

# CURRENTS

The newsletter for CCA members in Texas

February / March 2012

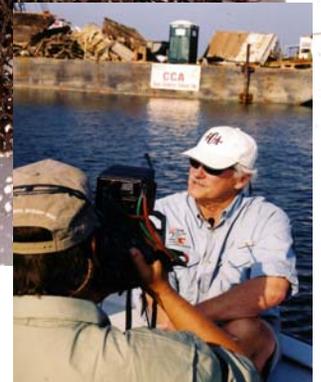


# Spring cleaning

## Abandoned crab traps, Big Shell Beach, East Cut Cleanup are on CCA agendas

It's become a Texas tradition, cleaning our coastal environment. The Corpus Christi chapter was among the first coastal groups to take on a massive chore—eliminating dangerous debris from area bays and waterways. Troy Williamson, CC's chapter president, was featured on a national news program. Ronnie Luster of Port O'Connor got a few CCA friends together some eleven years back, added help from Texas Parks & Wildlife friends, and began the annual abandoned crab trap removal program. Luster was named the National Conservationist Of The Year by Field & Stream Magazine. Capt Billy Sandifer felt so strongly about the trash on the Big Shell region of Padre Island, he has invited thousands of his closest friends to make the beach better annually for 16 years. Sandifer was also named as a Hero of Conservation by Field and Stream Magazine.

Clean beaches are contagious. This year will mark the fourth year for Kathie and Miller Bassler's Port Mansfield East Cut & Beach cleanup. Of course, all the programs require cooperation not only with hundreds of volunteers, but between partnerships with private and local groups, and state and federal agencies. Among the groups participating in the upcoming Crab Trap removal project are several CCA chapters, TP&WD, the TPWD Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. 🐦



Above: Joe Terry, Lee Thweatt and sons Henry and John gathered crab traps in San Antonio Bay. Troy Williamson and the Corpus Christi chapter took on the monumental chore of removing dangerous debris from their areas. A National Conservation Hero of 2010, Capt. Billy Sandifer, and the National Conservation Hero of 2006, Ronnie Luster.

### 11th Texas abandoned crab trap removal program / February 17-26

#### Volunteers needed!

Here are the drop-off sites in all bay systems along the Texas coast. Contact your local TPWD Coastal Fisheries Office For More Information.

**Sabine Lake** – Local TPWD coordinator Jerry Mambretti (409) 736-9035

**Pleasure Island Marina Boat Ramp** / Trap drop-off site

**Galveston Bay** – Local TPWD coordinator Bill Balboa (281) 534-0110

**Jones Lake State Ramp (Fat Boys)** / Facilitated & trap drop-off site

**TPWD Dickinson Marine Lab**-1502 FM 517 E,

Dickinson / Trap drop-off site

**Seabrook SH 146 Bridge Public Boat Ramp** / Trap drop-off site

**Fort Anahuac County Park Boat Ramp**

Facilitated by Galveston Bay Foundation & trap drop-off site

**Chocolate Bayou State Boat Ramp**- FM 2004 /

Facilitated & trap drop-off site

**MATAGORDA BAY** – Local TPWD coordinator

Leslie Hartman 361-972-6253

**Mitchell Cut Boat (ICWW) Ramp** at Sargent / Trap drop-off site

**Matagorda Harbor** at Matagorda / Trap drop off site

**Railroad Park** at Palacios / Trap drop-off site

**San Antonio Bay** – Local TPWD coordinator Norman Boyd 361-983-4425

**Charlie's Bait Stand** / Facilitated & trap drop-off site

**Port O'Connor TPWD Docks** / Facilitated & Trap drop-off site

**ARANSAS BAY** – Local TPWD coordinator Karen Meador 361-729-5429

**Goose Island State Park Boat Ramp** / Facilitated & trap drop-off site

**North Cove Harbor Boat Ramp** / Trap drop-off site

**CORPUS CHRISTI BAY** – Local TPWD coordinator Tom Wagner 361-729-2328

**Nueces Bay Boat Ramp** / Trap drop-off site

**Port Aransas Public Boat Ramp** /

Trap drop-off site

**UPPER LAGUNA**

**MADRE** – Local

TPWD coordinator

Todd Neahr 361-825-3353

**Bluff's Landing Marina** / Trap drop-off site

**Kaufer Park Boat Ramp** / Trap drop-off site

**LOWER LAGUNA MADRE** – Local TPWD coordinator Mark Lingo 956-350-4490

**Adolfe Thoma County Park** at Arroyo City / Trap drop-off site

**Port Mansfield Navigation District Ramp** at Port Mansfield / Trap drop-off site

– Art Morris

Fishery Outreach Specialist  
Corpus Christi Field Station



*"They're blowing up on topwaters!"*

This issue's front cover photo was provided by CCA's Great Photographer Will Drost, who often seems to be there, with camera, when fish and wildlife are active. Drop by his website at [www.willdrost.com](http://www.willdrost.com) for additional trips in the visual outdoors.



A Natural Investment

# Red Tide Ebbing?

By Meridith Byrd

HAB Response Coordinator

**T**exas is suffering from a prolonged red tide that might go down in the record books as the longest lasting and costliest red tide in state history. This incidence of red tide was first detected in early September, when staff of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Coastal Fisheries division saw stressed fish surfacing inside Brazos-Santiago Pass. Discolored water and dead fish were reported the same weekend from the Brownsville Ship Channel and San Martin Lake. Reports soon followed of additional dead fish in the Lower Laguna Madre and South Bay as well as Boca Chica Beach. Water samples confirmed that south Texas was experiencing a red tide.

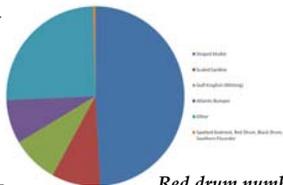
*Red tide may slowly be rolling out. Red and black drum, flounder and spotted seatrout were affected in much smaller proportions, comprising less than 1% of the total fish killed.*

Just over a week later, the red tide was also confirmed along the upper coast, from San Luis Pass to the Brazos River. By early October, the bloom enveloped most of the Texas coastline, stretching from the lower reaches of Galveston Bay to the Rio Grande and further south into Mexico.

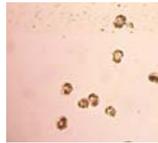
**What is red tide?**  
Red tides are caused by an overabundance of *Karenia brevis*, a species of microscopic toxic algae. These algae occur naturally as part of the makeup of the Gulf of Mexico, and when conditions are right they reproduce very rapidly. Transported to shore by currents, the algae cause the water to turn red, brown or green and litter the beaches and bays with dead fish. At times the water might also contain another species called *Karenia mikimotoi* in addition to *K. brevis*. These species often occur simultaneously.

## What is red tide?

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*K. brevis* contains brevetoxin, a neurotoxin that kills fish by attacking their central nervous system and causing paralysis, suffocating the fish. The brevetoxin also accumulates in the tissues of molluscan shellfish (oysters, whelks, clams, mussels); the shellfish are not harmed but their meat is rendered inedible by the toxin. Brevetoxin is heat-stable, meaning that it will remain in the shellfish meat even after cooking. A specific type of food poisoning called Neurotoxic Shellfish Poisoning can result after eating red tide-affected shellfish; symptoms can persist for days and include nausea, vomiting, and numbness or tingling of the lips and tongue.



Anglers and beachgoers are often affected by brevetoxin's tell-tale allergy-like effects. Burning eyes, runny nose, coughing, and wheezing are some of the symptoms caused by breathing in the toxin. Fortunately, for most people, these symptoms are a temporary annoyance and subside quickly once you leave the area. However, for people with asthma, emphysema or other lung problems, brevetoxin can present a potential health concern; these people need to avoid areas affected by red tide.

## Impact on oyster season

Red tides can bring the Texas oyster industry to an abrupt halt. Under Federal law, shellfish harvesting must be restricted once concentrations of *K. brevis* reach a threshold of 5 cells per milliliter of water, or when any amount of toxin is detected in the shellfish meat, regardless of cell concentration. Even after the red tide has subsided, residual toxin levels in shellfish meat can remain elevated for weeks.

For example, Copano Bay remained closed to shellfish harvesting for an additional 100 days following the end of

the 1996 red tide due to elevated brevetoxin in the oyster meat.

On October 26, 2011 the Texas Department of State Health Services issued a news release announcing that oyster season would not be opening on November 1 due to the red tide.

At press time, it seems that Texas has seen the worst of the bloom, but *K. brevis* continues to linger along the coast, causing intermittent fish kills. All Texas waters remain closed to shellfish harvesting and it is unclear when they may reopen, if at all this season. TPWD estimates that the closure has cost the Texas oyster industry more than \$7.5 million through the end of January.

## Impact on the Texas Fishery

As of November, the red tide had killed over 4.4 million fish. Striped mullet made up the largest percentage of this figure, numbering over 2 million. Additional fish

kills have occurred since November and these have also been almost exclusively comprised of mullet. The rest of the top ten species killed by the red

tide in descending order are scaled sardine, Gulf kingfish (whiting), Atlantic bumper, pinfish, ladyfish (skipjack), spot, hardhead catfish, Gulf menhaden, and pigfish.

Other recreational fish, in addition to Gulf whiting, were also affected by the bloom. These included red and black drum, flounder and spotted seatrout, but in much smaller proportions, comprising less than 1% of the total fish killed. Fortunately, ongoing resource assessment and long-term monitoring programs, such as the Coastal Fisheries Resource Monitoring and Commercial Landings programs, continue to give TPWD the ability to adapt management strategies as needed to address any impacts to our resources.

—Meridith Byrd

HAB Response Coordinator  
Texas Parks and Wildlife  
[meridith.byrd@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:meridith.byrd@tpwd.state.tx.us)

## Attention PINS volunteers! The 17th annual Big Shell Beach Cleanup is set for February 25.

This event can't happen without the help of our volunteers and your help is needed again. Volunteers will meet at Malaquite Pavilion on PINS and the event will commence at 7 a.m. Gloves, water provided, gourmet hot dogs afterward from CCA Corpus Christi. See you there! —Capt. Billy Sandifer

For complete details, drop by the website:  
<http://www.billysandifer.com/cleanup.htm>

*Families and individuals from all walks of life convene on Padre Island National Seashore for a day of hard work. Their reward— leaving their beach better than they found it.*



# State of Texas Angler's Rodeo



The fishing forecast for the New Year is terrific, but looking to get better! Why? Because STAR 2012 is already taking shape to break records. JOIN US NOW! In about four months, it will again be time to vie for over \$1,000,000 in prizes in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual CCA Texas/STAR Tournament! Mark your calendars! Starting sunrise Saturday, May 26 through 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 3 (Labor Day), anglers from all across the great Lone Star State can begin the summer-long challenge to try and win one of many prize packages in the 2012 CCA Texas/STAR Tournament, including truck/boat packages, boat packages and scholarships.

Time to get your fishing gear and plans in order! Thanks to Academy Sports + Outdoors, we have some more good news! To help with some of this season's fishing expenses, Academy Sports + Outdoors will once again send all current CCA Texas members a \$10 coupon. And don't forget to take advantage of all the other great Early Bird and Member incentives available to CCA Texas/STAR participants. Please see below for more details.

**CCA Texas/STAR Platinum Print Membership Package, Series II** – STAR Sighting by renowned artist David Drinkard is the new print being offered for the 2012 CCA Texas/STAR Platinum package.

This special offer includes your CCA membership (new or renewal), your 2012 CCA Texas STAR entry, plus a signed, limited-edition print created exclusively for STAR, all for \$125! STAR Sighting is a one-of-a-kind special painting, worth this price alone. If you would like to consider one, or several, of these limited-edition packages, go to: [www.startournament.org](http://www.startournament.org) for more details or place your order the STAR Dept. by calling (713) 626-4222. The proceeds from the sale of all Platinum Packages will help us continue to fund the STAR scholarships. Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament!

**STILL AVAILABLE... CCA Texas/STAR Platinum Print, Series I** – Some STAR Reds are still available. If you haven't purchased STAR Reds 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 this first-ever commemorative piece, purchase yours today before they're all gone! (See page 6).

**YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN TO WIN!** Time to get spooled up and ready for another great season of fishing fun! A friendly reminder to all anglers who plan to fish the Texas Gulf Coast during this time... 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 2012 TEXAS STAR entrant. The STAR tournament entry fee is still an awesome bargain at only \$20 for ages 18 and up! Membership fee is \$25 annually, plus \$20 STAR Tournament for a total of \$45. In order to win at STAR, an angler must be registered and be a current member of CCA. 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 2012 and older, is eligible to win the prizes being offered (even the TAGGED REDFISH DIVISION)! Get everyone signed up for the 2012 STAR. Be sure and enter now to take advantage of some great early bird incentives... see details below.

**YOUNG ANGLERS FISH FOR FREE!** Speaking of bargains, for 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. **Keep in mind, signing up as a "New Tide" membership DOES NOT automatically register member in STAR. "New Tide" Members MUST BE at least 6 years of age in 2012 to be eligible to fish STAR and under age 18 to enter for FREE. It is the "New Tide" Member's responsibility to register each year for STAR.**

**2012 EARLY BIRD DRAWINGS** - We will again offer some great incentives for anglers to sign up before the tournament starts. Don't forget to sign up ahead of time and get your shot at landing one of the many great prize offerings just for registering early. Your early registration into the 2012 CCA

Texas/STAR Fishing Tournament qualifies you to win the perfect rig to get you to your favorite fishing hole in style. This special "Early Bird" Promotion will again offer another awesome "grand prize" boat package. Your early registration into the 2012 CCA Texas/STAR qualifies you to win an awesome boat, motor, trailer combo – a prize package valued at over \$35,000! Everyone ages 21 and over that signs up **now through May 25** will automatically be entered into this special drawing, along with the 20 other great prizes being offered. Everyone age 20 and under that signs up **now through May 25** will automatically be entered for the 20 other great "Early Bird" prizes.

Don't miss "the boat" or "the truck and boat"... register today! You can sign up NOW online at [www.ccatexas.org](http://www.ccatexas.org) or [www.startournament.org](http://www.startournament.org)!

George Hopper Jr. of Anahuac was the lucky winner of the Coors Light "Early Bird" Grand Prize - 21' Shoalwater Cat, Mercury 150 L OptiMax motor and McClain Trailer.

**2012 STAR Early Bird Drawing**  
Deadline to enter is May 25th

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

**Boat, motor, trailer package**

(must be 21 years old to win boat prize package)

\*\*\*20 MORE GREAT PRIZES\*\*\*

**9.9 hp Mercury Motor Three (3) Rod & Reel Combos**

**Thermo-Electric Travel Cooler & Warmer Fifteen (15) CCA Special Edition Posters**



**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 coupon courtesy of Academy Sports + 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 19)

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

**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 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!

**TEXAS FISH & GAME "BONUS" SUBSCRIPTION!**

Texas Fish & Game will again honor this year's STAR entrants with a **ONE -YEAR (12 issues)** subscription to Texas Fish & Game Magazine. Please be advised your subscription **WILL NOT be sent automatically**. If you wish to take advantage of this special bonus you must declare on your application form. If you have already signed up for the 2012 STAR, but did not declare that you would like this special offer and/or have questions regarding your past or current subscription, please call (800) 725-1134 or email [hgerke@fishgame.com](mailto:hgerke@fishgame.com).



**2012 PRIZE LINE-UP** - This year's 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 2012 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" truck. Haynie Boats returns with the awesome Haynie 23 Bigfoot rigged with a Mercury 150 L OptiMax! A Coastline Trailer completes 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 college scholarship, in lieu of the truck.

**Trout Division** - With winners in the upper, middle and lower coast regions, each winning angler will take home the **Shoalwater 22' Legend**, "Truly a Texas Legend", powered with a Mercury 150 L OptiMax and McClain trailer. **SPECIAL NOTE:** If you're un-



2012 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT SuperCab with Haynie 23 Bigfoot, the Redfish Division prize.

sure 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 reseed the bays.

**Offshore Division** – Blue water anglers who land the heaviest kingfish, dorado and ling (cobia) will each win the awesome Explorer by Dargel 216 Blue Water Series boat prize to cruise the big waters along with a Mercury 200 XL OptiMax outboard and McClain trailer.

**Inshore Division** – Each winner that reels in the largest flounder, gafftop and sheephead will be handsomely rewarded with Blue Wave's 180 V Bay boat completely rigged with a Mercury 115 ELPT OptiMax outboard and McClain trailer.

In the past fifteen years, **\$4,345,000** in college scholarships has been awarded to fisher-kids across the state. And 2012 continues to offer plenty of reason for everyone to round up their kid(s), a rod and reel and head for the water.

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

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

**Houston Community Newspapers StarKid 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 **\$20,000** college scholarship for each fisher-teen with the largest trout in the upper, middle and lower coasts. **SPECIAL NOTE:** 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 **\$20,000** 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 2012. “NewTide”/STAR participants at least, 6 - 17 years old in 2012, are eligible for a bonus drawing that will net one lucky youth a \$20,000 college scholarship even if the participant never wets a line or enters a single fish during the entire tournament.

**Member Bonus Drawing -**

This unique drawing offers STAR entrants a chance to win a fabulous boat prize package even if the participant never wets a line. One lucky contestant's name will be drawn to win a Shoalwater 22' Legend model with a Mercury 150 OptiMax outboard and McClain trailer.

Please don't forget to thank our wonderful sponsors for their loyal support... return the favor by remembering them when making your purchasing decisions. They make this wonderful family event possible. Major sponsors for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual CCA Texas/STAR Tournament include:

*Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Home Corporation, Mercury Marine, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, Houston Community Newspapers, Fox Sports Houston, Fox Sports Southwest, Time Warner Cable Sports, Comcast, Haynie Boats, Shoalwater Boats, Explorer by Dargel Boats, Blue Wave Boats, Texas Fish & Game Magazine, Costa Sunglasses, Texas Oilman's Charity Fishing Tournament, Houston Astros, Coastline Trailers, McClain Trailers, Chris's Marine, Mt. Houston Marine and Coastal Backwater Marine.*



*Explorer by Dargel 216 Blue Water Series, Offshore Division Prize*



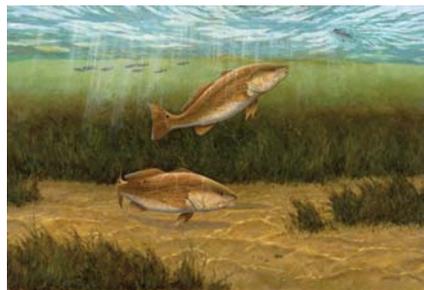
*The Shoalwater 22' Legend, Trout Division prize.*



*Blue Wave 180 V-Bay, Inshore Division Prize*



*STAR Collector series art prints: STAR Sighting, 2012 Platinum Series II is shown above. A few STAR Reds, 2011 series I art prints, on right, are still available.*



**STAR has reached \$4,345,000 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.**

CURRENTS is a membership benefit of the Coastal Conservation Association - Texas. It is published bi-monthly, alternate months from the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) TIDE Magazine. Address, 6919 Portwest, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77024. Phone: 713-626-4222. FAX: 713-961-3801. [www.ccatexas.org](http://www.ccatexas.org)

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This is the issue of  
 February / March 2012 Vol. 29, Issue 2



Byron Lee launched at dawn, and caught a few moon rays near Fat Rat Pass.

## Kocian, Caldwell, McDonald 2011 Outdoor Art Show Indoors Orvis/Houston Benefitting CCA's HTFT

Many friends of CCA got their *Holiday shopping done early*. Classic outdoor art was on view, plus great Orvis gear. An Orvis Access 9 ft. 8wt Tip Flex Rod with a matching Hydros Large Arbor Reel and 8 wt Redfish line with backing was on the raffle, along with art prints by Ben Kocian, Les McDonald and Sam Caldwell. Sam Caldwell completed an original Caldwell watercolor painting, which was won at the end of the evening. All proceeds from the raffle went to **CCA's Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow program (HTFT)**.

Caldwell's watercolor demo, Light-house Cove Reds, was improved with the help of several young artists: Sam and Sarah, and Blyn, Tate and Shaw. At the end of the evening, the original Caldwell watercolor was won by Shaun Jones. Ashley Ahlfinger won the Caldwell art print, Gary Burns won the Les McDonald print and Ben Kocian's art print went to Dixie Swearingen.

The Orvis reel winner, Heath Bryant said, "Thank you Orvis and CCA for the fly rod, reel and gear! This fits me perfectly, as I am a traditional longbow hunter. I look forward to my first redfish on a fly."

## Welcome to the CCA Texas Online Auction

Sponsored By Costa Del Mar

I hope Santa was good to everyone this year! If he wasn't, take a look at these great eBay auction items from the CCA Inventory! We have a great looking Selco Geneve watch with the CCA TX logo and also a fishing package up for grabs. These items will be featured online for bidding purposes through eBay. We encourage everyone to take advantage of the art and merchandise that is up for sale. These items are coming directly from CCA Texas's inventory. There will be a variety of unique art packages, as well as new merchandise never seen before!

**Fishing Package**— Royal blue CCA logo softsided cooler, CCA logo pliers, 4 16oz CCA tumblers, and a CCA logo dry duffel.

**Selco Watch** – Selco Geneve Men's watch with CCA TX logo.



Auction begins February 14, runs through February 21.

To bid and win, go to [ccatexas.org](http://ccatexas.org) and click on the link (left hand side) **online auction**. Good luck! —Drew Adams

Sponsored by our  
friends at Costa.



**Great CPR Photo of the issue:** Young Cole Aplin Caught this beauty, held it for a Photograph, then Released it for further duty somewhere in west Galveston Bay.



## Enter Great Photos 2011

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.



# Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR  
TEXAS MARINE HABITAT



## HTFT continues to build partnerships

Coastal Conservation Association has announced plans for a \$100,000 reef project off the Texas mid-coast, funded by CCA Texas, CCA National's Building Conservation Habitat Program, Shimano, and in partnership with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Artificial Reef Program.

CCA Texas's habitat program, Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT), originally dedicated \$35,000 to the new reefing site located off the Texas coast in state waters between Matagorda and Sargent. With additional funds secured from CCA National's Habitat program, HTFT has more than doubled the commitment to this new reefing site.

"In dealing with Gulf reef fish issues, working on advocacy issues alone is not enough," said Robby Byers, executive director of CCA Texas.

"Creating new, viable habitat is an equally important priority, and our membership is committed to putting significant structure in the water that will be a magnet for both fish and anglers. We are proud to be building a string of reefs along the coast, and proud to be working with corporate partners like Shell to improve marine habitat and angling opportunities."

"CCA does a first-rate job of initiating progressive efforts on behalf of people who fish in coastal regions," said Phil Morlock, Director, Environmental Affairs, Shimano American Corp. "Thanks to CCA and Shell, this Texas reef project will provide great fishing opportunities for generations of anglers to enjoy and we are pleased to be a partner in this conservation effort."

This reefing project will compliment the Vancouver reefing site project, which deployed

in excess of 250 tons of material off the coast of Freeport and the Port Mansfield project, which will deploy over 4,000 concrete culverts in near-shore waters between late spring and summer of 2011.

With this recent addition of dollars to the Matagorda reefing project, HTFT has committed \$200,000 to near-shore reefing in Texas waters in the program's brief two-year history. HTFT is committed to enhancing Texas's near-shore fisheries habitat through its partnership with TPWD and outside sources for the benefit of Texas's fisheries and recreational fishermen. In December 2010, the CCA National Building Conservation Habitat Program announced a \$1.5 million contribution from Shell Oil Company, with the first \$250,000 going towards the Independence Island Reef in Louisiana's Barataria Bay. The Building Conservation Habitat Program has contributed \$60,000 to the Texas mid-coast reefing effort and is making plans for another reefing project in Alabama later this year.

"You have to go through a lot of hoops to get projects like these off the ground and into the water, but we are building real momentum with the habitat program. Tons of materials are going into the water, and the pace is picking up," said CCA National President Pat Murray. "When we get recreational anglers, private companies and state agencies all working together, we can accomplish great work."

### Costal Del Mar commits to habitat restoration in Texas

Costa Del Mar has recently financially committed to CCA Texas's Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT) habitat program for the next three years. This increased level of support by Costa Del Mar further strengthens a long standing commitment to CCA Texas and both organizations commitment to conserving the coastal habitats and fisheries for present and future generations.

"CCA Texas has been a leader in the advocacy fight to conserve our coastal fisheries and habitat," commented CCA Texas Executive Director Robby Byers. "As CCA Texas moves forward with the efforts of HTFT, partnerships with private companies, state agencies and other like organizations will be an important part in conserving, restoring and creating critical habitat along the Texas coast.

CCA Texas is excited to have Costa Del Mar on board and looks forward to a long term partnership."

### HTFT needs your help

CCA Texas's HTFT program has had a successful first two years. As the program has evolved, one piece of the puzzle that has proven to be very important is partnerships. HTFT has worked closely with TPWD, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP), Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) and others. As partners, each organization relies on one another for different aspects of a project. HTFT's support is often through monetary contributions, coordination efforts, and helping secure other needs for projects.

Securing monetary needs for HTFT is an important role of CCA. This is where you, our CCA Texas member, can play an important role. CCA Texas is currently seeking public and private foundations whose mission statements support coastal habitat restoration and creation. If you are connected to a foundation that supports this mission, please contact Matt Warren or John Blaha at CCA Texas to discuss possible solicitations. Each member also has an opportunity to take part in this process through company community grant programs that allow employees to apply for grant dollars to be used within their communities. Community partnerships are the key to success in CCA Texas's goal of habitat restoration and creation. — John Blaha



## The Fourth Annual Port Mansfield EAST CUT & Beach Cleanup is set for Saturday, March 17

Last year was a tremendous success, thanks in large part to all the CCA members who cleaned a huge area of the Mansfield East Cut and PINS beach. Join us again for lots of fun and a collector tee shirt. Start at 7 am, the Port Mansfield CC Pavilion where Breakfast will be served. A free box lunch



will also be provided. Afterwards, enjoy drinks and chili at PELICAN'S PUB. We could use some boat captains willing to provide ferry service. Free housing will be provided by our generous sponsors on an availability basis with priority given to youth groups of any kind.

Miller and Kathy Bassler

979-535-4593 or cell phones 979-204-5185 or 979-324-5555. For photos from last year's event, go to the YouTube site below. Music included by Craig Carter! Type this url into your browser:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TX1321HA8vI>

Kathie and I invite you to enjoy a satisfying day with dozens of friends, followed by a chili dinner and awards. Not to mention a fine Sam Caldwell tee shirt. —Miller and Kathie Bassler





## Upper Coast

By Capt. Dickie Colburn

*Until a bitter cold front, homestead skinny water*

On the upper coast, we have gotten more rain in the past month than we saw in the previous ten, but it still hasn't affected the salinity level in the rivers enough to put that bite to rest. It has been difficult to tell if the flounder ever migrated at all, and the trout and redfish action is every bit as good in the rivers and ICW as it is in Sabine lake. Having that option translates to very few days lost to the winds that blew last spring completely out. The trout and redfish bite in the lake has been very consistent all winter and will improve, but watch for warmer surface temperatures.

The Sabine Lake region: It should be dealer's choice with as many folks drifting the flats on the Louisiana shoreline and deep reefs north of the Causeway as there are tough fishermen wading those same flats, in addition to those bordering the ICW on the north end. The flats on the north end have been at their best late in the day on incoming tides. If there is bait on the surface and a few slicks present it is a slam dunk. Don't overlook Hickory and Old River Cove on the north side of the ICW.

The upper coast in general: Into mid-February, the flats should keep producing not only good numbers of solid trout and slot redfish, but some bragging size fish as well. Until any bitter cold front, redfish will homestead the skinniest water while the best trout bite will be depths of 3 to 5 feet. Topwaters, 5-inch tails rigged on 1/8th ounce heads and mullet imitations like the Corky and Maniac Mullet should all be included in your arsenal. Until that first arctic blast comes along, the same baits—with the exception of topwaters—will be deadly. Then, it's simply a matter of slowing down your retrieve. Three-inch swim baits and four-inch paddle tail plastics like the Sea Shad and Flats Minnow will be excellent choices all the way through March.

Watch for any pods of juvenile shad parading down the banks, as bigger fish are never far behind them. After some rain, this is shaping up to be a user-friendly spring on Sabine, as well as the entire upper coast! —**Capt. Dickie Colburn** / 409-883-0723  
[dickie@sbineconnection.com](mailto:dickie@sbineconnection.com)

## Middle Coast

By Capt. Sally Moffit-Black

*In the wintertime, it's all about comfort*

Now, the rules change dramatically for shallow water anglers. Shallow water warms up the fastest but also cools off the fastest, so plan your day for the warmest water. Shallow water temperatures above 60 degrees will draw fish to enter, and the warmer the water gets, the better chance for feeding fish.

Fishing "between the fronts" offers blue bird days with light winds, clear skies and clear water. Fish shallow areas close to deeper water, such as the Intracoastal Waterway. The Intracoastal can be the "bomb shelter" where fish take shelter when water temperatures fall dramatically. Proximity to the deep water provides a great place for predators to hang out in comfort and safety. No baitfish, no gamefish. Avoid any area that has a lot of current, either wind-blown or tidal. This is about the only time of the year non-moving water works in an angler's favor.

Sharpen up your casting skills and move slow. Predators are unwilling to expend a lot of energy, so drop the fly or lure into a fish's "dinner plate zone," and move it slow. Flycasters throw dark crab patterns on the sand, or the old standby, a white and chartreuse or red and white clouser. Move up a size, so instead of throwing a size 6 fly, try a size 4 or 2. Lure chunkers toss weightless or near-weightless soft plastics on no-wind days for a super quiet presentation. Other lures that will work great are the Corky Fatboy, Corky Devil, Baby -1 crank bait, Chattertube, Catch 2000 and the Cotton Cordell Brokenback.

Consider the secrets to finding feeding fish and you'll be amazed at the quality of angling that can be done in the wintertime! —**Capt. Sally Black** Cell: 361-205-0624 / [www.CaptainSally.com](http://www.CaptainSally.com) / Need more? Sign up for my newsletter at [www.CaptainSally.com](http://www.CaptainSally.com)

## Lower Coast

By Capt. Terry Neal

*Strong winds, Spring Tides, good fishing*

The next couple of months will have a big influence on fishing for the 2012 season. First, the bay system from South Padre Island to the Land Cut will get an overall flushing of fresh water. In January we have seen super low tides that pulled at least a foot of water out of the system.

February will bring cold fronts, but fishing will still be great before and after the arctic fronts move through. Of course, you will remember that this next two-month span of our season can be cold, and change swiftly, so check weather reports and go, but go prepared.

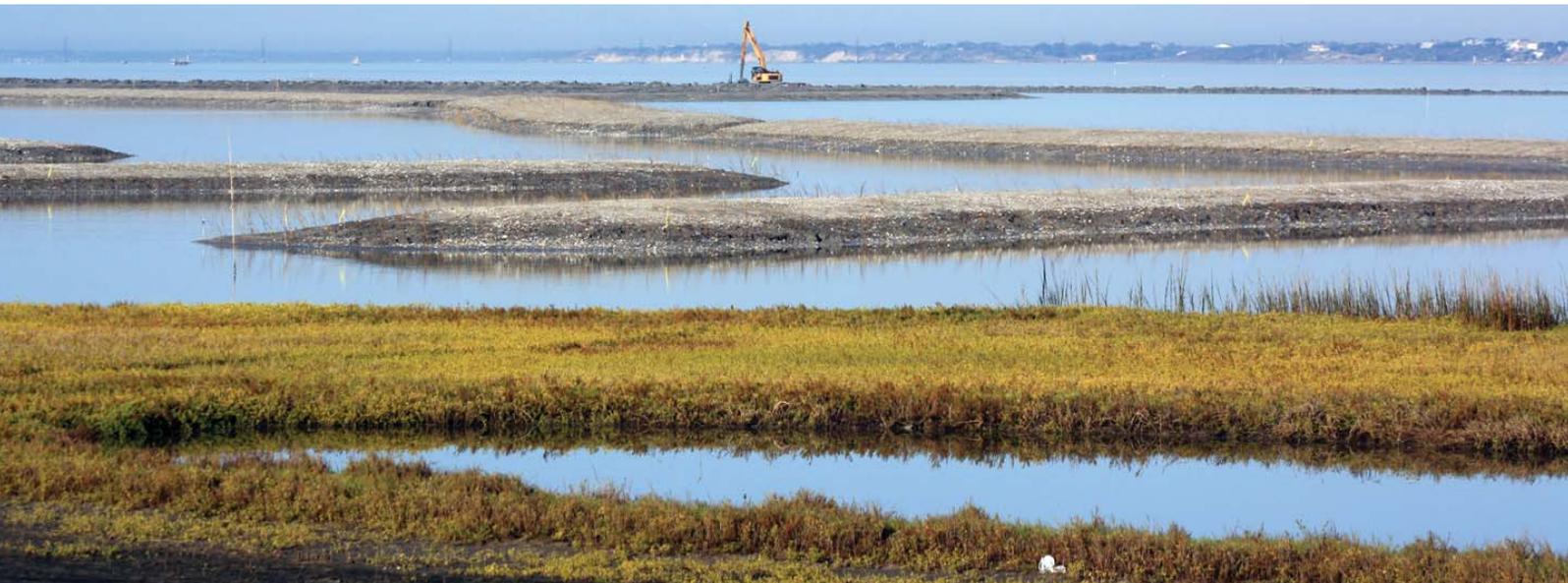
March will also have strong winds that will push lots of fresh water, and that will be responsible for all the "Spring Tides." Along with the spring tides, copious amounts of bait will be pushed south through the Landcut, while down south, giant schools of mullet will be coming in from the Gulf.

Overall conditions of the bay at *Currents* press time (late January) are fair: we are still short on sea grass, but as the water warms, the growing conditions will improve.

As I said in this space for July and August, the five trout limit for the Lower Laguna Madre is a good thing, and one trout over 25" is a good thing. Let's keep a good thing going. Remember to keep only what you want to eat, release the rest, and remember that courtesy on the water is catching.

*On the weekend of March 17, come join us for the Port Mansfield East Cut and Beach Clean up. —Capt. Terry Neal*  
956-944-2559 [terry\\_r\\_neal@msn.com](mailto:terry_r_neal@msn.com)

*A dull picture, until you consider the vast scope of grass planting in a vital estuary, one of the partnerships of CCA's HTFT.*



# Chapter Updates

**Alvin-Pearland**  
Rex Richards 281-923-3050

**Aransas Bay**  
Welcome new president, Carter Crigler  
jccrigler@hotmail.com  
435-830-5984

Happy New Year to all and thanks to everyone who supported our chapter in 2011. We have new officers for 2012. They are: **Carter Crigler**- Chapter President; Vice President - **Walter Laas**; Secretary - **Ginette Collins**; Treasurer - **Joni Coward**. Looking forward to seeing you in the Rockport/Fulton area. **Our banquet is Saturday, August 11, 2012, and Babes on the Bay Tournament is May 18/19th.** More info will be posted about the banquet as we get closer to our date.

Check the website; [ccatexas.org](http://ccatexas.org), click on "local chapters" and find the Aransas Bay chapter. For info on Babes on the Bay Tournament, go to [www.babesonthebay.com](http://www.babesonthebay.com). Tight lines - **Carter Crigler**

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

present to win. To purchase tickets just go to [www.ccatexas.org/austin](http://www.ccatexas.org/austin) for an order form or contact our Boat Wrangler, **Michael Curlee**, at [curleemd@hotmail.com](mailto:curleemd@hotmail.com) or 512-470-9934. Or pick up a ticket order form in the Cabela's fishing department next time you're down that way.

If I didn't mention it, our banquet is May 10, and once again we will again be at the **Palmer Events Center**. Our Austin banquet has grown tremendously in recent years and the result is a showcase of the finest food and beverage Austin has to offer, fine guns and trips from around the world in our live auction, and an incredible raffle and silent auction with guns, fishing equipment, trips, golf packages and more.

And that's just for starters! We will award our **Shallow Sport** to a lucky winner, we'll have a **customized 4WD**

Brazoria County Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) 2012 annual banquet raffle. The raffle this year is for 10 different guns and 10 different sized Yeti coolers. The guns in the raffle range from handguns to shotguns to rifles and include favorites like a Ruger LCP .380, Remington SPS SS .308, Taurus Judge 45LC/.410, and Glock 19 9 MM. Heavy duty marine Yeti coolers range from 15 to 120 quarts. Tickets are only \$20 each and there will be 20 winners of either a gun or a cooler **at the annual CCA Brazoria County Chapter banquet on March 29.**

The winners will be drawn at the banquet on March 29; however, the winner need not be present to win. Because of limited seating at the **Lake Jackson Civic Center**, there will only be 450 tickets sold for the banquet and tickets are currently available for purchase. This year we switched from the boat raffle that has been a part of our annual fundraiser to a new concept that other CCA chapters have found successful - multiple guns and coolers to give more people a chance to win. We are also fortunate to have **Beef 'O Brady's** as the primary sponsor for our banquet this year.

To obtain tickets for the raffle, call **Kyle Harris** at (979) 798-2429, **Dan Johnson** at (979) 481-3907, **Glenn Blount** at (979) 236-1700, **Wes Dingee** 979 299-8245, or **Zeke West** 409-656-7378. Tickets for the banquet are available now. Tight Lines, - **Wes Dingee** [wesdingee@gmail.com](mailto:wesdingee@gmail.com)

## Brazos Valley

**Larry Purifoy** 979-229-4752  
We are excited about kicking off the upcoming 2012 CCA Banquet with our January and February meetings. **The Brazos Valley banquet is scheduled for March 8, at the Brazos Center on Briarcrest in Bryan.** As usual we will have raffles, multiple games, live & silent auction, and great times with friends! This year we are also really excited about our Pre-Sale raffle with 10 great items available to win; including fishing & hunt-



Austin's 2012 Banquet Boat-a 21' Shallow Sport Bahia.

**Austin**  
Welcome new president, Scott Sanderson  
512-637-1750

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

Happy 2012 from the Austin Chapter! Between Christmas and New Years we had some of the nicest December weather I can remember and I hope you had a chance to enjoy some of it on the water. In November we had our bi-monthly Anglers' Night Out (general membership meeting) and it will go down as probably our most successful ever, so far. We had some 175 in attendance at **Abel's on the Lake** for a fun evening of camaraderie with fellow anglers. The food was great, compliments of **Smokey Denmark**, and **Ken Milam** of Stripper fishing fame entertained us all as our guest speaker. Lots of prizes were given away and we added 25 new members to the CCA family!

Thank you for coming out. By the time you read this we'll have had our March meeting with **Jay Watkins** coming in to speak. I think we'll raise the bar again with this one! Remember these are FREE, you get a free meal, we have many prizes and giveaways, and it's all at a beautiful Lake Austin waterfront venue - **Abel's on the Lake**. They are a whole lot of fun and we encourage you to BRING A FRIEND - the more the merrier! Ladies and children are welcome and non-CCA members too. Bring them and ask them to join CCA.

And, come join us for a land-locked **Anglers' Night Out!** We get together the third Wednesday of January, March, July, September and November. We are SUPER excited to announce we have **our 2012 Banquet Boat-a 21' Shallow Sport Bahia**. This dream boat is LOADED with options including a raised console, premium rigging with iCommand gauges, a Bob's Jack Plate, a 120 quart Yeti Cooler, a Coastline double axle trailer, just to name a few.

Once again, you can see it in front of **Cabela's** in Buda until our banquet in May. We're only selling 500 raffle tickets and they are sure to go fast so don't delay. Cost is \$100 per ticket and the drawing will be held at our banquet May 10. You don't have to be



RGV's 21ft Explorer Attacka Flats boat with motor and trailer.

to give away, many, many games to play and countless door prizes to give away. There are so many ways to win something, you'll be treated to superb food and beverage, and it's all to raise money for a great cause that is near and dear to us all.

Our Austin banquet is simply second to none and has become a "must see" event. To purchase a table or inquire about sponsorship opportunities contact **Scott McGuire** at [scott.mcguire@stephens.com](mailto:scott.mcguire@stephens.com) or 512-468-6490. We sure hope to see you there!

Finally, CCA Austin grows with its volunteers and invites you to GET INVOLVED! If you think you might want to join an incredible group of volunteers, or just have a few questions, contact me at the number or email below. We promise you'll have a whole lot of fun, you'll meet a lot of new friends and fishermen, all the while helping to conserve our coastal resources for generations to come. Warm regards, - **Scott Sanderson** 512-637-1750 [scott@mbsquoteline.com](mailto:scott@mbsquoteline.com)

**Bay Area**  
**Curtis Anderson** 832-421-6377

**Brazoria County**  
**Wes Dingee** 979-299-8245  
Hello fellow members. The chapter is in full banquet preparation mode. Tickets are available for the



The Lower Laguna Madre's 2012 18' Sport boat by Shallow Sport Boats.

ing trips, several firearms, gold and diamond bracelet, and some other unique merchandise prizes! If you have any questions, would like to purchase raffle tickets, or would like to get involved with our chapter, please contact **Ed Lefner**, 979-777-2359, or **Larry Purifoy**, 979-229-4752.

**Brenham**  
Welcome new president, **Dennis Crowson**  
979-451-2472 [Dennis.crowson@hotmail.com](mailto:Dennis.crowson@hotmail.com)

The Brenham Chapter would like to wish everyone a happy New Year with lots of bent rods and tight lines. We meet every 4th Thursday of the month at **Mike Hopkins Distributing** with fish tales and fellowship starting at 6:30pm.

Our first meeting of 2012 will be held as Currents goes to press, January 26th. All ages are invited to come out and join fellow fisherman (and fisherwomen) and conservationists to hear informa-

# Gear up for your next fishing escape

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EVERYDAY!

## CCA FISHING RODS

- One-piece, lightweight IM-8 graphite-blank construction for strength and light comfort
- 9-in. cork handle offers a sure, comfortable hold when casting and retrieving
- Powdered-cork butt cap helps reel in large fish
- Seven Fuji® Alconite guides, plus the tip help reduce line wear
- Fuji® reel seat
- #CCA66M, CCA69ML, CCA70M

**99<sup>99</sup>**  
EVERYDAY!

## CCA LOW-PROFILE BAITCAST REEL

- Six stainless steel ball bearings
- Weight: 7.6 oz.
- Capacity: 120 yds. of 12-lb. line
- 7.1:1 gear ratio
- #CCA-A-6BB71



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**CCA  
SCALE/PLIERS TOOL KIT**

- Scale lets you easily weigh your catch
- Pliers are handy for hook removal, tackle adjustments, and other fishing activities
- #CCA-K1

**49<sup>99</sup>**  
EVERYDAY!



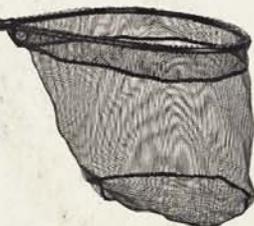
**CCA  
7 1/2-IN. ALUMINUM  
PLIERS WITH SHEATH**

- Great for removing hooks
- Can be used in both freshwater and saltwater
- Machined aircraft-aluminum construction for durability
- #CCA-AH7.5

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**CCA  
LANDING NET  
WITH RULER**

- #CCA-TEL-400



**29<sup>99</sup>**  
EVERYDAY!

**CCA 24-CAN COOLER**

- Capable of storing up to 24 beverage cans
- Hook-and-loop and zipper closures with CCA pulls are secure
- #CPCC3033



**49<sup>99</sup>**  
EVERYDAY!

**CCA 48-CAN WHEELED COOLER**

- Capable of storing up to 48 beverage cans
- Hook-and-loop and zipper closures with CCA pulls are secure
- #CPCC3034



**59<sup>99</sup>**  
EVERYDAY!

**CCA DELUXE TACKLE BAG**

- Includes six utility boxes and detachable rainfly for added wet-weather performance
- #FSCC6001



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EVERYDAY!

**MEN'S CCA  
RAIN JACKETS**

- #MRB1006



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**MEN'S  
CCA PANTS**

- #MRJ1006

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- Built-in steel pocket clip • Aluminum handle
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- Mechanical linear lock system
- Includes CCA wire-cut, laser logo on handle
- #HTCCA5053

**CCA GAME LIP GRABBER**

- Designed for single-hand operation
- Stainless steel construction lipper with heavy-duty spring action
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- 2 lbs.
- #CCASRH5

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tive and interesting speakers on a wide range of topics. Some highlights from last year's presenters included best techniques to catching flounder, where to catch the most redfish along the Texas coast per gillnet surveys, and how to improve on your outdoor photography. Everyone is welcome for what I am sure will be some great programs again this year.

**We are also all getting ready for our annual crawfish boil.** This year's boil will be held on Thursday, April 26th. We hope everyone can make it out to support a great cause and eat some tasty mudbugs. For more information on the Brenham Chapter of CCA or for program ideas please contact me at 979-451-2472, or at [dennis.crowson@hotmail.com](mailto:dennis.crowson@hotmail.com). —Dennis

#### Brush Country

**Hank Henry 361-215-6803**

As the New Year settles in, Brush Country can look back at a few notable events from 2011. In chronological order, the first event was **Kid's Day**. After not holding the event in 2010, it was re-instated in 2011. We appreciate all the calls from parents, and apologize for the cancellation in 2010! Finally, we thank our sponsor and volunteers who helped revitalize Kid's Day!

The second notable change was the addition of some great new board members who have given the 'old-timers' a much-needed shot-in-the-arm! Thanks in large part to their help, we had a chapter-record-setting banquet in November. We look for continued success in our future events!

The success of our banquet would not have been possible without the support of many people. The Brush Country Board of Directors would like to thank the **dinner sponsors, the donors, the staff, and all the volunteers** who made this event possible. This past banquet marked the 25th anniversary of the Fall Fish Fry...we look forward to many more! —Blaine Wise Brush Country Secretary

#### Centex

**Brad Hensel 254-776-3411**

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

The Central Houston Chapter is in full swing banquet mode. **Out banquet will be held on April 19 at the Bayou City Event Center ([www.bayoucityeventcenter.com](http://www.bayoucityeventcenter.com)).** We will be raffling off a John Deere Gator and the number of tickets are limited. Tickets are \$100 each.

If you are interested in purchasing raffle tickets or buying a table, please contact **Todd Buster**. We hope to see everyone there. If you're interested in becoming involved in the Central Houston Chapter, please contact me at [tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com](mailto:tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com). Tight Lines! —Todd Buster

#### Colorado Valley

**Jonathan Brandt, (aka JK)**

**979-966-2679 [jkjb00@cmaaccess.com](mailto:jkjb00@cmaaccess.com)**

**Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 22. We are looking forward to another great event at the KC Hall in La Grange.** Our board is in the process of planning the 12th Annual banquet and Fundraiser. We will have a great meal and plenty of fantastic raffle packages and live auction items. We want everyone to come out and join us and help make this the best one yet. If you are interested in

#### Corpus Christi

**Michael Henry 361-816-0300**

Greeting From the Texas Riviera, and Happy New Year to all. We hope your 2012 brings joy and prosperity to each and everyone.

CCA Corpus is gearing up for our 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Banquet. Our Banquet Chairman this year is **John DeJohn** and our Co-Chair is **Randy Poelma**. These guys are in high gear with many great new additions to our Annual Dinner Banquet.

**This year's event will take place at the American Bank Convention Center, March 29.** The festivities will kick off at 5:30 pm with cocktail hour, and then let the fun begin. This year's live auction promises to be top notch, with **David Harris** back as our Live Auction Chairman. Our trips are literally from all over the globe, and items that just cannot be matched. Our Boat Chairman is **Joseph Briones**, Silent Auction and Raffles Chairwoman is **Lauren Hollon**, ATV Chairman is **Cliff Alexander**, Guides Cup Chairmen are **Cody Roesener** and **John McCain**, Facilities Chairmen are **Cliff Johnstone** and **Mike Morgan**, **Table Sales Chairman is Blake Laird**, Black Board Chairman is **Jake Herring** and Advertising and Banquet Program chairman is **Jay Gardner**.

The food menu promises to be first class, with a smorgasbord of variety for all different tastes. Gold Sponsors are: **Andrews Distributing-2011-21'** Majek Illusion w/175 Yamaha and Coastline Aluminum Trailer, **L&F Distributing-2011** John Deere Gator, **The Corpus Christi Caller Times**, and **Academy Sports and Outdoors**. Sponsor Tables, Patron Tables, and Individual tickets are on sale, for information, contact John DeJohn or Randy Poelma @ 361-882-5199 or 361-728-8152. Make your reservations as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you all there, for the most anticipated party of the year. None of our Conservation work would be possible without YOU, our membership, our sponsors and patrons. Everyone that buys a raffle ticket, a trip, artwork, or makes a donation to the cause is DIRECTLY benefitting coastal fisheries and essential fish habitat. We thank you, the resource thanks you, and future generations of Texans thank you. Enjoy the evening with us...**March 29, 2012-American Bank Convention Center**. As always, take a child fishing, you will be glad you did! —Michael Henry

#### Dallas / North Texas

**John Hansen 214-243-9435**

Happy New Year to all our members and potential members! Hope all your fishing adventures in the past year were successful and you have new adventures planned for the coming year to keep your lines adequately saturated. Speaking of plans, our Dallas Chapter has several on the horizon for your enjoyment and required participation.

February 7, 2012 – **Chester Moore**, Editor of Texas Fish and Game Magazine will join us to speak about the "Flounder Revolution" and his current conservation projects. We will be meeting at The Blue Mesa (Northwest Hwy and 75) at 6:00 and Chester will speak at 7 pm. Bring a few extra bucks to throw into the raffle, we'll have some great gifts to get your year spinning in the right direction. This will be a great presentation!

March 7, 2012 – **Russell Graves**, Outdoor photographer will join us to discuss outdoor photography and his recent projects. We plan on meeting at Collector's Covey for this program at 6:00 and

Russell will speak at 7 pm. Russell joined us last year with one of our better membership/guest turnouts. Plan on joining us for Russell's presentation.

April 4, 2012 – **Dallas CCA Cookout at Tailwaters Fly Fishing Company**. No speakers planned for this event. We want to preview our upcoming benefit auction items that will be available for purchase at the annual benefit auction planned for April 26. Bring your friends and / or spouses to peruse the available auction items. Come hungry, we

will either fry up some of our scaly conservation efforts or be grilling burgers and brats. There will be a good selection of beverages as well.

**April 26 – Annual CCA Dallas Chapter Benefit Auction – Frontiers of Flight Museum at Dallas Love Field.** Follow us on Facebook (DallasCCA) or stay tuned into our web page at [www.CCATexas.org/dallas](http://www.CCATexas.org/dallas) for updates regarding the auction. Please consider purchasing a table this year if you didn't last year. This is a great event for friends and business associates!

CCA is a grassroots conservation association that relies upon your involvement. Our membership numbers are at an all time high, yet our participation has remained somewhat level. Please make it a point to attend our upcoming meetings and become involved with your chapter...we need all hands on deck! Tight Lines, —**John Hansen** [president@dallascca.org](mailto:president@dallascca.org)

#### East Texas

**Dr. Jim Norman 936-554-3165**  
[jjnorman7@suddenlink.net](mailto:jjnorman7@suddenlink.net)

#### Fort Bend

**Troy Burditt 281-239-8507**

#### Fort Worth

**Fearn Mastin 817-291-1302**

**Our annual banquet is at Joe Ts on May 3rd** this year and we are starting our weekly meetings to plan another successful event. Stay tuned as we will be having another general membership meeting at the Rahr Brewery as we are building momentum to the big party.

#### Galveston

**Shane Justus 409-908-0275**

I would like to thank the Captains for the Galveston Bay Guides Cup 2011, we had a good turnout with 8 of the 10 guides fishing and 7 of them at weigh in. The Winning Guide was **Captain Steve Hillman** with "Team Tiki" comprised of **Scott Maxwell, Jeff Larson, and Epi Garza**.

**This year is the CCA Texas Galveston Chapter's 20th Annual Banquet and Fundraiser that will be held at Moody Gardens and Convention Center on August 4.** We are planning a great event for the 20th anniversary so keep your calendars open. Should anyone wish to get more involved with the Galveston Chapter, please drop me an Email at [Sj@Coopwood.com](mailto:Sj@Coopwood.com) —Shane Justus

#### Golden Triangle

**Joseph Ramey 409-338-1095**

As this edition publishes in February, there is no telling what the weather in January will have been! Southeast Texas in general has had a respite from the drought—unfortunately it came too late in the year for farmers, cattle, crops, and last but not least, freshwater inflows into the bay systems. Water is still very salty in the bayous upstream from Galveston Bay and Sabine Lake. I witnessed redfish tailing in a bayou 10 miles inland from the ICW near Winnie back in December. Word in the weather community is that the drought will continue throughout 2012 in Texas. Let's hope they are wrong. The fire damage, as well as the crop damage has been astronomical, and we don't need another year of it.

All eyes this year will be focusing on the elections of 2012, both locally, statewide, and nationally. Get out there and exercise your right to vote. If you have any questions regarding what CCA stands for,

becoming involved in our local chapter we would welcome the help and input.

We couldn't have this great event without the support of our hardworking volunteers. Tickets and tables are on sale now, so contact any local board member or the CCA office to secure your tickets. —JK Brandt

or who your representatives are, go [www.ccatexas.org](http://www.ccatexas.org) and the "advocacy" tab, and scroll down to "contact your legislators." It will direct you to your reps and how to get in touch with them. A hand-written note or letter always works better than an email. There are also press releases that are timely and other news regarding CCA.

**Locally, I am sure the Golden Triangle Chapter will have their annual general membership meeting at Munro's in early March**, so keep a look out for the mail-out.

The only fishing report I have is I heard they are catching nice reds in Oyster Bayou, which is an easy place to get to in the winter, so go out there and GO FISH!

PS: I talked to Neal Nicholls, and he had the BEST bay fishing trip he has ever had on New Years Day, on the north shoreline of Galveston Bay! The wind was blowing 25 to 30 out of the North, and he was wading — all fish caught on topwaters. He left 'em biting!' — Rocky Chase

**Greater Sugar Land**  
David Kveton 281-808-4870

**Greater Woodlands**  
Jimmy Pape / 832-326-6723  
[www.ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands](http://www.ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands)

By the time this article hits the February/March 2012 issue of Currents we should have our web page updated. Please contact any of the board members on our website <http://www.ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands/> or contact **Jimmy Pape** at the number above. We will take any and all volunteer assistance available.

Here are the events planned, to be scheduled for 2012: (1) Kidfish, (2) Fishing Trip for CCA Texas GWC members and Friends, (3) **Annual Banquet (July 2012)** (4) Fundraiser II in the form of a Fish Fry (or) Crawfish Boil (April 2012), (5) General Membership Meetings, (6) and more as they develop throughout the year...Keep Conserving ...To Keep Fishing! —Jimmy Pape

**Guadalupe Valley**  
Cliff Weber 361-275-6506

**Hays County**  
Steve Schiber 512-524-2989

**Heart of the Hills**  
Randy Plummer 830-377-0737

**Hill Country**  
Darlene Cook 800-594-2056 ext 217  
darlene@knbtfm

**Houston Real Estate**  
Dale Couch 281-953-2510

The Houston Real Estate Chapter recently hosted our first ever Chapter Fishing Tournament. Much fun was had by all who attended. A special Thank You goes out to **Jim and Paul Grover** for their work in putting on this event.

**Our Fourth Annual Fundraising event is set for Tuesday, February 7, 2012.** We look forward to another great year. —Dale Couch

**Katy**  
Jason Smith 281-924-7040

Welcome to a new and exciting year for the Katy CCA chapter. We have several new activities planned for this year and a great list of guest speakers. **You need to mark your calendars for June 14, this is our banquet date** and we are counting on everyone to make it bigger and better than last year.

We can really use your attendance at our monthly meetings, the 3rd Wednesday each month. If you have never attended or have not been in a long while, we would welcome your attendance. There is good food at the restaurant where we, so come early and bring the family, hear about CCA,

get fishing reports and learn about up-coming CCA activities. Come and see what your local CCA Chapter can do for you, and learn what you can do for CCA.

Remember to bundle up when you go after those BIG Winter Trout. Good fishing, and always be Safe and Courteous when on our waters. —Jason Smith

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

**Lee County**  
Clarence Wolfshohl 979-412-0916  
[Cwolfshohl@claytonwilliams.com](mailto:Cwolfshohl@claytonwilliams.com)

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

**Lower Colorado Valley**  
J.L. West 979-318-9007

**Lower Laguna Madre**  
Welcome new president, Travis Flanagan  
956-207-6391

Winter has arrived here in the Lower Laguna Madre but don't let that discourage you. Bay and offshore fishing are still hot. The redfish bite has been excellent as the day warms up; and with weather permitting the yellowfin bite continues in the deeper offshore waters. Also, when the days are cold and the wind is blowing, duck hunting on the bay is on fire.

**The Lower Laguna Madre Chapter will be raffling a 2012 18' Sport boat by Shallow Sport Boats. The winner will be announced at our 2012 Banquet which will be held on Thursday, September 13, 2012, at Schlitterbahn Beach Water Park on our beautiful South Padre Island.** Doors open at 6pm. For more information about purchasing tickets for the boat raffle and/or purchasing tickets for the banquet please email us [atloverlagunamadrecca@yahoo.com/](mailto:atloverlagunamadrecca@yahoo.com/) —Travis Flanagan

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

**Matagorda Bays**  
Linc Lutrick 979-541-9901

Mark your calendars! The Matagorda Bays Chapter of CCA will be holding its **7th annual Lil' Salty Fishing Tournament at the Matagorda Harbor on May 12.** All kids between the ages of 3 through 14 are invited to attend this FREE tournament. This event stresses the importance of conservation and sportsmanship to youngsters. This is also a great way to get families and kids out on the water for a fun day of fishing.

This event is only made possible because of generous sponsors who donate time, merchandise and money. As always, we welcome and encourage our sponsors to attend this event. It is the only way to really see and feel the difference you all make with your generous donations for these kids. To sponsor this event in any way, please call or email **Chad Hensley** at 979- 541-3239, [chadwayne73@yahoo.com](mailto:chadwayne73@yahoo.com), or **Tom Gold** at 979-541-6942, [tagold@elc.net](mailto:tagold@elc.net).

If you wish to make a monetary donation, make your check payable to **Matagorda Bays CCA** and mail to Matagorda Bays CCA, P.O. Box 1524, El Campo, TX 77437. Thanks again! —Linc Lutrick

**MidCoast**  
Danny Hurta 361-648-4914

**Northeast Houston**  
Jason Law 713-898-8594  
Hope everybody had a great holiday. On December 10, the chapter had our annual board Member

along with a set of six CCA tumblers. The second category will be silver, which will be a \$126 to \$250 donation and they will receive a CCA soft side cooler. The Third category will be gold which will be \$251 to \$500 along with two CCA tumblers and a CCA soft-side cooler.

The fourth category will be platinum which with \$501 to \$1000 donation, they will receive a CCA soft side cooler and a set of six CCA tumblers. The last one would be a diamond with a donation of \$1000 and up would receive a CCA soft sided cooler a 6 CCA tumblers. Every donor will be recognized for their effort the night of the banquet. The cut-off time for the donations will be March 23. This year, at the banquet, the chapter will be offering a CCA lifetime membership for \$975 and they will receive a CCA soft-side cooler along with six CCA tumblers. Also, they will receive \$300 worth of raffle tickets. We are still looking for cap and corporate table sponsors. Tables, which include eight meal and membership tickets, will be available through Kirk Hoppe at 979-885-8868. The cost per table is \$450.

On February 17, we will be hosting our **annual CCA Chili Appreciation Dinner.** It will be held at the **Cat Spring Tin Hall.** Food and drinks are included. There will also be a bucket raffle and silent auction. This year's **Kids Fish** will be held on May 19, 2012 at the **Eblery Ranch in Chappell Hills.** Everything is free — hot dogs, drinks, and treats. Also, there will be a live and silent auction, along with the bucket raffle. For more information, call **Sharon Goebel** at 979-877-4103, **John (Bullhead) Burtchell** at 281-743-9548, **Mandy Goebel** at 979-877-8690 or **Ron Chess** at 979-992-3295. Thanks for your efforts and support. —Ron Chess, Sr.

**Northwest Houston**  
Welcome new president, Blaine Eversole  
???-???-????

Our speaker at December's meeting was Captain Fred Ruiz, Game Warden with Texas Parks and Wildlife. He discussed the use of equipment that CCA has provided to TPWD and had an informative PowerPoint/video presentation on actual field enforcement experiences. Educational, informative and entertaining, Captain Ruiz readily handled our questions and provided an excellent presentation.

We are pleased to announce our new Chapter Officers for 2012. Congratulations to **Blayne Eversole** — President, **Alan Massey** — VP Banquet, **Eileen Coats** — VP Operations, **Jim DeClue** — Secretary, and **Teresa Sims** - Treasurer. Each of these members is experienced and active in both planning and working with NW Houston Chapter events.

Our next General Members Meeting is February 7th at Houston Distributing. We will have **Phil Ortiz** with Flounder Pounder, [flounderpounder1@comcast.net](mailto:flounderpounder1@comcast.net) or visit [www.flounderpounder1.com](http://www.flounderpounder1.com) to find out more. You can count on both an informative and entertaining speaker. For sure, expect our usual raffle with lots of prizes. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Mark your calendar for the annual Member appreciation fish fry. The time is set for the April 3rd General Membership meeting.** We expect a large turnout to renew your membership, sign up for the STAR tournament, enjoy both plenty of fish and a great speaker program.

We are excited to announce that we will again have our **Kid Fish.** The date is May 12th, rain or shine! Many thanks to the **City of La- Porte, Harris County Precinct 2, and Linda's Bait and Tackle** for

their support of this program. We do need both your support and participation. We will accept donations of any kind for the kid's event at the General Membership meeting throughout the year to assure the kids have a great time. We do plan T-shirts with sponsor logos so contact **Darrell Sims** at 281/221-0515 for sponsorship details. Also, we always need your participation with whatever time you have for any number of duties from planning to helping at the event.

Christmas party at the **Goebel's** party barn. Thanks to Gordon and Sharon for the use of their facility. Santa and Mrs. Claus were there for the younger children and the adults had their Chinese Christmas gift exchange. There were a couple of gifts that made many rounds in the room.

**We are making plans for our 2012 banquet that will be set for April 5 at the Cat Spring Hall.** This year the chapter will have something different. There will be five categories for donors. The first one will be Bronze, which will be a \$1 to \$125 donation

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INSPIRED BY OUR FRIENDS IN THE WATER. BUILT FOR OUR FRIENDS ON LAND.

 **COSTA**

Our sincere thanks to both **Houston Distributing and Academy**. They are active sponsors of our meetings and many events. We are especially fortunate to have such great support.

As a reminder, we are using email for meeting announcements. If we don't have your e-mail address and you would like to receive our announcements, please send your e-mail address to [js\\_declue@yahoo.com](mailto:js_declue@yahoo.com). —**Blaine Eversole**

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

With winter in full swing, the reds are holding in deeper water and feeding on the tide movements here on Sabine Lake. The Orange County Chapter is getting ready for the **Crab Trap Cleanup**. The chapter has worked the last 3 years to remove over 120 abandoned traps from Sabine Lake and the surrounding areas.

**Mark your calendars! August 30 for the 2012 Banquet.** tickets will go fast. If you would like to help, contact us at [OCC\\_CCA@yahoo.com](mailto:OCC_CCA@yahoo.com) or me at 409-988-3667. Tight Lines from my iPhone, —**Scott Bandy**

**Piney Woods**  
**Jess Mowery 903-736-3891**

**Port O'Connor**  
**Bill Moore 361-983-4690**

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As the holiday season has come and gone, we wish to thank all those members whose tireless efforts helped make the 12th Annual CCA Banquet a great success. Also, a special thanks to our gracious donors who make our banquet so successful. As you visit the POC area, we encourage you to say "thanks," as you visit these businesses.

This time of the year also signals that it's time to go back to work, as we are setting dates for our 2012 general membership meeting, appreciation meeting, and follow-up meetings for additional planning. So, as you make resolutions for the New Year, we hope one was to keep CCA in mind and to stay involved. We are always looking for help in gathering donations, organizing and planning to help make this year's banquet another success. If you are interested, contact us and plan to attend any meetings you can in POC- "Where it all began" —**Bill Moore 361-983-4690**

#### Prairie

**Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103**

Hope everybody had a great holiday. On December 10, the chapter had our annual board Member Christmas party at the **Goebel's** party barn. Thanks to **Gordon and Sharon** for the use of their facility. **Santa and Mrs. Claus** were there for the younger children and the adults had their Chinese Christmas gift exchange. There were a couple of gifts that made many rounds in the room.

**We are making plans for our 2012 banquet that will be set for April 5 at the Cat Spring Hall.**

This year the chapter will have something different. There will be five categories for donors. The first one will be Bronze, which will be a \$1 to \$125 donation along with a set of six CCA tumblers. The second category will be silver, which will be a \$126 to \$250 donation and they will receive a CCA soft side cooler. The third category will be gold which will be \$251 to \$500 along with two CCA tumblers and a CCA soft-side cooler. The fourth category will be platinum which with \$501 to \$1000 donation, they will receive a CCA soft side cooler and a set of six CCA tumblers. The last one would be a diamond with a donation of \$1000 and up would receive a CCA soft sided cooler a 6 CCA tumblers. Every donor will be recognized for their effort the night of the banquet. The cut-off time for donations will be March 23.

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#### Redfish Bay

**Norman Oates 361-758-0266**

The Redfish Bay Chapter Board wishes all members and their families a 2012 filled with success and happiness. It is time to mark your 2012 calendars for our upcoming events. **The Annual Banquet is scheduled for April 28, 2012, and it will be in the Port Aransas Civic Center.** As usual, there will be a sit-down meal with tea, cokes, beer, and wine included in the ticket price. The annual **Take a Kid Fishing event will be held the first weekend of June at Woody's Sports Center in Port Aransas.** The **Beeville Fish Fry** will be held in September, the Thursday evening before dove season starts – place is still to be determined. We look forward to a great 2012! —**Norman Oates**

#### Rio Grande Valley

**Matt Klosterman 956-642-7965**

As we start the new year in South Texas, we look forward to warmer weather and the start of a great year of fishing. The bay has seen less traffic over the winter months. With the end of hunting season more folks will start heading east. The fishing has picked up here in the last few weeks and 2012 should hold some fantastic days of fishing.

The trout fishing has been exceptional, thanks to the 5 fish limit we have in the lower laguna madre, and this coming year should be no different. We have also seen a dramatic increase in our flounder population and look forward to catching some of those flatfish. **The RGV Chapter has begun to organize our 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Banquet. This year's banquet will be held on April 26, 2012 at the Pharr Events Center so mark your calendars now.** We are also busy selling raffle tickets for our **21ft Explorer Attacka Flats boat with motor and trailer.** The tickets are \$100 and we will limit the ticket sales to 450. We would like to thank **L & F Distributors** for their continued sponsorship of the raffle boat.

The chapter is always looking for fresh faces, so if you are interested in joining the RGV Chapter feel free to give



me a call at 956-642-7965. We meet at the Best Western Palm Aire in Weslaco. —**Matt Klosterman**

**Sabine-Neches**

**Darin Johnson** 409-790-9855  
 darin.johnson@delpapabud.com

Happy New Year! By the time you read this article it will be almost time for the 15th Annual Sabine Neches Banquet! It is not too late to get in on the fun, **we are once again having our banquet at the Bob Bowers Civic Center in Port Arthur, Texas.** We had a sellout crowd last year and are looking forward to seeing all of our family, friends and fellow anglers at this year's event! **Mark it on your calendar, Thursday March 1st, 2012 Bob Bowers Civic Center Port Arthur, Texas 6-10pm Crawfish Boil and Auction!** If you have any questions or need tickets please contact me on the phone, text or email and we will get you taken care of. I look forward to seeing you there for the 15th Annual Sabine Neches Banquet! Until then, keep the lines tight and be safe on the water! —**Darin M. Johnson**  
 darin.johnson@delpapabud.com

**Sam Houston**

**Mark Robinson** 936-662-0841  
 mark6469@hotmail.com

**San Antonio**

Welcome new president, **Johnny Rayburg**  
 210-837-5500

CCASanAntonio@yahoo.com

First of all, I'd like to thank our outgoing President, **Liz Hewitt** for a great two years. I've got a tough act to follow. The year 2012 started off with a bang. In late January we had a successful booth at the San Antonio Boat Show. Thanks to all the volunteers that helped man the booth and sign up and renew memberships.

The banquet committee is well underway with our planning of this year's banquet. If you want to be a part of the well-oiled machine that puts on one of the largest fundraising events for all of CCA come join us on Tuesday nights, 6:30pm, at the Quarry Golf Club. We welcome all newcomers. **This year's event will be held on Thursday May 3 at the Freeman Coliseum Exposition Hall.** Tickets will go on sale in late March. Remember, these tickets sell out fast, so act quickly once they are available. Hopefully, by the time this is printed, spring weather is fast approaching and we'll be shedding our waders and coats, bracing for the March winds, and starting to get out on the water more.

Take some time to take a kid fishing. It will put a smile on your face as well as theirs. If you need to contact our chapter directly there are two ways: email [ccasanantonio@yahoo.com](mailto:ccasanantonio@yahoo.com) or call me, 210-837-5500. —**Johnny Rayburg**

**San Bernard**

**Royce Macha**  
 979-472-5211

**San Gabriel**

**John Melnar** 512- 497-8284

**San Jacinto**

**Pete Ruiz** 832-496-4903

On October 8, we hosted the **Sunshine Kids Tournament**. We had a total of 18 children and their families present for this event. Our 18 boat captains and deck hands did a superb job assisting the children and their families. The children caught specs, reds, whities, drums, cat fish and flounder; they all received trophies. The families enjoyed eating hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, cookies and sodas. A big huge thank

you to all the parents, captains and deckhands for a spectacular day! Thank you also to BJ and Jocelyn for allowing us to be a part of the Sunshine Kids.

Then, on September 10, the chapter had our **Kids Tournament** at Sylvan Beach. Eighty children caught specs, flounder, croakers, eels, reds, whiteys, and ladyfish. They all had an awesome time! Every child who participated received a prize and was full of smiles and happiness. Afterwards they filled their appetite with hot dogs, sausage on a stick, pickles, chips, cookies and drinks. We thank all parents for coming out and all the volunteers who participated in our yearly event. Get ready for next year we know it will be another successful event! —**Pete Ruiz**



*San Jacinto's Kids Tournament at Sylvan Beach was another great success.*

**TAMU**

**Burr Thornton**

**Texas State**

**Robin Benson** 830-385-1081

**Tomball/Magnolia**

**Mike Uhlig** 832-566-6492

**Tri-County**

**Jason Trial** 830-570-2988

**Trinity Bay**

**Gerald Payne** 281-385-2894

**West Houston**

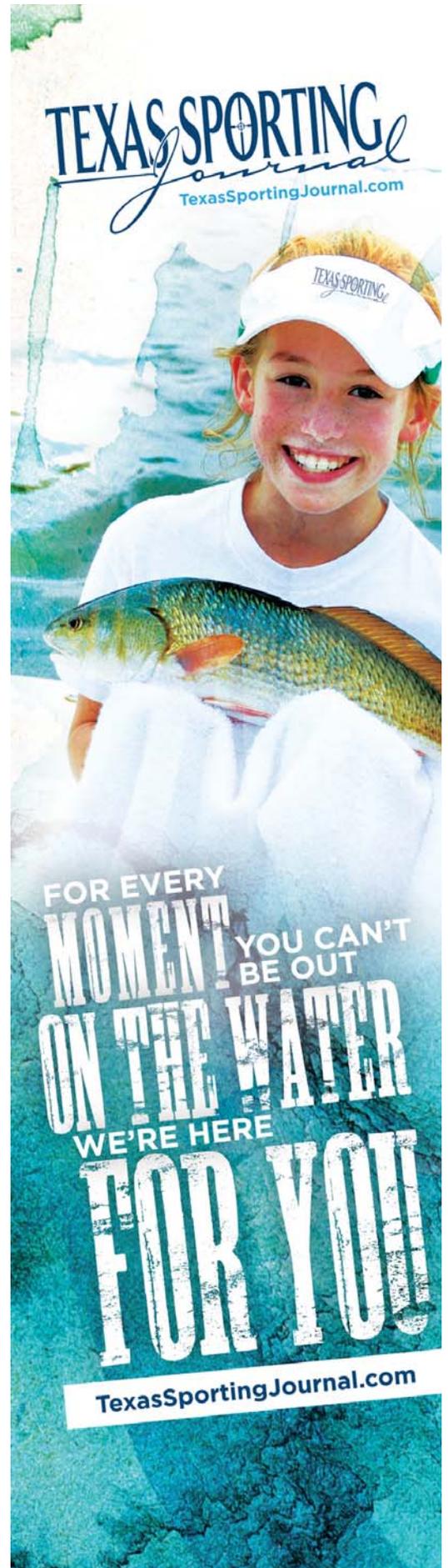
**Mike Booher** 281-772-0132

**West Texas**

**Craig McDonnold** 432-682-3499  
**Roger Letz** / Communications Director  
 432-685-6026 RCL301@aol.com



*Redfish sighting, spotted on Hwy 87.*





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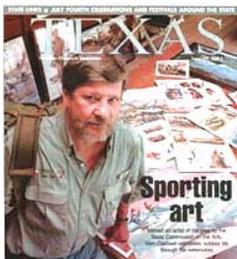
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# Coastal Conservation Association



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CURRENTS NEWSLETTER  
February / March 2012

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## Spring Cleaning

Abandoned crab traps, Big Shell Beach, East Cut Cleanup are on CCA agendas

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

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

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



Current size, bag and possession limits are now available through the Texas Parks & Wildlife website: **TPWD has a number to report game violations. 1-800-792-4263.**

A partner with CCA in aiding Texas game and Game Wardens is **Operation Game Thief**. Drop by and put this website on your favorites list: <http://www.ogttx.com/>



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

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