612-1684**

Dallas is at it again. Chapter meetings are planned for February and March and the **banquet is coming in April**. We recently enjoyed listening to **Forrest Volentine** talk to us about top water fishing during the January Chapter Meeting held at **Tailwaters Fly Fishing Company on Levee Street in Dallas**.

Forrest explained why guys like me never catch the "big" fish. To summarize, he says I just don't know how to think like a fish. Go figure, he knows me and the fish since I really do not understand what I am doing and that's why I need to attend more meetings with speakers like Forrest.

Forrest talked about selecting the type of lure, colors and sounds, rods choices and especially interesting, how to action the lure while retrieving a cast. He also shared insight regarding braided lines, line weight and many other techniques to make day or night fishing most enjoyable.

Forrest... THANK YOU! And, the good news is, I found it most encouraging to have many in the group tell me that I might have potential. We will see if it is true during the next Inter-Chapter Challenge.

**The Dallas Chapter is in full swing getting ready for the Thursday, April 21 banquet.** We have two local chapter meetings coming up as well. The banquet committee is selling tables, soliciting sponsors, inviting guests and securing great prizes in hopes of making this year's banquet even better than before. G-Texas will cater the event at Frontiers of Flight Museum. We hope to see everyone there and we hope you bring many friends. Tight Lines —**Hal**

### East Texas

**Dr. Jim Norman 936-554-3165**  
jnorman7@suddenlink.net

### Fort Bend

**Robb Gaston 281-239-9755**

**Welcome to the 30th Annual Fort Bend CCA Banquet! Join us at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, April 14.** You'll enjoy great food and some tremendous auction items, including a Wilderness Systems Tarpon 140 Kayak, a Remington 700 CDL Classic Deluxe 30-06 rifle, and much more.

Bring a friend or two! For tickets, call **Albert Davis, 281-232-7707** or **me, 281-230-9755**. All table reservations include a one year CCA membership. Special tables include \$200 worth of bucket raffle tickets. To reserve a table, call **Kyle Johnson, 713-545-1147**. Seaya there, —**Robb Gaston**.

### Fort Worth

**Hunter Baird 817-437-8351**

Greetings from your Fort Worth Board of Directors. Here in North Texas, it has been a fairly quiet couple of months. The only excitement came when there was a big fight at the seafood restaurant. Three fish got battered.

**Our bi-annual General Membership Meeting and Fish fry is on March 10th at Panther Island Brewery.** Please note the venue change – we are very excited about the new local brewery that has signed on to help us in our efforts to provide quality events for you all. As usual come hungry and come thirsty.

As a thank you for your continued support, your board will be providing fish from their recent fishing trips and all beverages from **Panther Island Brewery**. There will also be a raffle for some great prizes. The secondary focus of this event is to turn everyone's attention to our **main banquet fundraiser at Joe T Garcia's. The drinks will start flowing on Cinco de Mayo (May 5th, 2016) at Joe T's in the historic stockyards.**

Feel free to reach out to **John Black** (jonathan\_black@ml.com), **Hunter Baird** (baridhunter@gmail.com) or **Brad Wallace** (brad@northtexasmarine.com) regarding the annual meeting. Keep an eye out for mailers and emails reminding you of both upcoming events. Table sales and sponsorship packages are available now.

With over 300 guests in attendance this is a great way to get your company in front of business owners and outdoor enthusiasts from all walks of life. We all serve a great cause and couldn't thank you enough for your support especially in light of the challenging times we have seen over the last decade! We look forward to seeing you at the GM and Annual banquet soon. In the meantime don't hesitate to reach out to us if there is anything we can do. —**Hunter Baird**

### Galveston

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

**The CCA Galveston chapter is in full swing planning for the 2016 banquet on August 6th.** We will



*This year Galveston's boat is a 22' Mowdy with a 175 Suzuki motor.*

soon be taking delivery of the boat for our pre-sale raffle, so be sure to contact a board member if you would like to purchase raffle tickets.

The tickets will be \$25 each, or 5 for \$100. **This year's boat is a 22' Mowdy with a 175 Suzuki motor.** We will be having a general membership meeting on

April the 7th so be sure to come out for a night with your fellow CCA members. Coming up on April, 9th the Galveston chapter will be hosting our annual Kid Fish Tournament so bring out your kids and grandkids, and join in the fun! Details will be posted to the chapter page at ccatexas.org. —**Ken Ellis**

### Golden Triangle

**Welcome new president, Tyler Coco**  
409-651-6004

tylercoco7@yahoo.com

This February, we had our annual membership meeting. Formerly known as the general membership meeting, the "Anglers Night Out," was a great success. Special thanks to our very own board member, David Thompson, with **BlueDaves Southern BBQ** who catered the event. Also, our guest speaker, **Bill Kinney with CCA Star Tournament**, did an incredible job informing the audience of the wonderful contributions this program has made to the youth of the state of Texas.

I also thank the **Beaumont Event Center** for hosting, **Giglio Distributing, Del Papa Distributing, Classic Chevrolet, Texas Marine and Pete Jorgensen Marine** for all of their contributions.

Finally, a big thanks to Joel Foxworth for his hard work last year as president; making 2015 a huge success. As your new president, I would like to leave you with this: "Let's make our bay systems great again." —**Tyler Coco**

### Greater Sugar Land

**Richard Lindley 832-270-0398**

richardlindley@att.net

We just returned from Sargent, Texas for the **Crab Trap Pull**. Fun time was had by all. **We have been working hard on our upcoming banquet April 7, 2016.** We are selling raffle tickets at Academy Sugar Land, Academy Missouri City and Fishing Tackle Unlimited. Our Banquet is always Crawfish, if you love good Crawfish come and support us at the Stafford Center.

**Our Kid Fish program also starts in April with The City of Sugar Land and The Houston Elks Lodge 151.** This is a large part of our chapter and I

believe our members get a lot out of helping and teaching young people the joy of fishing that we also enjoy. —**Richard Lindley**

### Greater Woodlands

**Welcome new president,**

**Charlotte O'Dell**  
832-368-8263

The Greater Woodlands chapter has been hard at work already this year in preparation for our Annual Banquet.

We have big news for the chapter – we would like to give a **HUGE THANK YOU** to **James Kay** for the many, many years of going above and beyond as the President of the chapter. James has played a vital role in building this chapter, and is now handing the torch over to **Charlotte**

**O'Dell.**

Charlotte has been on the Board of Directors for 7 years now, with the last 3 years fulfilling the Treasurer and Vice President roles. We know Charlotte will do an amazing job leading this chapter to great

success! She has already hit the ground running, **booking a date for our Annual Banquet – July 21st – MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!** If you are interested in sponsoring a table, please contact Charlotte to reserve your spot! Keep an eye out on the CCA website for upcoming news and meetings! —Charlotte O'Dell

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

**Hays County**  
Tim Young 512-573-7939  
hayscountycga@gmail.com

**Heart of the Hills**  
Jim Simmons 210-380-5709  
fishtxsurf@AOL.com

Congratulations to **Jim Simmons** for his years of dedicated service to the **Heart of the Hills Chapter!** Brian Weaver, CCA Assistant Director, presented a plaque at the 2015 Banquet to Jim for serving as President and Treasurer from 2002 - 2015.

The chapter is in the process of electing new leaders and now is YOUR opportunity to get involved and make positive contributions in our conservation efforts! Call Brian Weaver at 713-626-4222 to find out about volunteer opportunities. Tight Lines! —Randy 830-377-0737

**Hill Country**  
Miles Engelke 830-303-1827

Hill Country Chapter (HCCA) held a **Steak Night** at **Freiheit Country Store** on Tuesday February 9. Drinks, food and fellowship was had by all who attended. I held my first meeting with my Executive Board at **Blake's Restaurant** Wednesday February 24, where we set our schedule of events for 2016.

We will begin the year with our Social and **Fish Fry**, 4:00pm – 7:00pm, Sunday April 3, 2016 at the Red Barn in Seguin Texas. Advanced ticket sales only, please. Mail check to **Dawn Koehler**, 2328 Cedar Grove, New Braunfels, Texas 78132. Make checks payable to Hill Country CCA. Call **Dawn Koehler** @ 210-573-1143 or **Royce Harboth** @ 830-832-7430 for more information.

May 13, we will be hosting the crawfish boil that was purchased at last year's live auction by **Todd Hoffman**.

May 21, 2016 we will be hosting the Board of Directors Trip that was purchased at last year's live auction by **Tri County Distributors**.

Our next event will be our chapter fishing tournament for HCCA members only, it will be held Saturday June 4 in Rockport Texas at the American Legion, for more information you can contact **Darlene Cook** at 830-214-3067.

We will hold three General Membership meetings. The dates are Tuesday May 17, Tuesday July 19 and Tuesday October 18. These will be held at the **Elks Lodge in New Braunfels Texas**, programs to be announced.

**Our Hill Country Chapter Banquet will be held Thursday, August 25, 2016 at the Civic Center in New Braunfels Texas**, so mark your calendars and spread the word. Call **Todd Thetford** for ticket information, 830-660-8825. We already have a really nice 2012 Easy Go golf cart for the live auction. We will be pre-selling three hundred (300) raffle tickets again for a chance to win one of five great prizes.

These tickets will be for sale at the social or you can call one of our directors. **Darlene Cook** 830-214-3067, **Royce Harboth** 830-832-7430, **Bill Daughtery** 830-708-2339 or any board director you know. If you have any questions or would like to get involved with our chapter, let me know. Treasure the Trips



*Jim Simmons award*

—Miles Engelke 210-260-8968

### Houston Homebuilders

**Mack Davis 832 381-6130**  
Everyone's invited! **The Houston Homebuilding Chapter is hosting our 2nd Annual Fundraising Banquet on Thursday, March 24th at The Sam Houston Race Park.** There will be plenty of beer, always great Goode Company BBQ, and some incredible live and silent auction items for your bidding enjoyment!

We are expecting a sellout crowd this year, so be sure to contact me at 832- 381-6130 right away for table sponsorships and ticket sales. Looking forward to seeing you there! Thanks —Mack

### Houston Real Estate

**Dale Couch 281-953-2510**

Houston Real Estate has just wrapped up our eighth dinner. Looks like a record. Great support from the industry in spite of low oil prices. Hoping our success will lead to another industry chapter possibly in Dallas. Thanks to our many sponsors and Directors.  
—Dale Couch

### Laredo

**Jesse Martinez 956-763-5555**

jesse@laredo.twcbc.com

**The Annual Laredo CCA Chapter "Pachanga De La Pesca" and Crawfish Boil will be held Thursday May 26, 2016 at the Casablanca Ballroom located at 5110 US Hwy 59 in Laredo.**

There will be lots of fun activities to enjoy including a Live Auction, Gun Raffle and Several other raffle prizes. Our meal will be provided again by **Cajun Country Cookers** so come out and enjoy some great fun, drinks and crawfish. To secure your reserved tables or individual tickets please contact **Carlos Mata** at carloshmatajr@hotmail.com (956)286-6282 or **Brian Meuth** at bmeuth@ccatexas.org. —Javier C. Villarreal

### Lee County

**Byron Kalbas 979-540-0056**

**Mark your calendars for the 6th annual Lee County chapter banquet which will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2016.** Have a fun & safe summer on the water. Seaya there —Byron Kalbas

### Live Oak

**Brad Kotrla 979-732-1669**

Board Members of the Live Oak Chapter came together on Friday, January 29th to enjoy a crawfish boil and to begin discussions for the **upcoming annual banquet on June 2, 2016 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Columbus, Texas.** Reserved tables for 12 will be available for \$2000 and reserved tables for 8 will be available at \$800 or \$600 (table gifts will vary).

Tickets for the gun raffle are now available and only 700 will be sold. The night of the banquet there will be a silent auction, bucket raffle and a variety of other games for very nice prizes. For further in-

formation please contact Chapter President, **Brad Kotrla** at 979.732.1669 or **Banquet Chairman, Janet Hollmann** at 979.732.1352.

A huge thanks goes out to Brad Kotrla, Brett Hollmann and Delton Hollmann for preparing the meal for the board members and to Delton & Janet Hollmann for hosting the event the second year in a row. We hope to see a great many of you at our banquet on June 2nd. —**Janet Hollmann**, Banquet Chairman

### 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**

The Matagorda Bays Chapter is in full swing for the year. We have finalized a raffle boat and have



*Matagorda's fully rigged 23' Dargel Attackflatt powered by a 175HP Suzuki, with all black powder coated aluminum, and tee top. The boat sits on a double axle McClain Trailer.*

begun selling tickets. This year's boat will be a **fully rigged 23' Dargel Attackflatt powered by a 175HP Suzuki, with all black powder coated aluminum, and tee top. The boat sits on a double axel McClain Trailer.** Cleve Ford and the guys at Dargel did a great job rigging the boat.

**Polasek Construction** has once again stepped up to be a boat sponsor. Polasek Construction has supported Matagorda Bays Chapter year after year and our hats are off to them once again. Be looking for the boat around the area and a chance to buy a ticket. If you are not in the area to get a boat ticket give **Wesley Smolik** a call at (979) 543-2753. Be sure to mark your calendars for **our 2016 banquet it is scheduled for June 30 at the El Campo Civic Center.**

The chapter's 11th annual **Lil' Salties Fishing Blowout** is scheduled for May 7th 2016 at the Matagorda Harbor. Chapter members should be receiving entry forms in the mail. Parents be sure to get them filled out and mailed back ASAP so we can plan another great tournament. Last year we had a record year of 256 kids come out for a day of fun. Every entry receives a prize bag, trophy, and tee shirt. If you are interested in donating to this great event or have any questions fill free to contact **Lynn Staff** (ltstaff@yahoo.com) or **Thomas Gold** (tagold@elc.net). Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the chapter. —Chad Hensley

**MidCoast**  
David Jenkins  
361-578-5580

Here we are in April, the fish are biting and the guides have satisfied customers. **We are now working hard on finalizing preparations for this year's banquet, which will be held Friday May 6, 2016 at the Victoria Community Center.** Give us a call or email and we would love to have you join us.

As to the timing of the Currents Magazine, you now have one more month to get a chance on winning our give-away boat. Just think! A 23' Haynie Cat, Coastline Trailer, powered by 250hp Mercury Sport XS, Jack Plate, 8ft Power Pole, Garmin GPS, and Stereo. Call or email for more information, or get tickets from **The Tackle Box of Victoria, Waterloo Inc, or Victoria All Sports.** We will be selling only 1000 tickets for \$100.00 each.

If you would like to join a fun group of Board Members, contact any board member about becoming one. Thanks,  
—David Jenkins jenkins12@sbcglobal.net

### **Northeast Houston** Casey Eakin

713-948-5799

[ceakin@texascitizensbank.com](mailto:ceakin@texascitizensbank.com)

**Northeast Houston Chapter invites you to the 2016 Annual Banquet and Fundraiser Crawfish Boil. The event is on April 9th at The Humble Civic Center Arena and starts at 6 pm.** The address is 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy. Humble TX, 77338. Tickets are \$55 per adult, and \$20 for children under 12. The price includes dinner, beverages and your annual membership to CCA. We look forward to seeing everyone! —Casey Eakins

### **Northwest Houston**

**Alan Massey 281-414-6341**

The chapter wants to thank **Kirk Wiles**, Manager of Seafood and Aquatic Life Group Policy, Standards and QA Unit with the Department of State Health Services for being our speaker at our February general meeting. He gave us a very informative presentation on Vibrio Bacteria.

**Coming up is our Annual Member Appreciation Fish Fry with all the fixin's, so bring your appetites on April 5th, of course will be held at Houston Distributing, 7100 High Life at 7 PM. Bluewater Seafood will again be donating the cole-slaw and condiments.**

Our speaker will be **Jim Blackburn** who is an environmental lawyer and planner who has litigated Texas coastal issues his whole career. He teaches in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Dept. at Rice University and wrote the book of Texas Bays.

Mark your calendars! Our **2016 Annual Kid Fish** - Saturday May 7th, 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Sylvan Beach Park - Fishing Pier in La Porte. Many thanks to **Harris County Precinct 2, The City of La Porte and Linda's Bait & Tackle** for their continued support of this annual event. Please remember that we are always happy to accept donations for our Annual Kid Fish Program.

Please let us know of your desire to donate anytime by contacting a Director. **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: CCA NORTHWEST HOUSTON CHAPTER.**  
—Alan Massey

**Orange County**  
Scott Bandy 409-988-3667  
[sabandy@gmail.com](mailto:sabandy@gmail.com)

The last few weeks have been busy in the Chapter, first we had the **25th annual Orange County Trash-Off.** Chapter members **Anna and Scott Bandy** worked a one mile stretch of road collecting all types of trash that littered the roadway. They collected anything from plastic bottles, tires and rims and a muffler; in total we collected 15 bags of trash as a chapter.



*Midcoast's banquet boat— a fully loaded 23' Haynie cat, powered by a 250 Mercury Sport XS, on a Coastline aluminum trailer. Only 1000 tickets will be sold for a chance to win this boat!*

Then we had the annual **Crab Trap clean up** on Sabine Lake. Chapter members **Scott Bandy, Davis Dixon, and Addison** collected 21 abandoned traps from the north end of the lake and 35 abandoned traps from the south revetment wall. We also marked several other that were picked up later in the week.

A special THANKS goes out to **Darin Johnson and Jim Meadows** from the Sabine-Neches Chapter for helping out load traps and having food and drinks ready once we returned.

On April 4th we will have our **yearly membership drive meeting**, this year we will have a speaker from the **Redfish Yellowfin Elite Series.** These pros will be in Orange Texas this week for our 1st Classic to host.

Location and dates are now "locked" it will be in **Orange Texas and the dates will be April 8-9-10 2016... Fri/Sat/Sun...** There will be top musical guests and a ton of activities for the families. Look for more information on the meeting in your chapter emails.

**We have confirmed our 8th annual Banquet date as August 18, 2016 at the Orange County Convention and Expo Center.** If you are interested in helping with this event please attend a meeting or contact someone in the Chapter to find out more info. Tight Lines —**Scott Bandy**  
**Contact Info: Scott Bandy - scottbandy77@yahoo.com**  
**Louis Moore - louis\_moore@yahoo.com**  
**Davis Dixon - dcdixon149@yahoo.com**

### **Port O'Connor**

**Bill Moore 361-983-4690**

The 2016 Crab Trap Removal is now history and it doesn't seem like this was the 15th year. The POC Chapter was on hand at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Docks to assist on Saturday, February 20th. The weather was great and it was a good day just to be on the water.

**Chris Smisek** of the San Antonio chapter and his crew brought in the most traps, 65. Chris must have had **The Chester** on point to find that many traps. The crew assisting Chris were **Robert Powers,**

**Dr. Alan Baribeau, Matt Green, and Lannie Green.**

The chapter provided lunch for all who showed up. Thanks to all who participated and a special thanks to **Jim Busby** for doing all the leg work in setting it up. Also, to **Norman Boyd of TP&W** for the use of their facilities and for his assistance.

We will be scheduling meetings in the near future in preparation for the **17th Annual POC CCA Banquet, so be sure to pencil in that date on your calendar, Saturday, October 15.** So, as the weather warms and the north wind calms, come see us, or if you want to become involved with the chapter and/or banquet-contact us in POC, "Where it all began."  
—Bill Moore

### **Prairie**

**Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103**

On February 19 we held our annual Chili Appreciation Dinner at the Cat Spring Tin Building. Everybody enjoyed the chili prepared by **Kirk Hoppe** and his helpers **Sharon Goebel, Joey Pawlowski, Adam Noviskie, Jason Beaman, Wesley Goebel, Ray and Tom Grawunder.** Thanks to all the board members and guests who attended.

We had a \$1 raffle with some great gifts thanks to **Brian Weaver** from CCA and all the sponsors that donated items. Our speaker for the evening was **Rex Sergeant**

**Upchurch** from **Sarge Custom Rods** who donated a rod for the \$5 raffle. If anyone wants to purchase one of his rods they are available at **Johnnie's Sport Shop in Eagle Lake.**

**We are in the final stages planning our 19th annual CCA fundraiser Banquet for April 7th 2016 at the Cat Spring Hall.** This year should be a great banquet with a lot of new games and prizes to be given away. We will have the live auction, silent auction and this year we will draw for the Polaris Ranger and 5 other items. There are only 300 tickets to be sold. Tickets are still available but are going fast. Call 979-877-4103, 979-525-9254 or 713-992-7874.

We have set a date for our **Kid Fish, July 30th** at the Wietstruck Lake, 2160 Fm 1456 in Bellville Texas. For more info contact **Lori Cruz** at 713-992-7874. Thanks —**Ron Chess** 979-525-9254

### **Redfish Bay**

**Norman Oates 361-758-0266**

We are very active for the next few months. Set your calendars! **The Redfish Bay Chapter Banquet is April 23, 2016, in the Port Aransas Civic Center.** Activities start at 5:30 PM with raffles, silent auction, and live auction. Dinner will be served around 7 PM, and will be a sit-down meal with salad, entree, and desert. We plan a family event; spouses and mature children are always welcome and appreciated.

As always, we strive to have items of interest for everyone with art, home decorations, jewelry, and trips in addition to our expected fishing/hunting equipment. This will be a fun event; so, bring you family and friends. Individual tickets are \$75, couples tickets are \$110, and round tables for eight are \$600. Individual and couples tickets can be purchased at the door, but tables for eight must be purchased in advance - you can go on-line to CCA Texas (Redfish Bay Chapter event) or call a Redfish Bay Chapter Board member.

We will have a General Membership Meeting at 7 PM on March 30. It will be at **Redfish Willies in Conn Brown Harbor.** Please come early and enjoy a



*This year's RGV boat is a 21' Sport with an Evinrude 150 HP motor and trailer, and all the bells and whistles you can imagine.*

great meal before the meeting starts.

June 3rd and 4th will be the annual "Take a Kid Fishing" event. This is a great event for young fisherpersons! Many will fish for the first time, and we do everything we can to make it enjoyable. Sign-in and shrimp boil will be Friday night, with fishing until around noon, hotdogs, and awards are on Saturday.

Special thanks to CCA members who worked the **Billy Sandifer Beach Cleanup**. While not a specific CCA event, it is a great effort to keep the beaches clean. — **Norman C Oates** 361-758-0266 H 361-790-2748 C

### Rio Grande Valley

**George McCaleb 956-984-8688**

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

The RGV Chapter Board is working hard planning 2016 events and **we look forward to seeing everyone at our banquet to be held on Thursday, April 28, 2016 at the Boggus Ford Event Center in Pharr**. This year's event is shaping up to be another great one.

We want to give a big shout out to **L&F Distributors** for once again stepping up to sponsor our annual boat drawing. Shallow Sport Boats is providing this year's boat and tickets are moving fast. **This year's boat is a 21' Sport with an Evinrude 150 HP motor and trailer, and all the bells and whistles you can imagine.** e are only selling 500 tickets at \$100 each, so don't miss out. If you are interested in buying a ticket, contact **Louis Zimmerer** at (956) 373-0799 or **John Blaha** at (800) 626-4222. Thank you once again L&F Distributors and Shallow Sport Boats.

The RGV chapter encourages everyone to be an active participant in the conservation of Texas' coastal resources. We are always looking for new volunteers and welcome them. If you are interested in attending RGV Board meetings, please contact me at (956) 984-8688 or CCA Texas Assistant Director **John Blaha** at (800) 626-4222.  
— **George McCaleb**

### Sabine-Neches

**Darin Johnson 409-790-9855**

Greetings from the Sabine Neches Chapter! We just wrapped up our 18th annual Banquet and Crawfish Boil and thanks to everyone involved! Despite a brief power outage we managed to keep our guests entertained and we never missed a beat! Thanks to **Del Papa Distributing and Giglio Distributing** for keeping cold drinks in everyone's hand and to **Shane Chesson and his crew at Pure Cajun for the awesome crawfish.**

A big thank you to our Premier Sponsors; An-

thony Toups w/Classic GMC/Kia and Academy for their continued sponsorship.

Bull Red Sponsors; ISS, Huntsman, Kieschnick Industries, Dylan's, Munro, Premiere Yamaha, Jameadco, Del Papa, Philpott Ford, Coastal Services, Golden Pass, Cops Helping Kids, Spectrum Biotechnologies, American Airboats, Jorgensen Marine! So many more to list and not enough space to put it down!

Just when we thought we were done, it will be back before we know it, mark the calendar now,



*San Antonio's 20 foot Shallow Stalker Boat with 150 HP Evinrude and bow platform, on a tandem axle trailer, courtesy of Gulf Coast Marine and Shallow Stalker. Other items include a great CCA-rigged Jeep and a Kawasaki Four Wheeler.*

**Thursday March 2nd, 2017** will be our 19th annual banquet and we look forward to seeing everyone again! Now that the banquet is past I along with the rest of the board are looking toward some deserved time on the water. Just maybe we will get the long awaited **Tri Chapter Challenge** in order this year. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for more details! <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sabine-Neches-CCA/453545214667605>. Until then, tight lines to all — **Darin M Johnson**

### Sam Houston

**Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908**

Spring is here, you know what that means. The fish

are becoming more active in the warmer water. I hope everyone gets a chance to get on the water and enjoy this weather. Please be careful out there and good luck fishing. — **Brandon Kolaja**

### San Antonio

**Mike Sarosdy 210-863-7288**

[urodoc@satx.rr.com](mailto:urodoc@satx.rr.com)

The Spring winds are blowing and the waters warming, with bait fish and gamefish starting their return inshore and offshore. That means your chapter volunteers have had their sleeves rolled up for months, and chapter activities are ON!

We just held our **Third Annual Hooked on Clays sporting clay shoot** at the National Shooting Complex. Thanks to our Sponsors, Royce and his staff at the Complex, the shooters that participated, and all the CCA San Antonio volunteers who helped out. It was another fun shoot, with CCA flavor and crawfish. If you missed it, we hope to see you next Spring.

As of this writing, we anticipate a **Chapter Night Out on Thursday, April 7, shortly after you receive this.** Details are available on our chapter website and Facebook page.

**And May 5th, Banquet Chairman Rick Neitzel (tasicorneitzel@aol.com) and his committee will host your 37th Annual Banquet at the Freeman Exhibit Hall, starting at 5 pm.** Get your tickets NOW, as we sold out last year and anticipate doing so again. The Live Auction and the earlier Cutting Board Auction promise to both be bigger and better, with great new trips and treasures you can't live

without! Raffle items include a **20 foot Shallow Stalker Boat with 150 HP Evinrude and bow platform, on a tandem axle trailer, courtesy of Gulf Coast Marine and Shallow Stalker.** Other items include a great CCA-rigged Jeep, a Kawasaki Four Wheeler, an expanded 10-gun raffle as well as new 5-hand-gun raffle, and a great line up for both the \$5 raffle and Silent Auction. Plan on another great evening with friends and colleagues. Get your tables or tickets NOW online at our chapter website, or contact **Joe Eaton** at [jeaton@ea-tondev.com](mailto:jeaton@ea-tondev.com) or [jeaton@eatoncontracting.com](mailto:jeaton@eatoncontracting.com), or 210-599-3690.

Thanks to all of our Banquet Sponsors and volunteers for making this the best banquet in CCA. As of this writing, that includes **IBC Bank, Academy Sports and Outdoors, Gulf Coast Marine,**

**Groomer's Seafood, and Valero Energy Foundation,** and there will be more.

It's not too late for you to get involved and enrich your banquet and CCA experience by doing so. The Banquet Committee meets at the **Barn Door each Tuesday at 6 pm,** and there is still plenty of time to have fun volunteering your time and skills to a great cause.

If you haven't seen our chapter Facebook page (cca texas san antonio chapter), visit it, Like it, and keep up with events and post your pictures and stories.

And remember to be sure you are registered in the STAR Tournament that starts in May....**Don't**

*Go Fishing Without It!* Thanks to all, tight lines, and take a kid fishing. —Mike Sarosdy

### San Bernard

**Jayson Zahradnik 832-535-7738**

[jayson.zahradnik@alleytonrsource.com](mailto:jayson.zahradnik@alleytonrsource.com)

Our 9th annual banquet has come and gone, a huge success. Our largest fundraising effort for our chapter to date. We closed off a great night with the drawing of our grand prize raffle item, the **Polaris 570 Crew**, and the winner was **Tina Kutach** of Katy.

I thank **Coleman Todd**, with CCA and his crew for bringing everything together to make the event run smooth. Some of our sponsors and contributors that stand out are **Silver Eagle Distributors, Rice Medical Associates, Academy Sports and Outdoors, Waller County Asphalt, Keystone Concrete Placement, and Capital Farm Credit**. I can't forget **Hoffpaur Polaris** for the great deal on the Ranger Crew, **Fairway Golf Carts** for the great deal on the golf cart and **Mike Grigar of Johnny's Sport Shop** for supplying all of the guns and such for the event.

**Slade Stary** and crew provided a wonderful ribeye steak dinner that really hit the spot. An event of this size would not be possible without the strong people that got the ball rolling. Without the many volunteer hours of our board members, our chapter would not be where it is today. I give special thanks to a few board members that went above and beyond this year: **Kenneth Schatz**, chapter treasurer, for keeping up with all of our finances, **Jared Montagino**, who kept track of all raffle ticket sales and pre-sale meal tickets, and **Richie Domel**, who knocked raffle sales out of the park this year.

I remind everyone that we are always looking for new board members young and old to help our chapter grow. We will continue to meet somewhere in the East Bernard area every third Tuesday evening of each month.

Our next major event is our **Board Cup Fishing Tournament** to be held in Matagorda on July 29 and 30. Thanks again to our board members who donated their boats and time to make this event the great time it is every year. **Nino Araguz, Bill Klopsteck, Ross Kutach, Brian Domel, Jared Montagino, Doug Macha, and William Wilcox**. Thanks again, guys.

In conclusion, I hope everyone had a great time at our banquet and hope our chapter continues to grow and new people become more interested in being a part of it all. Spring is upon us, the fish will start biting, so boaters, please wear your kill switch. Until next time, Fish On! —Jayson Zahradnik

### San Gabriel

**John Melnar 512- 497-8284**

### San Jacinto

**Jim Wilson 713-828-7639**

We're running at full speed and looking forward to our monthly meetings, several fun events and fellowship with our chapter members. We have moved our monthly meeting to **Waller County Line BBQ located at 6915 Spencer HWY in Pasadena**. Meetings will start at 6pm and the dates are 4/4, 5/2, 6/6 and 7/11. All are welcome to join and participate.

We're planning our **March General Membership meeting now. The meeting will be on March 7 at the Waller County Line**. Still working on speakers. More to follow in a CCA Eblast.

**May 7: Sunshine Kids**—this event is rapidly approaching. For those of you have never participated in this event before you are really missing the boat (literally). We do a lot of Youth events but this is by far the most rewarding. If you participate just once you'll be hooked just like us. Our chapter provides the food and drinks, bait, trophies for the kids and sometimes give away gifts for the kids.

**Steve Wilson** will be soliciting boat captains soon. If you would like to participate contact him or myself. Steve's email is [steveww52@yahoo.com](mailto:steveww52@yahoo.com). We

will need boats (25 – 30), volunteers, picture takers, cash or food donations. Thanks to all of our volunteers who helped last year. Please contact **Steve Wilson for Details 713-320-1847** or at email above.

**Our Banquet/Shrimp boil will be June 16th at the Bay Area Community Center**. We will have plenty of live and silent auction items along with raffle items again this year. Please contact **Brian Meuth 832-435-5245** or **Jim Wilson 713-828-7639** for details on tickets.

We will also be having our **Kids fishing tournament this Fall at Sylvan Beach Pier**. Last year we had 200 Kids show up for the tournament and we all had a blast. Our chapter provides everything for this event also. We provide trophies, bait, food and drinks. Everything is free. Bring a kid out! Hope to see you there. We are finalizing dates now (event will be in June). Contact **Pete Ruiz** for details; 832-266-3086. —Jim Wilson

### Southwestern

**Welcome new president Veronica Oliver 830-765-6228**

### TAMU

**Ian Kocher Mays Business School 512-632-9222**

[ikocher12@gmail.com](mailto:ikocher12@gmail.com)

**Texas State University  
Alex Limon 817-880-4044**  
[arlimon26@gmail.com](mailto:arlimon26@gmail.com)

**Tomball/Magnolia  
Matt Maddox 281-770-7858**

### Tri-County

**Christian Hildebrand 830-534-2730**

**We invite everyone to our 19th annual CCA banquet -- Mark your calendar for Friday, April 29th!** This year we have more prizes, guns, coolers, fishing gear, and trips not available to the public. Come join us for boiled crawfish/fried catfish, a friendly atmosphere, and free beverages with the best live and silent auction in South Texas.

As usual, our banquet will be at the **Atascosa County Show Barn in Pleasanton, Texas**. Doors open at 6 pm with dinner at 6:45 followed by the live auction. There are three different table sponsorship levels available offering preferential seating and table goodies. We have had a sell out crowd for the last several years so don't wait to purchase your tickets!

Individual tickets can be purchased at the **Deer Hunter's Toy Store** in Jourdanton or by contacting **Brian Mueth** at (800) 626-4222. Everybody with Tri-County CCA looks forward to seeing you and your family at this great event! —Christian Hildebrand

### Trinity Bay

**Gerald Payne 281-385-2894**

With the arrival of spring, we are really excited about how our year is coming together. Last year's banquet was our best ever and we are looking to have another banner year. Our board has many new faces but we are still staying true to our roots. We are always looking for more board members and welcome any new comers. Our meetings are held every 1st Wednesday of the month at **Weismer Distributing**, come join us.

**Our Banquet will be in August again this year at the Nuevo Leon Event Center in Baytown, Texas**. One of the best ways to get in the door quickly is by purchasing your tickets ahead of time. You can contact our fearless leader **Gerald Payne** at 281-728-6278 or contact our CCA director **Drew Adams** at 800-626-4222.

If you would like to get involved or just want to sponsor something, give us a shout. We have any-

thing from a business card add, print sponsorship, title sponsorship and may other ways you can help out. Looking forward to hearing from you. Tight lines —Gerald Payne

### Trinity Valley

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

Spring is upon us and as we go into warmer weather, we are looking forward to our annual fishing tournament. **The 3rd Annual Trinity Valley CCA Fishing Tournament will be held on May 21st at the Stingaree Marina & Restaurant in Crystal Beach, TX**.

The entry fee is \$150 per team (max of 4 people) and deadline for entry is May 16th. Contestants must be members of CCA. One stringer will be weighed per team consisting of 3 trout (not more than 1 over 25") and 1 redfish (not over 28").

For more information or to register please call **John Hebert Jr** at 936-334-2528 or email at [jjhebert@imsday.com](mailto:jjhebert@imsday.com) or **Larry Hanson** at 713-447-1918.

This promises to be a great time so get your team together and get registered! Also, if you are interested in our chapter or becoming a member, please let us know. We are always looking for more people who want to be involved with CCA. —John Hebert

### West Houston

**Mike Ayers 832-248-9352**

**Hello West Houston! Please mark your calendars and make plans to join us as we celebrate our 30th year with our Annual Crawfish Boil and Banquet on Thursday, May 12th!** This year's event will once again be held at the **Houston Farm & Ranch Club** and it is shaping up to be another great event. Come out to enjoy a great night with plenty of crawfish, fried fish and adult beverages to go around!

We are very excited to be bringing back the very popular **20-item Sportsman Raffle** again this year! Tickets will be pre-sold for this raffle and you do not need to be present to win. Please contact a board member to get your lucky tickets before the night of the event. Items this year include firearms, rod/reel combos, Yeti coolers, a drone, an iPad and a Go Pro. Please check out Facebook page to see a full list of items available to win in this great raffle.

In addition to the Sportsman Raffle, there will be plenty of other chances to take home new artwork, fishing gear, boating equipment, coolers, jewelry, trips and/or vacations in the other raffles in addition to the silent and live auctions.

Please bring family, friends and coworkers as we all gather for a great cause and to share a few fishing stories from this past year! This is always a great night and we are looking forward to seeing everyone as we celebrate our 30th year!

There are three levels of Table Sponsorships this year... **Reserve Table** - \$650.00 - Includes table for 10 with preferred seating, table signage, CCA memberships and program mention. **Silver Table** - \$1,000.00 - Includes table for 10 with preferred seating, table signage, CCA memberships, program mention, auctioneer recognition and table gifts. **Gold Table** - \$2,000.00 - Includes - Table for 10 front & center, table signage, CCA memberships, full page program ad, auctioneer recognition, and special table gifts for all. Thanks and see you soon! —Mike Ayers

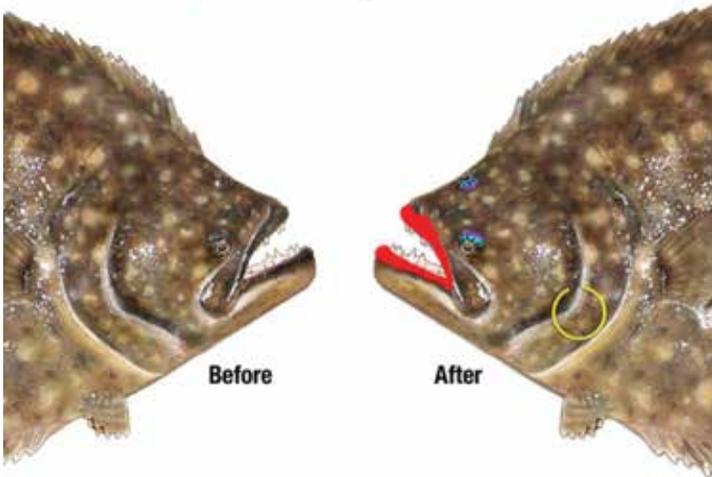
### West Texas

**Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499**





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Port O'Connor area volunteers, and below, Orange County chapter volunteers



Aransas Bay Chapter volunteers

## Billy Sandifer Big Shell Beach Cleanup

It was a beautiful day on the Padre Island National Sea (830) 765-6228 shore for many CCA volunteers, and a rewarding day for the Aransas Bay Chapter volunteers, shown here. The Aransas Bay chapter also teamed up to collect many crab traps.

## 2016 Abandoned Crab Trap Removal

Port O'Connor: Chris Smisek of the San Antonio chapter and his crew brought in the most traps, 65. Chris must have had **The Chester** on point to find that many traps. The crew assisting Chris were Robert Powers, Dr. Alan Baribeau, Matt Green and Lannie Green. —Pres. Bill Moore

Left: On Sabine Lake, among CCA and Orange County chapter members were **Darin Johnson, Scott Bandy, Addison Bandy and Davis Dixon**. They collected 21 abandoned traps from the north end of the lake and 35 abandoned traps from the south revetment wall. —Darren Johnson



## Two longtime CCA committee chairmen step down from their positions after a decade of service



Doug Boyd



DeGraaf Adams

**D**oug Boyd has been the Chairman of the Chapter Committee for 15 years. He has done a tremendous job and we certainly appreciate all of the volunteer hours that he has given to the organization. Doug will be replaced by Scott Sanderson as the new Chairman.

**D**eGraaf Adams stepped down as the Chairman of the Governmental Relations Committee. DeGraaf served as the Chairmen for 10 years and has put an incredible amount of time into leading that committee over the years. His committee has had to deal with a lot of contentious issues during his tenure and we certainly appreciate his leadership. DeGraaf will be replaced by Troy Williamson.

## Want to share even more of your Great photos?

Currents had many fine images submitted again this year. Limited space means we can use only a few photos, but there is a good option for your Great Photo: **Send it to CCA via our new social media. See Page 7 for connections to Facebook and Instagram.** Every entry there will also be an entry in the Currents Great Photos Competition.

## Enter Great Photos 2016

Categories:

Best In Show / Action / Scenic / Humor  
Kids / Wildlife / CPR

Important: for jpegs, be sure you include name of subject, title, your name and address. On back of prints, write your name and address, as well as the names of anyone in the photo. Email jpegs to: [sam@samcaldwell.com](mailto:sam@samcaldwell.com)  
Color prints to: CCA Great Photos Editor / 6919 Portwest Dr., Suite 100 Houston, Texas 77024

Art prints for Best In Show, First, Second and Third Place winners.

Give us your best shot, and keep Currents an award winning newsletter.

## 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!**



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Or Poseidon's Yellow Middle Finger of Doom.

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and baby monkeys.

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# The Great American Lager



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Tilson Homes is a proud supporter of the CCA Texas and the STAR Fishing Tournament.



# Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Suite 100 / Houston, TX 77024

## CURRENTS NEWSLETTER

April / May 2016

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# ALABAMA

Fifth Annual CCA Concert  
For Conservation

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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.ogtx.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 \_\_\_\_\_

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- Check/Money order
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- 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)