

CURRENTS

The newsletter for CCA members in Texas
December 2013 / January 2014



Can you find the \$50,000 college education flounder in these pictures?

In a few seasons, a Star Teen youngster may well find a winning flounder, due to a recent advance in flounder hatching technology.

Recent accomplishments in southern flounder production are a direct result of support from the CCA. Broodstock collections, monetary donations, equipment purchases, volunteers' assistance, and public awareness are just a few of the ways that CCA has amplified the hatcheries' efforts.

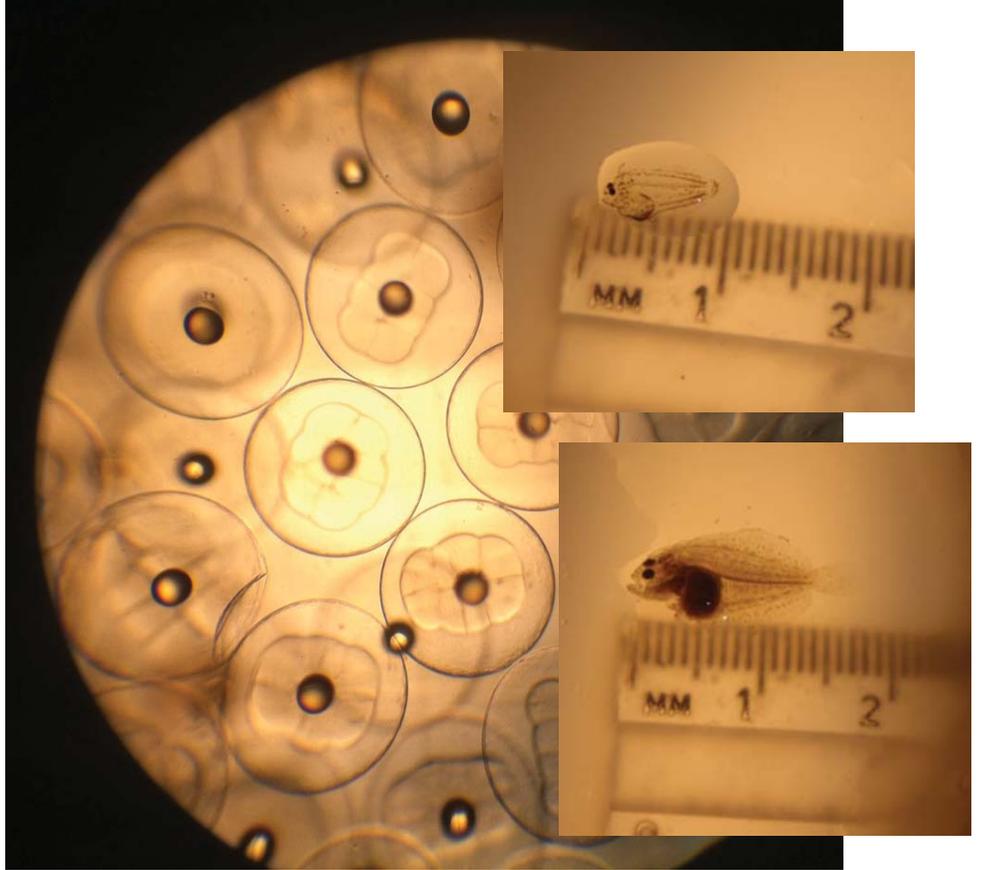
A simple thank you for your continued effort seems so insignificant for everything that CCA has done. Members should be proud of their organization and the great work that they do. Your time and donations make all the difference for the programs and institutions that you support.

Invest a moment and take stock of all of the successes that CCA has been able to achieve in just the past few years.

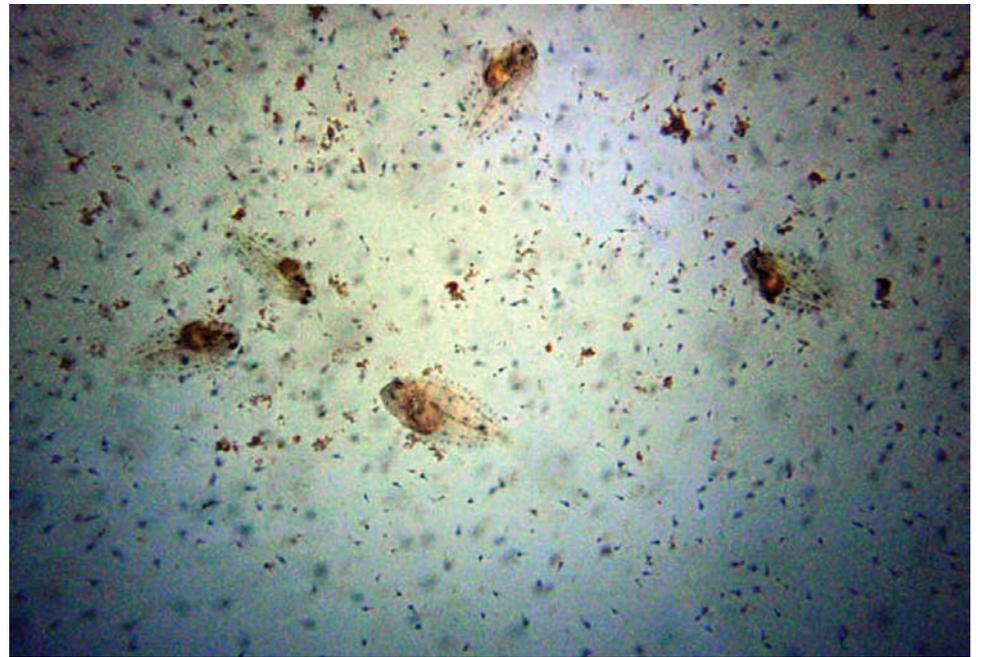
Whether it is creating artificial reefs, habitat restoration, or southern flounder enhancement, your support makes it possible. You have championed many causes turning the ordinary into extraordinary, making the impossible possible.

Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) Coastal Fisheries is on pace to release a combined 24 million spotted seatrout and red drum fingerlings. Every year from about early May thru late December, coastal hatcheries produces 35-40 millimeter fingerlings to release into Texas bay systems.

For the past few years there has been a shift from producing primarily red drum to a more balanced approach of both red drum and spotted seatrout. In fact this year, the TPW coastal hatcheries will release more than 8.3 million spotted



Fertilized Southern flounder eggs; larvae at 15 days post hatch; larvae at 60 days post hatch; flounder fingerlings in tank.



seatrout fingerlings, along with more than 19 million red drum fingerlings and to date, 112,298 southern flounder fingerlings.

Over the past several years TPW coastal hatcheries have ramped up efforts to incorporate southern flounder into the stocking program. To say that these efforts have been challenging and

difficult would be an understatement. Southern flounder are much different from red drum and spotted seatrout. Flounder like it cold; red drum and spotted seatrout like it hot. Flounder have a 30-day larvae cycle in which all environmental conditions have to be held constant; red drum and spotted seatrout have a very flexible and short larvae cycle. Flounder release eggs in the mag-

Flounder for dinner—and college?

On the cover: a hungry flounder fell for a Lefty's Deceiver. Coastal hatcheries, aided by CCA funding are angling to place many more flounder in Texas Bays. A few may finance \$50,000 college educations for young STAR anglers. The angler and photographer was Sam Caldwell, who performed CPR on the Shoalwater Bay flatfish.



nitude of tens of thousands; red drum and spotted seatrout release eggs in the magnitude of millions. Flounder are difficult to spawn volitionally; red drum and spotted seatrout will release eggs even when you don't want them.

Despite the challenges that southern flounder fingerling production pose there have been some bright spots in the past couple of years. With the help of University of Texas Marine Science Institute, CCA, volunteers, and fishing guides, TPW coastal hatcheries have been able to make some significant advances. The current broodstock inventory sits somewhere around 350 fish and there are plans in the works to increase our broodstock holdings.

Sea Center Texas hatchery is working towards expanding the flounder larvae culture space

and retrofitting existing rooms to achieve the environmental control that is necessary. Coastal Fisheries' biologists are conducting research experiments to determine the appropriate size fish for release under varying environmental conditions. TPW coastal hatcheries have spawned fish this past August, a first ever for the hatchery program. Finally, TPW hatcheries released more flounder in the winter of 2013 then have been released in all previous years combined! —**Shane Bonnot**, Sea Center Texas Hatchery Manager. 🐟

Above, hatchlings near stocking size, and the Mamas and the Pappas— broodstock in tank at Sea Center Texas. Hatchery technician Jonathon Daigle nets a female southern flounder from the broodstock tank. Below left, a brood female awaits further duty.

A happy StarKid, Nicholas Gilstrap and father Sean, with his \$50,000 scholarship-winning 2013 flounder.





24th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo Christmas came early for winners!

The 24th Annual CCA/Ford/Tilson Homes Corp/Capital Farm Credit State of Texas Angler's Rodeo wrapped up at 5PM on Labor Day, Sept. 2. Over 44,000 registered for the 2013 STAR with over 11,000 NEW recruits into CCA! This year's tournament offered 123 fabulous prizes and for 116 STAR participants, Christmas came early! Twenty-seven of those were top prize winners and each was presented during the CCA State of Texas BBQ and STAR Awards Ceremony on Oct. 3 at the Bayou City Event Center! See below for a list of ALL the 2013 STAR winners and to check out the top winners with their awesome prize packages.

We hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and Best Fishes for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

StarKids \$50,000 Scholarship Division - This year's StarKids Scholarship Division provided these three young anglers with college scholarships totaling \$50,000 each:

Nicholas Gilstrap - Capital Farm Credit StarKid Scholarship Flounder winner and Josh Krupa of Capital Farm Credit.



Allison Schwartz - Houston Community Newspapers StarKid Scholarship Sheepshead winner with

Megan O'Sullivan Jason Joseph and Tommy Legg of Houston Community Newspapers

Anthony Bellanger - Fox Sports Southwest StarKid Scholarship Gafftop winner and Denise Janowski of Fox Sports Southwest.



Academy Sports + Outdoors StarTeens Scholarship Trout Division - The Academy Sports + Outdoors StarTeens Scholarship Trout Division awarded a \$20,000 college scholarship to these youths pictured below:

Nicholas Josey - StarTeen Upper Coast Trout winner and Jason Morris of Academy Sports + Outdoors.



Sarah Otto - StarTeen Middle Coast Trout winner and Patti Keeper of Academy Sports + Outdoors.

Cole McGrew - StarTeen Lower Coast Trout winner and Raymond Gonzales of Academy Sports + Outdoors.



StarTeens Inshore Scholarship Division - The StarTeens Scholarship Inshore Division awarded these lucky teens each a \$20,000 scholarship:



Grant Drabek, StarTeen Flounder winner and Richard Webb of Tilson Homes Corp.



Seth Jackson, StarTeen Sheepshead winner and Mark Brown of Whataburger.



Kayleigh Ritchey, StarTeen Gafftop winner and Ardia Neves of Texas Fish & Game Magazine

STAR has reached \$4,925,000 in scholarships awarded to 154 children, ranging from 6-17 years of age. Many thanks to our sponsors for making this happen. Without them, it would not be possible.

Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division - Four out of the first five winners drove home a fully-loaded 2013 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" truck and Haynie 23 BigFoot, Mercury150 OptiMax outboard motor and Coastline trailer and a 10-year old boy received a \$20,000 scholarship, in lieu of the truck, plus a Haynie 23 BigFoot, Mercury150 OptiMax outboard motor and Coastline trailer. The sixth winner was awarded a Haynie 23 BigFoot, Mercury150 OptiMax outboard motor and Coastline trailer.



L.D. Whitehead, 1st Redfish - Truck & Boat winner



Caleb Morales, 2nd Redfish - \$20,000 Scholarship & Boat winner with John Savickis of Texas Ford Dealers.



Bret Coggins, 3rd Redfish - Truck & Boat winner



Jack Haire, 4th Redfish - Truck & Boat winner



Vicki Preston, 5th Redfish - Truck & Boat winner



Paul Swoyer, 6th Redfish - Boat winner

Speckled Trout Division - These winners took home a Shoalwater 22' Legend boat package:



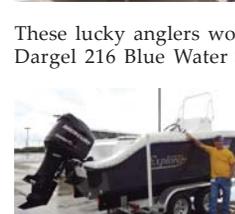
Jeremy Bane - Upper Coast Trout winner,



Joe Rizzo - Middle Coast Trout winner



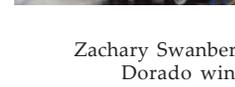
Dan Wyatt - Lower Coast Trout winner



Offshore Division -

These lucky anglers won the Explorer by Dargel 216 Blue Water Series boat package:

Joseph Messina III - Kingfish winner



Zachary Swanberg - Dorado winner



Alan Parker - Ling (Cobia) winner



Inshore Division - The following are the proud owners of Blue Wave 180 V-Bay boat package:

Paul Gaylord - Flounder winner



Jaime Ybarra - Sheepshead winner



Jill Yarbrough - Gafftop winner



BEST IN TEXAS

2013 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT SuperCab with Haynie 23 Bigfoot, the Redfish Division prize.

Runner-Up Winners - A total of 69 runner-up prizes were awarded this year. First through fourth runners-up in ALL divisions received a plaque, "special edition" STAR runner-up cap

and gift certificates from **Academy Sports + Outdoors**. Gift certificate amounts for scholarship divisions: 1st - \$250, 2nd - \$150, 3rd - \$125, 4th - \$75 and for regular divisions: 1st - \$500, 2nd - \$250, 3rd - \$150, 4th - \$100:

StarKids Scholarship Division

Flounder: 1st: Nathan Skrobarczyk (age 7) of Corpus Christi, 4 lbs. 12ozs. / 2nd: Austin Conner (age 10) of Harlingen, 4 lbs. 7 ozs. / 3rd: Hunter Werneck (age 7) of Los Fresnos, 4 lbs. 0 ozs. / 4th: Lilly Kaspar (age 9) of New Ulm, 3 lbs. 12 ozs.

Sheepshead: 1st: Nicholas Jackson (age 9) of Brownsville, 6 lbs. 7 ozs. / 2nd: Nate Nelms (age 6) of Corpus Christi, 5 lbs. 8 ozs. / 3rd: Ryan Nelms (age 8) of Corpus Christi, 5 lbs. 4 ozs. / 4th: Blake Duty (age 8) of Katy, 5 lbs. 4 ozs.

Gafftop: 1st: Austin Bellanger (age 6) of Orange, 6 lbs. 1 oz. / 2nd: Connor Junot (age 9) of Nederland, 5 lbs. 15 ozs./ 3rd: Nathan Grimm (age 9) of Conroe, 5 lbs. 4 ozs. / 4th: Jonathan Wright (age 7) of Santa Fe, 5 lbs. 2 ozs.

Academy Sports + Outdoors StarTeens Scholarship Trout Division



Upper Coast: 1st:

Dalton Douglas (age 14) of Dayton, 7 lbs. 1 oz. / 2nd: Garrett Nicholas (age 13) of Lake Jackson, 6 lbs. 6 ozs. / 3rd: NONE / 4th: NONE

Middle Coast: 1st: Jaime Sifford (age 13) of Corpus Christi, 7 lbs. 6 ozs. / 2nd: Wyatt Williams (age 15) of Smithville, 7 lbs. 2 ozs. / 3rd: Laithean Crow of Victoria, 7 lbs. 0 ozs. / 4th: Micah Merritt (age 13) of Corpus Christi, 6 lbs. 10 ozs.

Lower Coast: 1st: Kristina Anderson (age 16) of Port Mansfield, 7 lbs. 13 ozs. / 2nd: Conner Wilson (age 13) of Montgomery, 7 lbs. 8 ozs. / 3rd: Jordan Jaafar (age 15) of San Antonio, 7 lbs. 8 ozs. / 4th: Cami Goldman (age 12) of Moulton, 6 lbs. 15 ozs.

StarTeens Inshore Scholarship Division

Flounder: 1st: Justin Ruffeno (age 16) of Flynn, 4 lbs. 12 ozs. / 2nd: Parker Joffrion (age 16) of Friendswood, 4 lbs. 11 ozs. / 3rd: Coopes Sowers (age 14) of Port Aransas, 4 lbs. 10 ozs. / 4th: Hunter Thiem (age 14) of Hitchcock, 4 lbs., 9 ozs.

Sheepshead: 1st: Hunter Wagenschein (age 15) of Corpus Christi 6 lbs. 14 ozs. / 2nd: Jenasereth Ybarra (age 14) of Houston, 6 lbs., 11 ozs. / 3rd: Madison Newton (age 13) of Cleburne, 5 lbs. 10 ozs. / 4th: Jessica Badgett (age 12) of Danbury, 4 lbs., 12 ozs.

Gafftop: 1st: Becca DeLord (age 17) of Beaumont, 6 lbs. 3 ozs. / 2nd: Jarren Mahon (age 14) of Winnie, 6 lbs. 0 ozs. / 3rd: Sydney Pearson (age 11) of San Antonio, 6 lbs. 0 ozs. / 4th: John Darling (age 16) of Beaumont, 5 lbs. 11 ozs.

Speckled Trout Division

Upper Coast: 1st: Mickey Gierspeck of League City, 8 lbs. 11 ozs. / 2nd: Frank Carner of Santa Fe, 8 lbs. 10 ozs. / 3rd: Alle Borel of Clute, 8 lbs. 6 ozs. / 4th: John Armstrong of Houston, 8 lbs. 4 ozs.

Middle Coast: 1st: Ryan Guerra of Corpus Christi, 8 lbs. 6 ozs. / 2nd: Raymond Gann of Corpus Christi, 8 lbs. 5 ozs. / 3rd: Tiffany Moore of Ingleside, 8 lbs. 4 ozs. / 4th: NONE.

Lower Coast: 1st: Jack Gibbs of San Antonio, 9 lbs. 2 ozs. / 2nd: Mark Urbanczyk of Manchaca, 8 lbs. 15 ozs. / 3rd: Noe Gonzalez Jr. of Alice, 8 lbs. 15 ozs. / 4th: Dallas Munroe of Houston, 8 lbs. 14 ozs.

Offshore Division

Kingfish: 1st: Amy Block of Kingwood, 50 lbs. 7 ozs. / 2nd: Colin Thomas of Dallas, 49 lbs. 10 ozs. / 3rd: Jaime Aparicio of Pearland, 48 lbs. 2 ozs. / 4th: Jeffrey Gilkes of Missouri City, 48 lbs. 1 oz.

Dorado: 1st: Marlin Johnson of Aransas Pass, 46 lbs. 7 ozs. / 2nd: Michael Prasek Jr. of El Campo, 43 lbs. 14 ozs. / 3rd: Bruce Daniecki of Conroe, 40 lbs. 14 ozs. / 4th: Craig Reedy of San Antonio, 39 lbs. 0 ozs.

Ling: 1st: Leonard Grosz of Houston, 70 lbs. 4 ozs. / 2nd: Rob Freyer of Conroe, 63 lbs. 9 ozs. / 3rd: Oscar Buhay of Houston, 62 lbs. 9 ozs. / 4th: David Knesek of El Campo, 62 lbs. 7 ozs.

Inshore Division

Flounder: 1st: Antonio Esparza Jr. of Channelview, 7 lbs. 0 ozs. / 2nd: Jake Thompson of Corpus Christi, 6 lbs. 15 ozs. / 3rd: Wayne Chadwick of Beaumont, 6 lbs. 14 ozs. / 4th: Charles Smith of Nederland, 6 lbs. 13 ozs.

Sheepshead: 1st: Marvin Crouthers of Seabrook, 7 lbs. 13 ozs. / 2nd: Damon McGrew of Baytown, 6 lbs. 13 ozs. / 3rd: Roger Holland of Cypress, 6 lbs. 10 ozs. / 4th: Michael Green of Cleveland, 6 lbs. 9 ozs.

Gafftop: 1st: Lyden Voorhees of Hamshire, 6 lbs. 15 ozs. / 2nd: Pam Wood of Hitchcock, 6 lbs. 11 ozs. / 3rd: Dutch Kueteman of Tiki Island, 6 lbs. 11 ozs. / 4th: Jessica Darder of Beaumont, 6 lbs. 11 ozs.

Special Bonus Drawings Winners - These unique drawings give participants a chance to win a prize even if they never wet a line or caught a single fish during the entire tournament. The following are lucky winner's of this year's special bonus drawings:

Terry Ray of Orange was the lucky winner of the Coors Light "Early Bird" Grand Prize - 21' Shoalwater Cat, Mercury 150 OptiMax motor and McClain Trailer



2013 Coors Light Early Bird Drawing Winners - Every 2013 STAR entrant who registered prior to May 25th went into this special drawing. A total of 21 names were drawn and the lucky "Early Bird" winners are: **Dargel 210 Skout boat, Evinrude 150 ETEC motor and McClain trailer:** Terry Ray of Orange; **Mercury 9.9 ELPT BF Pro Kicker motor:** Eugene Ulrich Jr. of La Grange; **Three (3) All Star Reel & Abu Garcia Rod combos:** Cyndy Peacock of San Antonio; Raymond Sepulveda of Harlingen, TX; Reese Henry of Georgetown, TX; **Thermo-Electric Travel Cooler:** Bryan Lear of La Vernia, TX; **Fifteen (15) CCA "Special Edition" Posters:**

1. Ari Montemayor of Laredo; 2. James Bowman of Corpus Christi; 3. Mark Canales of Helotes; 4. Lloyd Eloi Jr. of Dickinson; 5. Michael Carrabine of Sugar Land; 6. John Webber of Fredericksburg; 7. Mike Manis of Austin; 8. Benjamin Murray of The Woodlands; 9. Marc De La Garza III of Corpus Christi; 10. Silvia Keller of McAllen; 11. Zachary Bingham of Galveston; 12. Paul Thornton of San Antonio; 13. Cy Jary of San Antonio; 14. Beth Martin of Ben Wheeler; 15. Randa Minzenmayer of Taylor.

New Tide Member Scholarship Drawing - All "New Tide" Members (ages 6 - 17) were eligible for a bonus drawing that netted one lucky youth a \$20,000 college scholarship. The lucky winner was Brandon Gau, age 10, of Magnolia.

From left to right: Curtis Denison and Ron Hartman, Texas Oilman's with New Tide \$20K Scholarship winner, Brandon Gau.



Member Bonus Drawing "TOTAL OUTDOORSMAN PACKAGE"

- Every 2013 STAR entrant's name was put into a drawing for a Kawasaki Mule, plus a Dargel 210TV with a Mercury 150 OptiMax outboard and McClain trailer.

Carol Wiltshire of Freeport was the lucky winner of the Member Bonus "TOTAL OUTDOORSMAN PACKAGE" - Kawasaki Mule, plus a Dargel 210TV with a Mercury 150 OptiMax outboard and McClain trailer.



2014 STAR NEWS!

The STAR 2014 is set to begin at sunrise Saturday, May 24 and will run through 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 1 (**Labor Day**). In order to win at STAR, an angler must be registered and be a member of CCA. You're going to get in anyway, might as well do it now! Remember, everyone entered in the STAR Tournament, who will be 6 years old in 2014 and older, is eligible to win the prizes being offered (even the TAGGED REDFISH DIVISION)!!!

2014 EARLY BIRD DRAWINGS! Don't forget, by signing up now you'll get your shot at landing one of the many great prize offerings just for registering early! Be on the lookout for special "Early Bird" prizes available ONLY for those entrants who sign up before the tournament kicks off. Everyone who signs up for STAR by **May 23, 2014** deadline will be automatically entered into the special Early Bird Drawings. Several prizes will be given away! They are sure to be a reel catch. The **2014 STAR entry fee is \$20** for ages 18 and up - an awesome bargain! Membership fee is \$25 annually and an additional \$20 to enter the 2014 STAR Tournament for a total of \$45. For kids age 6-17, "New Tide" membership fee remains \$10 annually and the STAR entry fee is "FREE"! Each "New Tide" member **MUST sign-up each year for the current year tournament.** You can sign up NOW online at www.startournament.org!!!

GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA! While you renew your CCA Texas membership and STAR entry, why not honor your family and friends, *of all ages*, with this unique **Christmas gift** that offers hundreds of thousands in prizes. You might put 'em in a new truck/boat combo or pay for their college education! Get everyone signed up for the **2014 STAR**.

CCA Texas/STAR Platinum Print Membership Package, Series IV - We're pleased to announce the new print being offered for the 2014 CCA Texas STAR Platinum package is **Working the Spoils**. Renowned artist David Drinkard has again honored the CCA Texas



NOW AVAILABLE...2014 STAR Platinum Print Series: Working The Spoils.

member by creating a print depicting a classic wade fishing scene... check out the white heron! This special offer includes your CCA membership (new or renewal), your 2013 CCA Texas STAR entry, plus a signed, limited-edition print created exclusively for STAR, all for \$125! *Working the Spoils* is a one-of-a-kind special print worth this price alone. If you would like to consider one, or several, of these limited-edition packages, go to: www.startournament.org for more details, or to place your order with the STAR Dept., call 713-626-4222.



STILL AVAILABLE... CCA Texas STAR Platinum Print, Series I, II & III – *STAR Reds, STAR Sightings & School Is In Session* 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 this first-ever commemorative piece, purchase yours today before they're all gone! The proceeds from the sales of Platinum Packages will help us continue to fund the STAR scholarships.

Please don't forget to thank our wonderful sponsors for their loyal support... return the favor by remembering them when making your purchasing decisions this holiday season! Major sponsors for the 24th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament include:

Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Home Corporation, Capital Farm Credit, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, Shipley Donuts, Ozarka, Berkley Gulp, Houston Community Newspapers, Fox Sports Southwest, Time Warner Cable, Haynie Boats, Shoalwater Boats, Dargel Boat, Explorer by Dargel Boats, Blue Wave Boats, Texas Fish & Game Magazine, Costa Sunglasses, Texas Oilman's Charity Fishing Tournament, Coastline Trailers, McClain Trailers, Chris's Marine and Mt. Houston Marine.

For more information, including a list of all the 2013 winners, go to <http://www.startournament.org>. Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!!!

STAR has reached
\$4,925,000 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.

We want you to fish for us!



CCA Texas and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) are



looking for volunteers to help with fishing surveys for the East Galveston Bay Reef Restoration project. It's critical to have data before and after. You can be that important Fishing Scientist.

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

This effort is 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.

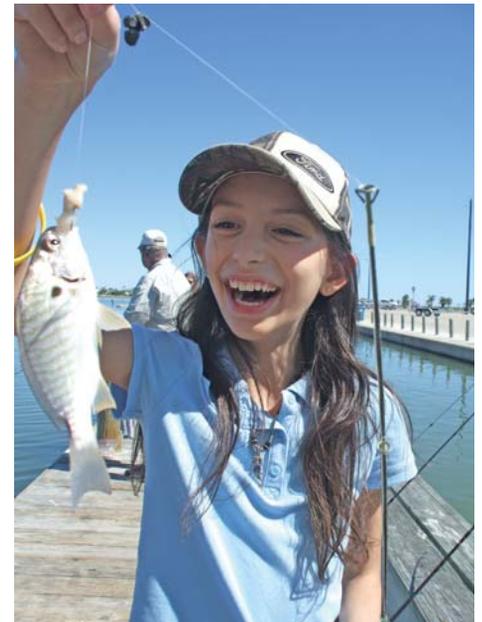
The fishing periods will be seasonal times during the months of June to August, then September to Novem-

ber, December to February and March to May.

Pre-construction efforts through the end of 2013, and post-construction efforts will take place beginning June 2014 through 2015.

For more information regarding how you can Fish for Science, contact: Bill Rodney, (TPWD), at 281-534-0127, Bill.Rodney@tpwd.texas.gov. Or, Bryan Legare@tpwc.texas.gov. Or, John Blaha, CCA Texas at 713-626-4222 jdblaha@ccatexas.org.

A Fishing Scientist for the Galveston Bay Restoration project? This is Emily, from Redfish Bay's Fulton 4-5 annual Wetlands Field Trip.



CCA Texas Launches New Online Store!
Visit the CCA Texas Online Store at joincca.store.com

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

Editor, Sam Caldwell / sam@samcaldwell.com
 This is the issue of December 2013, January 2014
 Vol. 32, Issue 1.

Welcome to the
CCA Texas
Online Auction
Sponsored By Costa Del Mar

We have some great merchandise up for grabs this month!

Available online 11 am, December 16, ends December 21 at 11 am.

To bid and win, go to ccatexas.org and click on the link (left hand side) online auction. Good luck!—Erich Schneider



2013 Stamp Set

This is the iconic stamp set from CCA! This Stamp Set runs from 1983-2012 and is all the great stamps from CCA Past and Present. With the year coming to a close this will be one of the last times you will be able to purchase this great piece of art. As you know every dollar spent with CCA goes towards helping future generations enjoy the coast like we know it today.



CCA Cedar Bayou 2014 Print

This painting by Al Barnes depicts Cedar Bayou as it would be if it were opened. An important project for CCA's Habitat Program, this is a very limited edition print that was only made for CCA Texas. There will be only 60 ever made or sold. Make sure you get yours today.

Sponsored by our friends at Costa.



A Blue Crab Guest in Port Mansfield. The host/chef is Miller Bassler.

Great Foods / Food Editor Ellen Ohmstede

BLUE CRAB BEIGNETS

This is an adaptation of a recipe found in both Bon Appétit and Louisiana Seafood Magazines. It is originally from Chef Justin Deviller of La Petit Grocery in New Orleans. A bit messy, but worth it.

Batter

1 cup all-purpose flour / 1/3 cup cornstarch / 1 tablespoon baking powder / 1 t of salt / 1 t of pepper / 1 t of Cajun seasoning or Old Bay
 1 cup amber lager / vegetable oil for frying as needed (roughly 4 Cups)

Filling

6- 8 oz crab meat (or more) / 1/3 cup mascarpone cheese
 1/4 cup chives / 1 shallot, very small diced / 1 t salt / 1 t Cajun seasoning or Old Bay / pinch of pepper.

For the batter, mix all dry ingredients. Add beer slowly until batter is just thicker than pancake batter. Set aside, covered, at room temp for up to 2 hours.

For the crab filling, mix all ingredients in a medium sized bowl and form into 1/2 ounce balls.

Heat oil in a Fry Daddy or cast iron skillet to 375°F. Gently drop crab filling balls in the batter, roll to coat, lift out with a fork or tablespoon letting excess drip away. Gently slide them into the oil and fry for 2 to 3 minutes until golden brown and hot all the way through.



Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR
TEXAS MARINE HABITAT



2013 HTFT Year in Review

It was a great year for CCA Texas and Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT). 2013 saw the total amount of funds committed and expensed to habitat restoration and creation grow to \$3,329,600 for 21 projects since HTFT's inception in 2009. Several projects that have been in process were completed and new projects begun.

ing to assist Aransas County. An additional \$20,000 was committed to the project through the efforts of the Babes on the Bay fishing tournament, sponsored by the Aransas Bay Chapter, located in Rockport and CCA National's Building Conservation Fund has committed \$100,000 to the project as well. At



Dropping off the reefing material for Aransas Bay oyster reef restoration.



Barging material for the Aransas Bay oyster reef restoration.

East Galveston Bay Oyster Restoration Project (TPWD) - \$3,700,000

CCA Texas has partnered with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to secure \$3,700,000 in funding to restore of 130-acres of oyster reef in East Galveston Bay. CCA Texas originally funded \$500,000 for the project and then jointly secured an additional \$3,200,000 with TPWD through the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). Currently CCA Texas is working with TPWD and volunteers in a pre-construction study that will create a fishing success baseline in the areas to be restored. Once restoration is completed, the study will continue and judge the fishing success post construction. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2014.

Restoration of Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough (Aransas County) - \$1,420,000

CCA Texas has been active in the efforts to restore Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough for many years, giving up to \$25,000 in the past for early stage feasibility, engineering and environmental studies. In February of 2012, CCA Texas' State Board approved \$500,000 in fund-

2013. Construction is expected to begin in April 15, 2014.

Matagorda Nearshore Artificial Reef (TPWD) - \$200,000

In June of 2009, CCA Texas approved an initial funding of \$35,000 for the new 160-acre nearshore reefing site located between Sargent and Matagorda. After some delays, the project was finally fully permitted in December of 2010. Since the original \$35,000 funding approval, CCA National's Building Conservation Fund has contributed an additional \$150,000 to the project and also secured \$15,000 from the Shimano Corporation making the total commitment \$200,000. The

goal of TPWD is to completely reef this project at one time and TPWD is currently waiting on funding status from the Deep Water Horizon settlement dollars.

Oyster Lake Shoreline Stabilization Project and Marsh Restoration Project / West Galveston Bay (Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) - \$200,000
This project was approved in August of 2012 and is a partnership with the Galveston Bay Foundation. The project will eventually create 5,200 linear feet for shoreline protection for Oyster Lake, a valuable estuary adjacent to West Galveston Bay. Phase one of the project has been completed and 1,000 feet of breakwater has been placed in the most severely eroded areas.

Corpus Christi Nearshore Artificial Reef (TPWD) - \$100,000

In November of 2011, CCA Texas approved \$100,000 in funding to the Corpus Christi Nearshore reefing project. This reefing site is a 160-acre site located in Texas state waters between Packery Channel and Port Aransas. This project was completed in October 2013 and 470 pre-fabricated reef pyramids have been deployed, making the site approximately 30% reefed.

Copano Bay Oyster Reef Restoration at Lap Reef (HRI) - \$75,000

CCA Texas is partnering with Harte Research Institute (HRI) to create a 1.5 acre oyster reef complex on Lap Reef, in Copano Bay, to enhance fish habitat. This project is part of a large mapping effort to identify and prioritize locations for oyster reef restoration based on long-term water quality and oyster health. Recycled materials will be used as base material for the site and it will then be topped with reclaimed oyster shells through a program initiated by Dr. Jennifer Pollack at Texas A&M

Pyramid reefs await placement. The big triangles are lowered all the way to their final resting places.



Corpus Christi and HRI. This project was completed in September 2013.

Nueces Bay Delta Water Management System - \$70,000

CCA Texas has partnered with the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP) to install a water management system that will ensure water pumped into the delta stays in the delta and does not backflow into the Nueces River, thus bypassing this critical habitat. This project will install a water control gate type system in Rincon Bayou to keep water in the delta. CCA Texas approved \$70,000 funding to be used for matching funds in November of 2011. The project is ready for construction and is currently waiting on final signatures in order to begin. The scheduled completion date is the 1st quarter of 2014.

Bird Island Cove Marsh Restoration / West Galveston Bay (TPWD) - \$50,000

CCA Texas funded \$50,000 to this project in May 2011. This project will restore 52-acres within an existing 115-acre marsh site. CCA Texas dollars have been used as matching funds by TPWD to secure dollars from USFW Coastal Wetland Grants Program. All funds have been received, final engineering completed and bids are set to be awarded in late November or early December 2013. The estimated completion is first quarter of 2014.

J. D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area Shoreline Stabilization (Texas Ducks Unlimited) - \$50,000

This project was originally funded in August of 2010 in the amount of \$50,000. This project is a partnership with Texas Ducks Unlimited to construct approximately 2,500 linear feet of breakwater along sensitive salt and fresh water marsh along the Gulf Coast Intra Coastal Waterway within the J. D. Murphree Wildlife Management area. Texas DU used the CCA commitment as leverage dollars to secure further funds from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) that are being matched with Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) dollars. The bids for the project have been awarded and construction is expected to begin in December 2014.

Dickinson Bayou Marsh Restoration Project (TPWD) - \$75,000

CCA Texas funded \$25,000 to this project in May 2011 and another \$50,000 in February 2013 for further matching funds. This project will provide protection for over 30 acres of marsh and restore an additional 10 acres. Bottom topography will also be restored to original flows to allow proper water flows through this portion of the bayou and provide increased estuary health to this portion of the Galveston Bay System. Engineering is completed and bids are expected out in early 2014 and construction completed.

Aransas Bay Oyster Reef Restoration at Goose Island (HRI)- \$75,000

The project was approved in February 2013 and its objective is to create a 1.5 acre oyster reef complex in Aransas Bay, Texas, to enhance water filtration capacity and recreational fishing. This project will expand an existing 6.5 acre restoration project funded by the Gulf of Mexico Foundation, Fish America Foundation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and NOAA to a total of 8 acres of reef complex. In addition, we are working with the Texas Department of Transportation to restore an additional 1-2 acres at this location within the next two years to mitigate for oyster reef losses related to construction of the new Copano Causeway. Construction was completed in September 2013.

Establishment of Port O'Connor Nearshore Reefing Site (TPWD) - \$100,000

At the August 2013 Executive Board meeting,



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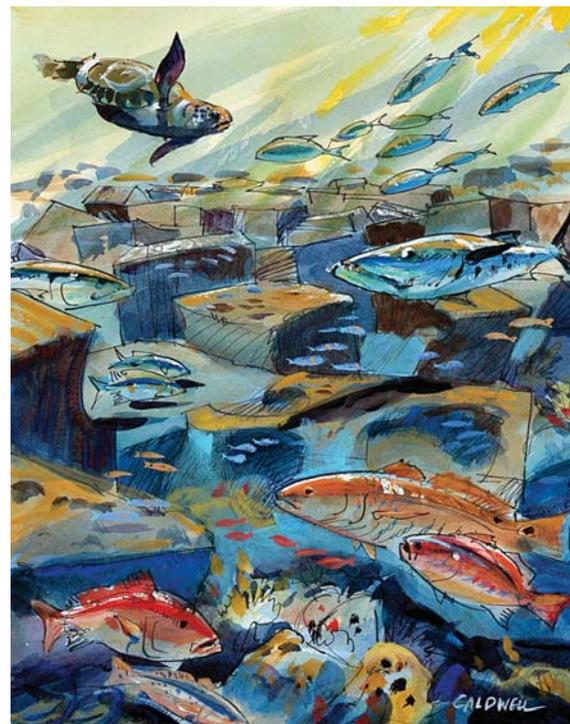
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Phone 713.626.4222 | Fax 713.961.3801 | www.CCATexas.org

\$100,000 was approved to fund the efforts of TPWD to create a new 160 acre nearshore reefing site out of Port O'Connor. CCA funds will pay for this permitting process and give naming rights of the site to CCA Texas. The permitting process will be completed during 2014. Once the permit is received, materials and onsite storage will be sought by CCA Texas and TPWD.

—John Blaha

The West Galveston Bay Oyster Lake Stabilization project is under the direction of the Galveston Bay Foundation and is partly funded by CCA Texas Dollars. Phase 1 is the creation of 500 feet of protection. We have compiled footage of a short video that can be viewed here: <http://youtu.be/PrzPvNfjaO8> Additionally, all of the HTFT CCA Texas Videos can be viewed here: www.ccatexas.org/conservation/habitat/project-videos/ —Kim Ogonosky



Upper Coast

By Capt. Ralph Frazier

Put yourself in the fish's place

As temperatures fall and ducks and geese head south, whitetail buck's necks swell, fishermen prepare for the most spectacular trophy trout fishing of the year.

As the water temperature falls below 60°, the fish get sluggish, migrate towards deeper water and concentrate in guts and sloughs. During the colder nights the fish lay in a little deeper water but always with shallow water nearby. As the sun rises in the morning the shallow water warms first, and baitfish become more active. Trout will ease into the shallow water and pin a mullet against the bank where they don't have to expend as much energy.

Some of the best winter fishing is wadefishing on Kemah, Seabrook and Sylvan beach shorelines (always wear a lifejacket). The refuge shoreline in East Bay from Robinson to Frozen Point can hold some giants in the winter. The North shoreline of Trinity and the coves of West Bay are my favorite wading areas.

Look for any coves with a gut running through. Slow your retrieve and always try to remember exactly how you were working your bait when you get a strike, as presentation is most important this time of the year.

— Capt. Ralph Frazier 281-337-0321

Ralp2fish@aol.com

Middle Coast

By Capt. Jay Watkins

It's all about fishing the structure.

December, we will still be having days air temps hit the upper 70's. Drifting Estes flats means big trout hunting time. With tides lower this time of year, redfish can stack up along shoreline drop offs and in potholes along the deeper drop offs. Both San Jose and Matagorda Island will provide somewhat protected waters for anglers. Working the scattered shell and mid-bay reefs in San Antonio Bay, Copano and St. Charles Bay will also be good choices when winds are light between frontal passages. It's all about fishing the structure. Obtaining accurate and reliable weather information can be the difference between life and death.

My go-to lures in the winter for both trout and reds will be the 5" Shad Bass Assassins rigged with a 1/16th oz. Bass Assassin jig head and MirrOlure's Paul Brown Corky. MirrOlure also has a line of soft plastic baits that have proven to be very effective.

January to me is a terrific month. Cold has set in and resident trout and reds have acclimated. Slow down the ACTION, and slow your RETRIEVE but the action still needs to send a message to the predator, "that must be something I would normally eat so here goes."

Same general patterns and structure for January as in December, just colder water coupled with lower tides. Bait fish are really scarce by January, so if you see a mullet jump, get out and fish. Many are the days when a single mullet flipping along a prime section of shoreline has led to tremendous catches. As sunlight warms the shallows the fish warm up hungry, and that is when you need to be there. Softer, darker bottom warms and stores heat. That is why I opt for the back bays and deeper back lakes during January. It can be downright raw at times but it still has some of the best big fish possibilities. You need your best Simm's products for this month, I promise. May Your Fishing Always Be Catching, — Capt. Jay Watkins 361-463-1074 www.jaywatkins.com

Lower Coast

By Capt. Bill Sheka

Lowest tides of the year, change tactics

Early cold fronts in November really dropped the water temperatures and lots of changes started to happen. December will show some shrimp movement and will bring our trout and reds over the mud and shell flats especially in Baffin Bay and the Laguna Madre.

Try live shrimp under Alameda rattlers, and white Berkley Gulps under the Alamedas. Late November, the clear water was gorgeous elsewhere, but once you got back into the bay, the bloom was still there. This is good news for those wanting to fish lures, Gulps and Corkies. I expect the land cut to hold good numbers of drum and redfish.

December and January, water temperatures are going to be putting the fish in a slower, less aggressive strike. Look for deeper holes to hold fish on colder days. Once a few days of warming happens, fish will start to move up shallower and you can start covering more water away from the deepest holes.

Remember that every January, the Texas coast experiences the low tides of the year. Usually it is around the 10th to the 15th of January and lasts roughly five weeks. The rocks may be too shallow to work properly, but the dropoffs where heavy grass meets sand can gang fish up. When we have those days of "unseasonably" warm temperatures, it will get trout and reds fired up. Plot your fishing to work in conjunction with the fronts, and be ready to change tactics for them.

Wishing everyone good fishing and a very Merry Christmas, God Bless, — Capt. Bill Sheka 361-991-7191, billsheka@msn.com www.billsheka.com

Old Salts on the coast know Capt. Bill as a guide concerned for the resource, and appreciate his military service. -Sam Caldwell

Coastal volunteers honor Wounded Warriors VII

For the past seven years, Port O'Connor has had the honor of saying thanks for American soldiers' service and sacrifice. Dozens of guides and captains form the POC Navy to host warriors for a day of fishing and fun.

As a visual element of the Warriors weekend, a magnificent "sand castle" is crafted for the event by a group of Texas sculptors. Working long hours over a two week period, these master sculptors and their helpers form a patriotic tribute from 100 tons of sand. At times, they must work into the wee hours repairing damage caused by wind and rain, re-sculpting and re-engraving until the finished product is the work of art the Warriors will see.

In 2009, Gloria (Glo) Fric, also known as "The Dragon Lady," got a group of sculptors together and they created the first sand sculpture for Warrior's Weekend. Just a few of this year's artists are Dana Wright / Paul McGee / Wyatt Simmons / Kim Sonnier / Brad Goll / Jon Woodworth / Dee McElroy.

A You Tube video of the Warrior's Weekend went viral. It is available by typing into your browser, "The Flag's Song, Craig Carter," or by inputting: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Vkf7kZpdM



CCA Texas Social Happenings

CCA Texas has had another exciting couple of months on the social media front! We are now documenting the Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT) projects on film and featuring them for our members to see. To view videos of our current projects, please visit www.ccatexas.org/conservation/habitat/project-videos.

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

Facebook:

Tammy Graves caught and released this big boy on the afternoon of August 18 in Lake Sabine. According to Tammy it was over 4 feet long and weighed around 40 lbs – WOW!!

Twitter:

(On the Oyster Reef Restoration Project in Aransas Bay) 17 Sept: @TreadwayBryan: @CCA_Texas @CCANational this is amazing work being done. The amount of red tape is huge for this kind of project, but the benefits outweigh the problems.



Instagram

The barge at the Oyster Lake Stabilization Project site, West Galveston Bay

CCA Texas on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CCATexas

CCA Texas on Twitter: www.twitter.com/CCA_Texas

CCA Texas on Instagram: www.instagram.com/cca_texas



Chapter Updates

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, click on **Local Chapters**.



Wounded Warrior photos by Paulette Baribeau

Wounded Warriors VII

— Port O'Connor, Texas:

This small Texas fishing village has become a center of America for a celebration of America's heroes. Hundreds of wounded veterans are hosted for a day of fishing and later, an evening of appreciation for their service. Crews of the Port O'Connor Navy, many of them CCA members, make their vessels and expertise available. Artists create a magnificent sand sculpture. As a visitor enters Port O'Connor each year, a vast field flies an American flag for each lost American warrior. An earlier YouTube video about Wounded Warriors went viral: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Vky7kZpdM

Alvin-Pearland
Rex Richards 281-923-3050

Aransas Bay
Carter Crigler 435-830-5984
jccrigler@hotmail.com

We had another great year with Babes on the Bay, an all-woman fishing tournament, setting a new registration record, exceptional support from sponsors and donors, an outstanding banquet with an enthusiastic audience making for a super live auction and strong volunteer support for community activities. We are very optimistic in our outlook for the reopening of Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough in 2014 and the positive effects it will have on the fishing in the area bays in the



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CCA Deluxe Tackle Bag
Style FSCSFE0013

- Includes six utility boxes
- Water resistant 840D poly construction





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EVERYDAY!

H2O Xpress Camo Baitcast Combo

Style FSH2FC2000

- Gear ratio: 6.3:1
- 10 bearing system
- 7-ft. medium heavy-action rod



79⁹⁹

EVERYDAY!

H2O Xpress Camo Spinning Combo

Style FSH2FC1000

- Six bearing system
- 7-ft. medium action rod
- Line capacity: 8 lb./170 yds.

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9⁹⁹

NEW

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future.

The Aransas Bay chapter provided volunteer support to **Fulton 4-5 Learning Center** in Rockport to conduct its annual 'Wetlands field trips' during the week of October 21 - 25. Two classes traveled on this field trip daily for a total of 10 classes and 250 students. The trip was organized by **FLC Science Coordinator Martha McLeod**. Volunteers from Texas Parks & Wildlife and the CCA worked daily to help ensure that EVERY student caught a fish for appreciation of the outdoors. See Redfish Bay Chapter write-up for more details.

Can you believe it, registration for the **Fifteenth Babes on the Bay** is just a month away. Registration for Babes on the Bay XV begins on January 1, and as last year, online registration will be used exclusively to sign up for the tournament. Tournament colors are neon pink and chocolate. The contents of the swag bags have been selected to amaze. Please visit the web site (www.babesonthebay.com) in early January and review the registration process to determine if you have any questions. If you have questions contact **Karol Scardino**, Tournament Director, at 361-386-0028. Mark your calendars: May 16-17, 2014: **Babes on the Bay August 9, 2014: Aransas Bay Chapter Banquet**

May you have a Merry Christmas and wonderful New Year with family and friends. By the way, fishing is a great way to enjoy the cool, sunny days of winter. Tight lines, —Carter

Austin Scott Sanderson 512-637-1750

scott@mbsquoteline.com

Greetings from Austin! One of the best parts of my role with CCA is the interaction I have with our chapter members. This is the time of year that trips purchased at the banquet are being booked and taken. I get to talk to people that shot thousands of dove in Argentina, presented flies to monster bonefish in the Bahamas and are planning a two-week big game safari in Africa.

It's very rewarding to get reports of successful trips and experiences of a lifetime. It energizes me, and our board, to keep working hard to bring you the best banquet in the land and opportunities to experience things you might not otherwise. On the banquet topic, by the time you read this, tickets will be available for our **2014 Banquet boat, a tricked out 21 Shallow Sport, our 4x4, a UTV and more, all to be given away at the 2014 banquet**. Just check www.ccaaustin.org to get your winning ticket. You can rest assured, as the Austin board is hard at work on the 2014 banquet, that there will be many new and exciting opportunities and experiences awaiting you May 8, so mark your calendar now and we'll see you there.

Austin's Anglers' Night Out wrapped up another amazing year. We had a star-studded speaker lineup featuring **Greg Stunz, Jerry Patterson, Capt. Billy Trimble, CCA Executive Director Robby Byers and Capt. Jay Watkins**. We gave away awesome trips, custom rods, countless Yetis, and fine gear from **Cabela's and Sportsman's Finest**. **Smokey Denmark** fed us great food, FREE, every time and a great time was had by all. Make a note now to join us bi-monthly on the third Wednesday of the month at **Abel's on the Lake**. You are missing out if you don't experience these great events first hand!

The Austin Board and Officer elections were held in September. Congratulations and



Redfish Shootout V: Good shooters can now go fishing. Jimmy Gibson's team took the honors and fishing rods, at the Fifth Annual Redfish Shootout. All the shooters enjoyed the beautiful Rio Brazos Hunting Preserve, and Jim Goode's burgers. Kevin Glass, Jimmy Gibson, Houston Radclift, and Vence Petrenella.

thanks are in order to new board members **Beau Baker, Troy Erb, Jeff Kyrish, Clifford Mankin, John Torrance, Shane Townsend and Jeff Walton**. We also congratulate our newest officers, **Jeff Beck** (Treasurer), **Steven Benton** (Table Sales Chairman) and **Tim Laine** (Sponsorship Chairman). And a big thanks to **Neal Meinzer** for accepting the role of **Banquet Chairman** for 2014. And finally congratulations and thanks go to **Charlie Morgan** and **Jake Neubauer** for volunteering to serve on the Action Committee. See the Austin website for a complete list of our officers for 2013-14. We have an unbelievable group of men and women in Austin dedicated to the CCA mission. We welcome you to join us, just give me a call to talk about how you can get involved.

Be sure to Like us on Facebook by searching CCA Austin Chapter. It's a great way to keep up with everything going on and make sure you don't miss a thing. Best wishes for the happiest of holidays from the CCA Austin Chapter! —**Scott Sanderson** scott@mbsquoteline.com

Bay Area Curtis Anderson 832-421-6377

Brazoria County Wes Dingee 979-299-8245

We will be holding our annual fundraising banquet on Thursday, March 20. It will be held at the Dow Academic Center at Brazosport College to allow additional attendees from previous locations. For the banquet there are many sponsorship opportunities from underwriting to auction items to table sponsorships. Let one of the board members know if you'd like to sponsor at the banquet or to become more involved in the chapter. Call **Dan Johnson** at (979) 481-3907, **Wes Dingee** 979 299-8245, **Kyle Harris** at (979) 798-2429 or **Glenn Blount** at (979) 236-1700. —Wes Dingee

Brazos Valley Welcome new president, **John Ben Strother** 979-220-1738 jbsunlimited@yahoo.com

A lot of water and too much wind met us at Matagorda on our October trip. Our relentless group fought Mother Nature for three days and You Know Who won. We did find some good fish in the back lakes but the flats stalkers and kayaks were not a good match for the wind. We are looking forward to a couple more trips before the New Year.

We had our last meeting for this year on November 13. Our next meeting will be on January 14 at **Vor-Tex 2310 Cavitt St. in Bryan**. We will be gearing up for our **22nd banquet. It will be March 6th at the Brazos Center in Bryan**. We would like to see some new faces at this meeting because there will be food, beverages, and a lot of fish stories. If you need more information

give me a call. Have a wonderful Christmas and great New Year fishing. —**John Ben Strother** 979-220-1738 jbsunlimited@yahoo.com

Brenham Dennis Crowson 979-451-2472

Dennis.crowson@hotmail.com

We had our last monthly meeting of 2013 on October 25th. **Forrest Vollentine** was the guest speaker and did a fantastic job of sharing his tips and experiences. During the meeting, the chapter was also able to recognize and present one of our young anglers with her award for

placing in this year's STAR tournament. **Lilly Kaspar** placed 4th in the kids division with a 3lb 12ounce flounder. Congratulations to Lilly and her parents on a great catch. Lilly is shown here receiving her plaque from Dennis Crowson. —**Dennis K. Crowson, Ph.D.**

Brush Country Hank Henry 361-215-6803

Centex Brad Hensel 254-776-3411

Central Houston Todd Buster Mobil, 713-545-1897

Colorado Valley James Loehr 979-250-3958

Corpus Christi Randy Poelma 361-851-1129 r_poelmacpa@sbcglobal.net

We welcome **Jake Herring** as the **2014 Annual Banquet Chairman**. With the **2014 Banquet set for March 20, 2014**, plans are under way for another great event. **Andrews Distributing Company** has already agreed to underwrite the raffle boat in 2014 - thank you **Scott Robinson** and **Andrews Distributing Company** for your support. Please mark your calendars now for this early spring banquet.

Babes on Baffin and Blue Ladies Fishing Tournament - October 11-12, 2013. We had almost 300 participants consisting of 79 teams. We turned in 78 live fish to the hatcheries. Big thanks to **Geoff Austin & Scott Thornhill** for their transitional tanks to ensure that the fish stayed alive during the weigh in process.

Sponsors: **Majek boats, Premier Yamaha, Total Oilfield, Trophy Masters Taxidermy, Pink Marlin, Scuttlebutts, The Producers Guide Service, Hollon Safe Co., Laura & John Holmgreen, Reel Therapy, The Blossom Shop, Annette Mcpherson Photography, Eagle Lock & Key**

Volunteers: **Lauren Hollon, Cody Roesener, Margo Jones, Jessica Murray, Scott & Bonnie Roesener, Laura and John Holmgreen, Samantha Burton, Margaret Ehman, Val Katherine, Angela Bains, Kaitlyn Leister, Scott Lederer, Joseph Briones, Rodney Gamez, Bruce Laser, Kevin Hill, Jeff Smith, Jay Gardener, Paige McDonald, Alex Tompkins, Mark Janneck, Edna Castro, Collins Elrod, Mike Mendoza, Cliff Johnstone, Jesse Torres, Jeremy Torres, Tristina Lindsey, Molly Hoenscheidt & Priscilla Torres.** —**Lauren Hollon**
Upcoming events - **Poco Rojo Kids Fish - Rescheduled - Spring, 2014**

Again, the 2014 Corpus Christi Chapter Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, 2014 at the American Bank Center.

Contact **Randy Poelma** 361-851-1129 or **John**

Blaha 979-709-1085 for early table and ticket purchasing. As always, if you have an interest in joining our board and being involved in conservation of our coastal resources, please contact a board member or me at
r_poelmacpa@sbcglobal.net —Randy Poelma

Dallas / North Texas
Welcome new president,
Robert DiCicco 214-799-2369

So, 2014 is right around the corner and that means banquet season is fast approaching. We have had record fundraising as a chapter and we want to keep the momentum going. I would like to personally thank the Dallas Chapter board and banquet supporters for your continued commitment to CCA. From table buyers to those cleaning up after banquet night (sometimes both) your dedication is not taken for granted.

I would also like to invite anybody wanting to get involved with our chapter to reach out to me. We need more human capital to have another record year. Make sure to follow Dallas CCA on Facebook and check your email for chapter meetings and future updates. Thank you—Rob DiCicco 214-799-2369

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

Fort Bend
Clint Shepard 832-595-5375

Fort Worth
Fearn Mastin 817-291-1302

We held our annual Fall GM meeting at the **Rahr Brewery**. In attendance were over 80 anglers and a good time was had by all. They were greeted with some of Rahr's finest cold brew as well as a fish fry donated and prepared by the Fort Worth CCA board. **Captain Robert Sloan** with **High Tail Angler Guide Service out of Port O'Connor** came and gave a very informative and entertaining talk covering some of his fishing adventures that included a beautiful slide show. Many thanks to Captain Sloan.

Brute Outdoors (www.bruteoutdoors.com) graciously donated a newly designed and rugged 75 qt cooler for raffle that one lucky person was able to take home. We would like to give recognition to Brute for their ongoing support of our chapter! Keep checking your emails for upcoming events including our Spring GM meeting to get everyone excited for the big banquet around May. Also keep an eye out for some exciting announcements that you won't want to miss. Thanks for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at the next GM meeting. —John Black

Galveston
Dr. Ken Ellis 713-962-7731

Seasons Greetings from the Galveston Chapter. We had a hugely successful banquet and would again like to thank all who made it possible. Thanks to all of the sponsors, donors, ticket and table buyers for helping support our chapter. I'd also like to thank our Galveston chapter board for all their efforts in making our event the success it was. We are looking forward to 2014 and bringing you another great event. Until then, get out enjoy the outdoors and take a kid fishing. Tight Lines, —Ken Ellis

Golden Triangle
Josh Kaczynski 409-554-1325

Greater Sugar Land
Weems Turner 713-857-8897
wtuner@ducommun.com

Report from Richard Lindley: 832-270-0398
First of all I would like to wish **President Weems Turner** a quick recovery and look forward to your returning. **Mark your calendars for our 2014 Banquet, which will be held Thursday, April 3, at the Stafford Centre, Stafford Texas.** Information on tables and tickets will be available on www.ccatexas.org starting January 2014. We will still serve crawfish. Hope to see you there.

The Chapter President's Cup Fishing Tournament was held Nov. 16 in Sargent and results will be posted in the next CURRENTS. **We have a monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of every month at Spring Creek BBQ, 4895 HWY 6 Missouri City TX, 77459. Phone No. 281-499-8222.** Come have some great BBQ and meet some awesome people. —David Kveton 281-808-4870

Greater Woodlands
James Kay 281-363-4417

www.ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands
Greetings! We are seeing significant business development in the north Houston area, bringing new members to The Woodlands Chapter. To this we say, **Welcome to The Greater Woodlands Chapter! We're glad to have you!**

For both current and new members, we are in the midst of planning our 2014 Chapter events. Just a few of these include the annual kick off with our **General Membership Meeting (GMM) in January or February 2014.** During this meeting we will host a local fishing guide. Since we are sure to hear buckets of fishing tales, we invite everyone to attend and enjoy the program. Families are welcome.

Also on the 2014 agenda is a **Tackle Sale**. If you haven't been to a Tackle Sale, you are in for a real treat. Not only can you pick up fishing rods, reels, lures, and other accessories at great prices but you can visit with CCA members on tips and tricks with tackle. We are looking at getting representatives from either tackle manufacturing or sporting goods stores. We will open this to any and all members to bring tackle that they may have and never use and donate to sale for CCA Texas. We are looking at auctioning off an "All Expense Guided Trip." **The tackle sale will be hosted by CCA Texas Greater Woodlands Chapter and open to any and all people who like to fish.**

An event for our area kids will be our **2014 Kid Fish**. This is a can't miss event – it's a great memory maker for everyone. Kids will get hands-on fishing experiences as well as the opportunity to learn about conservation and respect for the environment. Honestly, there is no better way to introduce kids to the great sport of fishing. This event will be held locally in The Woodlands area at one of our "fishing" holes.

As for our 7th Annual Greater Woodlands Chapter Banquet, we are planning to schedule a local event center for a mid- to late July 2014 date. If you've been to a CCA Banquet, you know that these events are jam-packed and fun filled, and take many months to plan and execute. We are already planning on a pretty impressive pre-banquet raffle package, to be sponsored by **DYNATHERM**, which will consist of 20 different prizes (Guns, Fishing Equipment, Ice Chest, Etc.). The tickets will be available after November 1, 2013 for purchase. Contact any CCA Texas Greater Woodlands Chapter Member for you tickets.

As always, we look forward to seeing each and every local CCA member at one of our many events. Please join us. And don't forget—**Keep Conserving, To Keep Fishing.** —James Kay

Guadalupe Valley
Jon Eric Rodriguez 361-243-1017

Hays County
Welcome new president, Tim Young 512-573-7939

Heart of the Hills
Randy Plummer 830-377-0737

Our 11th Annual Heart of the Hills Chapter fundraising banquet was held at the Boerne Community Center on September 12th. Thank you to the following sponsors for your support: **Bull Red Sponsors - Boerne Marine, Anderson Ford, Concept Builders and Academy Sports and Outdoors. Trophy Trout Sponsors - Kendall County Abstract, Mike Arthur C.P.A., Full Service Auto Parts, Richard and Debbie Chapman and JN Ranch.**

Attendees enjoyed an awesome shrimp boil by **Cajun Country Cookers** and then participated in the silent auction, \$5 raffles, and **Yeti cooler** raffle. **Boerne Marine and Full Service Auto Parts** helped out to keep the live auction spirited again this year and we appreciate everyone's participation. It was great to see all having a good time. Several participants to mention include **Schwope Water Well Drilling, RE/MAX Boerne, Boehner Lumber, Capital Farm Credit, Cheesy Jane's, San Antonio CCA and Sinclair Land Survey.**

A special thanks to **Keg I** for donating the **Lone Star** and **Miller Light** and a **Lone Star/Game Guard gun case and jacket, Tractor Supply for the beer tubs, Texas Kayaks, Michael Maytum (awesome knife!), Bear Arms and to Pure Party Ice.** Also, to a new participant this year - **Pedernales Brewing Company - Lobo beers.**

This banquet would not be possible without the dedicated efforts of the following people: **Tom Wayland (Matco Tools), Darrell Steubing (Darrell Steubing Insurance), Rodeana Reynolds with sons Justin and Jared, Bob Beckett, Mike Saur (Saur Automotive), Jim and Kathy Simmons (H&R Block Boerne), Rusty Mertink (Auctioneer) and the CCA crew from Houston.** Thanks again to all for a great banquet. If you would like to get involved, give us a call and we'll get you hooked up. —Jim Simmons 210-380-5709

Hill Country
Darlene Cook 800-594-2056 ext 217

darlenec@kmbt.fm

The chapter directors are celebrating our banquet success with a Steak Dinner at **Freiheit Country Store**. We get the steaks from one of our big supporters, **The Rust Game Place...** melt in your mouth delicious!

That will finish up 2013 for us. Our next big project that will be a lot of fun is for our Hill Country Chapter membership, the **2014 CCA Social April 27th**. The Social will be held at the **Big Red Barn** at the **Texas Agriculture Education and Heritage Center in Seguin**. Look it up at online at texagedu.org/attractions. It's a great venue! There's a lot to see and a lot of history there.

We will have activities for the kids and adults! We'll also have great raffle items and Hill Country CCA merchandise for sale. More information will come at a later date via email. The cost of a ticket will be to cover the meal, a fish fry cooked and served by a fabulous team of **CCA Directors!** The rest is on us!

If you are an active member of CCA and would like to help with one or all of our projects, the **Spring/Summer Fishing Tournament, the Banquet, Meetings or the Social** please give me a call at 830-214-3067, we'll put you to work! If you have any suggestions for a speaker or topic for one of the General Meetings please let us know. If you would like to show and sell product at our meetings please call us! The

more we have to do at the meetings the better! Have a Blessed Day! Hug someone! Then go fishing! —Darlene Cook
darlenec@knbt.fm

Houston Real Estate

Dale Couch 281-953-2510

The 2014 Houston Real Estate event is scheduled for Feb. 11, 2014 at the Houston Country Club.

—Dale Couch

Katy

Clint Hilton 713-515-3991

We have just wrapped up another banner year! We hosted a record setting banquet, had larger general meeting attendance, and had more direct volunteer help than ever before! Our chapter would not be the success it is without support from banquet sponsors, buyers, members, and volunteers - THANK YOU ALL!

In October, we hosted Shimano Factory Reps - Ed Hix and Phil Cambra. These guys forgot more about fishing than most of us will ever know, and showed off some of Shimano's newest, high quality items.

In 2013 we hosted some top talent for our Speaker Series meetings. If you are looking for 'go to' expertise, keep the following speakers in mind: **Capt. Tommy Alexander** in Matagorda, **Capt. "Big Dog" Ralph Morales** in Port O'Connor, **Capt. Walt Kolinovsky** in Baffin/entire coast, **Capt. Greg Brewer** in Galveston, and the **Shimano Factory Reps, Phil Cambra and Ed Hix**. Several chapter members have commented that they learned a lot from these speakers. I appreciate these professionals taking time away from their families to come to Katy. Without them, I'm pretty sure the Chapter would get tired of hearing me....

2013 taught the Katy Chapter some new tricks, and I'm sure 2014 will be a treat for everyone that comes to our **Speaker Series meetings** and our banquet. I hope you'll put our get-togethers on your schedule. We'll have Speaker Series meeting in January, March, May, August, and October. In between, we continue to meet, but discuss banquet planning and other activities within the chapter. Our meetings are always the third Wednesday of the month, at **Red River BBQ on Mason Road**.

I hope y'all have a safe holiday season, shoot lots of banded ducks, giant B&C deer, and catch the fish of a lifetime. See ya next year!

—Clint Hilton

Laredo

Jesse Martinez jmartinez@bushlan.com
956-763-5555

Lee County

Byron Kalbas 979-540-0056

We held our 3rd annual banquet in Giddings, Texas on October 17. With the amazing support of our chapter members and the hard work of our committee members, we managed to raise a record amount for CCA's coastal projects. Thank you to all of the people who helped make this banquet a smashing success.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 6th annual PINS & East Cut Beach clean up on Saturday, March 15, 2014.

We will have a General Membership meeting on Monday, January 27, 2014 at 6:30pm. We will have a guest speaker and a small meal with drinks and refreshments that night as well. Watch for an email flyer with all the details prior to the meeting. --Byron Kalbas
979-540-0056 bkalbas@yahoo.com



Matagorda Bays Guides Cup: Winning again this year was Captain Tommy Alexander with the assistance of Garrett Pool, Kevin Stehling, and Tyler Williams.

Live Oak

Brad Kotrla 979-732-1669

Lower Colorado

Welcome new president Tim Munos

979 332-2876

We held our 5th Annual Fundraiser/Banquet Friday evening, August 16 at the Bay City Civic Center. It was a wonderful turnout, and we want to say Thank You to the people of Bay City and surrounding Matagorda County for coming out and supporting our event. This was our best fundraiser yet.

We are all geared up planning for next year's banquet. A big change is taking place. Next year, we will also offer a boat package for our CCA supporters. The details are almost all worked out and it will be a great looking rig that anyone will be proud to own.

This is a slack time of the year for us, with Thanksgiving and Christmas coming soon. It is a good time to take in some cold weather fishing, locally, or make plans to check out some great areas to the south, or maybe, Louisiana. Whatever we do, we want to have fun and stay safe doing it. So, from our chapter to you, have a great time fishing, and enjoy the holidays. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all. —John Kubecka Secretary 979-332-2876

Lower Laguna Madre

Travis Flanagan
956-207-6391

Mainland

Eric Minor
281-534-6242

Matagorda Bays

Linc Lutrick 979-541-9901

On September 9 & 10 we held our annual Matagorda Bays Guides Cup in Matagorda. We would like to thank our sponsors, **Duckett, Bouigny & Collins, L.L.P., El Campo Sheet Metal, and Harbor Bait & Tackle**. We also want to say a special thank you to all of our **Matagorda Guides** who donate their time, effort and equipment to make the guides cup a remarkable success each and every year. Winning again this year was **Captain Tommy Alexander** with the assistance of **Garrett Pool, Kevin Stehling, and Tyler Williams**. Congrats to Captain Tommy and his team for

back to back wins! Second place was won by **Rob Cummings** and placing third was **Captain Kenny Hauff III**. Thank you to **Russell & Brandy Hicks** of **Las Palmas Lodge** and **Prasek's Hillje Smokehouse** for handling the great food for our event. We would also like to thank all of the buyers who purchase these trips year in and year out. Thank you for your continued support of our chapter.

Please look to these great guides the next time you're booking a trip. We are truly blessed to have some of the best guides in the state right in our own backyard. **Bink Grimes, Jimmy Riddle, Kenny**

Hauff, Tommy Alexander, Kit Caston, Dwayne Newbern, Nick Stillwell, Lee Warmke, Walt Wendtland, Scott Reeh, Charlie Paradoski, Walt Schelle, Stan Sloan, Kenny Hauff III, Ken Sabin, Mark Talasek, Jesse Arsola, Leighton Keen, Rob Cummings, Floyd Ciruti, Al Garrison, Tommy Countz, Kevin Kosick, Nate Koenig, and Troy Keen. —Linc Lutrick



Read all about the MidCoast's fully loaded banquet boat.

MidCoast

David Jenkins 361-578-5580
jenkins12@sbcglobal.net

Hello to all! No more 100 degree days and the fishing along the Texas Coast is now getting better. Time to wet your lines and go! The past two months have been exciting for the MidCoast Chapter. First of all, in September, I picked up our boat that will be given away at our **next banquet which is May 9th, 2014**. We want to thank **Eric Simmons** greatly and the **SCB family** for building this boat. Our boat this year is a **22.6 SCB Stingray, fully loaded with, a 741 Garmin, stereo, custom made ice chest, 8 blade power pole, coastline trailer, bucket seats and powered with a 250 Mercury racing sport XS motor**. Tickets are on sale for this boat through myself or any other board member.

Our CCA MidCoast Face Book page has been updated and I invite you to go take a look and be a part of it. You can get to it in the FB Search at CCA Mid Coast Chapter, Victoria, Texas.

In October, we held our Guides Cup Tournament in Port O'Connor Texas, which is one of our yearly events. We had 21 Guides and Teams in this tournament. I would like to thank each Guide that took time out of their busy schedules to participate in this tournament, also thanking the Buyers and Team Members as well.

This year, **Team Speedy Stop** won this tournament for the second year in a row, and again, Congratulations! Winning Guides were **Captain Dwayne Lowery, 1st, Captain Fernando Conchola, 2nd, and bringing in 3rd was Captain Kelly Parks**.

A BIG THANKS goes to our sponsors **Cliff Thomas and the Speedy Stop Family, Jimmy Burns**

and Waterloo Rod CO. USA, and family, Calhoun County, The Sanctuary, Hartman Distributing and Del Papa Distributing for providing refreshments, Sheriff Aleman for security, and most of all for our committed and dedicated board members who took the time out of their schedules to assist in every way to help make this event a huge success.

As always if anyone would like to join a great group of CCA volunteers who enjoy fun and the conservation of the fisheries along our coastline, feel free to contact me or any of our outstanding board members involved. —David Jenkins WITH BOAT PICS!



ter. This is the best time of the year to fish your main waterways, so be sure to add your favorite flounder lures to your shopping list and get out on the water.

We again want to thank the local businesses who helped sell the tables/tickets: **Sonny's Marine, Coastal Boat Services, Coastal Bend Marine, Tigrett Real Estate and Port O'Connor Rod & Gun.** So, come spend some of your holidays with us, visit some of these businesses and donors or just kick back and enter the boat parade in POC "Where it all began."
—Bill Moore

Prairie

Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103

On September 11, we held our annual meeting/dove hunt at Burttschell field in Sealy. We had a great turnout. Everyone got their limit on birds. After the hunt, we had a short meeting followed by a fajita dinner that was hosted by the board members. Thanks to **John Burttschell** for the use of his property.

On September 21, we had to cancel our Kids Fish, due to the heavy rains on Friday. We did not want to damage Eberly's field with all the parked cars. Thanks to the **Eberlys** for letting us use their lake every year. The next Kid's Fish will be posted later in the year. That night the board members and guests had a dove hunt and beanbag tournament followed by steak and shrimp dinner with a silent auction. It turned out to be a great day after all. Thanks to **Gordon and Sharon** for the use of their place.

September 27, we held our Rockport madness at the **Poffenbergers at City by the Sea** in Rock Port, Texas. **Gerald Harwell** won the fishing trip at our banquet in April. His team consisted of the following : **Gerald Harwell, Kenneth Nelson, Larry Hollman, Micheal Hollman, Micheal Berry and Stanly Kollatschny.** And thanks to the two guides that made it possible, **Anglers Guide Service and I Gotta Fish Guide Service.**

That Friday night we had beef fajita, and Saturday night's

meal consisted of rib-eye steaks and boiled shrimp with sides that were served by the board members. Thanks to **Gordon Goebel, Wesley Goebel, Travis and Amy Herbrig and Ron Chess** for making this week end a great success.

This Rock Port Madness trip will be offered on the Live auction at our banquet in April. Thanks to all, —Ron Chess, Sr. 979-992-3295

**Redfish Bay
Norman Oates
361-758-0266**

We have had a full schedule for the last couple of months. The **annual Beeville Fish Fry** on September 19, as always, was a successful event. The **Beeville CCA crew** does a great job of putting it together, and we thank them for their hard work. Also, a special thanks to **Bob May** for making the facilities available at no cost, and the **May Ranch employees** for helping during the event.

On September 25, we had **Jay Watkins** as a speaker at our General Membership meeting. Not only is Jay one of the most successful guides in the area, but he is an excellent speaker. After the presentation, all questions were answered

Northeast Houston

Jason Law 713-898-8594

CCA Texas has experienced an incredible growth rate over the last 10 years, encompassing 56 chapters to date. The projects and successes we have celebrated could never have come to realization without many factors coming together. Dedication from members is just one part of the success equation and we are in great debt and gratitude for the many volunteers and supporters.

Northeast Houston has shared those successes, seeing growth through membership and banquet attendance over the past few years.

We need you. The NE chapter Board meets a few times per year, coordinating banquet plans and more. We are looking for a few friends who would like to join us in making these decisions, as well as handling our books, planning other outings and general membership meetings. Please consider joining the Board and helping us out a bit. Please let us hear from you, and help us plan the CCA Northeast Houston chapter's future events. Contact: —Kim

Vollentine, Assistant Director: 713/626-4222

Northwest Houston

**Blayne Eversole
832-444-4579**

Our next General Member meeting is December 3rd. It will be held in the Stein Room at Houston Distributing as it has in the past. Our Speaker is **Jason Catchings**, fishing guide. The chapter will raffle a guided trip with Jason along with our Christmas gift raffle with lots of prizes. Do plan to attend. Additionally, we will propose a new slate of officers for the next two years. Your confirmation of the new officers is appreciated.

Our October General Membership meeting recap: Our speaker was **Bill Rodney**, Oyster Habitat Restoration Ecologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Dickinson Marine Laboratory. He provided us with both an informative program and a chance to help in a valuable scientific study where all we have to do is Fish. 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. —Blayne Eversole

**Orange County
Scott Bandy 409-988-3667
sabandy@ymail.com**

with flounder pics

Once again it's Holiday season, we all know with the colder weather coming in the flounder will be make their yearly swims to the deep wa-

The chapter is settling down from our record setting banquet and fundraiser with a Christmas get together to take place sometime in December and to spend some time with our families. Come January 2014 we will be planning our annual membership drive night to take place on the second Monday of February. Be on the lookout for information on another fun night of speakers and raffle items from the chapter. Happy Holidays and tight lines to all, —**Scott Bandy & Louis Moore**

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

The 14th Annual POC was held on October 19th, and with another great run at the door, completed another sold out year.

The banquet was a success, but without the diligence and dedication of all board members, chapter members, volunteers, and donors it would not have been successful. Special thanks to banquet chairmen Carl Ray and Jim Busby, VP's Mike Sharp and Donnie Klesel, treasurer Ann Brownlee, secretary Debbie Busby and sergeant-at-arms Sonny Cook. Also, thanks to our outstanding board members **Pam Ray, Candace Stryker, Chris Smisek, Julia Klesel, Jerry and Virginia Lichac, Jimmy and Barbara Crouch, Linnie and Steve Mashman, Lefty and Joanne Ward, Maxine Sharp, Monique Morlan and Suzie Onishi.**

Thanks to **Candace Stryker** for another outstanding job on the program and **Virginia Lichac** for the program cover; to our CCA AD **Ellen Ohmstede** for her assistance and to **Sam Caldwell**, for again making another visit to assist.

Again, our appreciation to a special group who help make our banquet a success, the donors that make possible all the gifts, and trips you will be notified individually to say thank you. Also, to all the table sponsors, who will be listed in the next issue. To all who attended and helped with the success of our banquet.



Redfish Bay Kid Fish: Kristina and Mikey's fishing success. See page 6 for Emily's big fish. Below: Norman Oates assists a lady angler.



in Jay's special way – a real treat for the audience.

October 21 – 25, **Don Wilkinson, local Game Wardens, Carter Crigler, and I** helped 250 kids catch a fish during the Fulton 4-5 Learning Center's (FLC) annual "Wetlands field trips." FLC Science Coordinator **Martha Mcleod** brings two classes of kids a day go to the Rockport

Aquarium, Bay Education Center, Wastewater treatment plant, and fishing and a boat ride in Little Bay in Rockport. Thanks to **Glenn Martin of Woody's Sports Center in Port Aransas** for providing bait for all of the kids.

With Thanksgiving and Christmas coming, Redfish Bay Chapter activities are winding down for the year. Thanks to the board members for all of their hard work, and thanks to our members for supporting our events – nothing can be a success without our member support. We hope you enjoy the holidays with your family.

Our 2014 Banquet will be on April 26 at the Port Aransas Civic Center. The Beeville Fish Fry is always the Thursday before dove season opening weekend. See you next year! —**Norman Oates**

Rio Grande Valley
Phil Teinert 956-367-4267
pteinert@fcbtx.com

We have now secured the 2014 Raffle Boat and it is on display and tickets are for sale! This year's raffle boat is a **2014 210 Dargel Skout powered by 150 HP Evinrude ETEC and sits on a Custom Alu-**



RGV's 2014 210 Dargel Skout, powered by 150 HP Evinrude ETEC on a Custom Aluminum Trailer.

minum Trailer. The boat is complete with Custom Aluminum, Power Pole, Raised Platform, Deluxe Leaning Post, Two Tone Custom Gel Coat Color and Much More. Tickets can be purchased by contacting **Louis Zimmerer** at (956) 373-0799 or **John Blaha** at (800) 626-4222. Special thanks go out to **L&F Distributors and Dargel Boats** for making this raffle possible once again.

Mark your calendars, the 2014 banquet has been set for Thursday, April 24, 2014 at the Pharr Events Center. The chapter board is beginning its planning for next year's event and looks forward to having another great night. If you are interested in helping the local chapter, contact Chapter President, **Phil Teinert** at (956) 367-4267 or **John Blaha** at (800) 626-4222. We hope you have tight lines and great hunting this fall. —**Phil Teinert**

Sabine-Neches

Darin Johnson 409-790-9855

Happy Holidays! Hard to believe 2013 has come to a close already, it seems we were just getting geared up for spring fishing, chasing the birds of

summer, and the fall flounder run. Kid Fish in between all of the mayhem, and oh yeah, a **SOLD OUT BANQUET** too! 2013 was a great year for all of it!

As we look forward to 2014, it is much the same as our past year. **We are well under way planning our banquet, Thursday March 6th, 2014 at the Bob Bowers Civic Center in Port Arthur.** A ticket, or even better a table, would make a great gift to your special angler and friends; did I mention the hot crawfish and cold drinks we have at the banquet? Yep, once again we will have our crawfish boil for everyone to enjoy along with boats from **Premiere Yamaha and Texas Marine** along with some sweet looking trucks from **Classic of Southeast Texas** and who knows what else we'll have going on this year....Get a ticket and don't miss out on the fun!

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families, we look forward to seeing everyone again in 2014! Until then, Tight lines to all. —**Darin M Johnson**

Sam Houston

Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908

San Antonio

Johnny Rayburg 210-837-5500
CCASanAntonio@yahoo.com

Winter is upon us and that can mean only one thing: **CCA San Antonio is already gearing up for the 35th Annual Banquet which is scheduled for Thursday, May 1, 2014.** Event details, including table and ticket order forms went out to previous table buyers and all San Antonio chapter



members with an email address on file. If you didn't receive the notice please make sure you get your email address updated with CCA. You can do that by calling 1-800-201-FISH and asking for membership or sending an email to ccantl@joincca.org. The forms are available on our San Antonio chapter page of the CCATexas.org website.

Our banquet committee chairs have been hard at work to ensure that the 2014 event is one you won't want to miss. Also, new for 2014 is a **team sporting clay shoot** that will occur in April at the **National Shooting Complex**. Start getting your team together as this is sure to be a great event. More information will be available soon. Our Facebook page can be found by searching CCA Texas, San Antonio Chapter. There you will find updates on local chapter events and CCA news. It's also a great place to share your fishing pictures. Take a kid fishing. It will put a smile on their face— and yours. —Johnny Rayburg

San Bernard

Royce Macha 979-472-5211

San Gabriel

John Melnar 512-497-8284

Well, we all took a sigh of relief after our 11th annual banquet. We filled the **United Heritage Center** to capacity. It was standing room only! Congratulations are due to all of our board members for all their hard work and dedication, especially our banquet chairman, **Jeff Bible**, He did a great job!

Of course, the banquet could not have been so successful without our fine sponsors, a number of which have been contributing since the start of our chapter 11

years ago. The distinguished list includes; **Don Hewlett Chevrolet, PMB Helin Donovan LLP, Babeco Fabrication and Machining, Champion Site Prep, Piscavore Sportswear Co., Gibson Concrete, Morris Glass, Chasco Constructors, Greater Austin Development, Navcon, United Heritage Credit Union, Allied Electric, TXI Ready Mix, Independent Bank, Mercedes Benz of Georgetown, and Academy Sports and Outdoors**. So if you need a new vehicle or help with construction, taxes, sportswear, concrete, outdoor gear, banking, or metal manufacturing don't forget these companies. All of them have been supporting our chapter for many years.

Welcome now to **Allied Electric, Independent Bank, and TXI, who were new sponsors this year**. We look forward to all of our generous sponsors returning next year. In addition to our sponsors, another round of thanks is due to every single person who attended the banquet. Whether you spent five dollars or five thousand dollars we thank you for being there and hope you will come back each and every year! Don't forget to bring a friend.

Based on this year's attendance, we are looking for a larger venue to host the event. If we move locations to a bigger facility, we are going to need more help not only with organizing the banquet but also increasing the overall attendance. So, if you or someone you know would like to get more involved by becoming a board member, please feel free to contact me.

—John Melnar jmelnar@piscavore.com

San Jacinto

Pete Ruiz 832-496-4903

President Pete Ruiz Jr is throwing a final tournament to close out the year. It will be a **Sunshine Kids tournament, November the 16th at La Porte Sylvan beach**. We will have 25 families, thanks to the CCA San Jacinto chapter. We will set up photos for next issue. Hope you

had a happy Thanksgiving.—P. Ruiz Jr.

Southwestern

Jody Jacobs 210-827-7180

TAMU

Welcome new president, Cameron Blackwood 713-591-7097

Texas State University

Welcome new president, Ryan Wishnow 832-444-3598

Tomball/Magnolia

Matt Maddox 832-590-1828

Tri-County

Jason Trial 830-570-2988

Trinity Bay

Gerald Payne 281-385-2894

Wow, where did 2013 go? I guess as they say, "Time flies when you're having fun." The guys here in the Trinity Bay Chapter had yet another joyous time at the chapter's annual Christmas Party, enjoying plenty of eats, good fellowship and gift exchange games.

We are currently firming up our work day at the **Houston Boat Show, CCA booth in January**. In addition, we are looking at **a few larger venues for our August 2014 Banquet** since we are near to capacity at our current banquet facility. More details on this project to come in 2014.

If you are interested in participating in any of our chapter functions please let us know. We have monthly meetings in Baytown on the first Wednesday of each month. We have a great bunch of individuals that dedicate themselves to the work of CCA and have a lot of fun doing so.

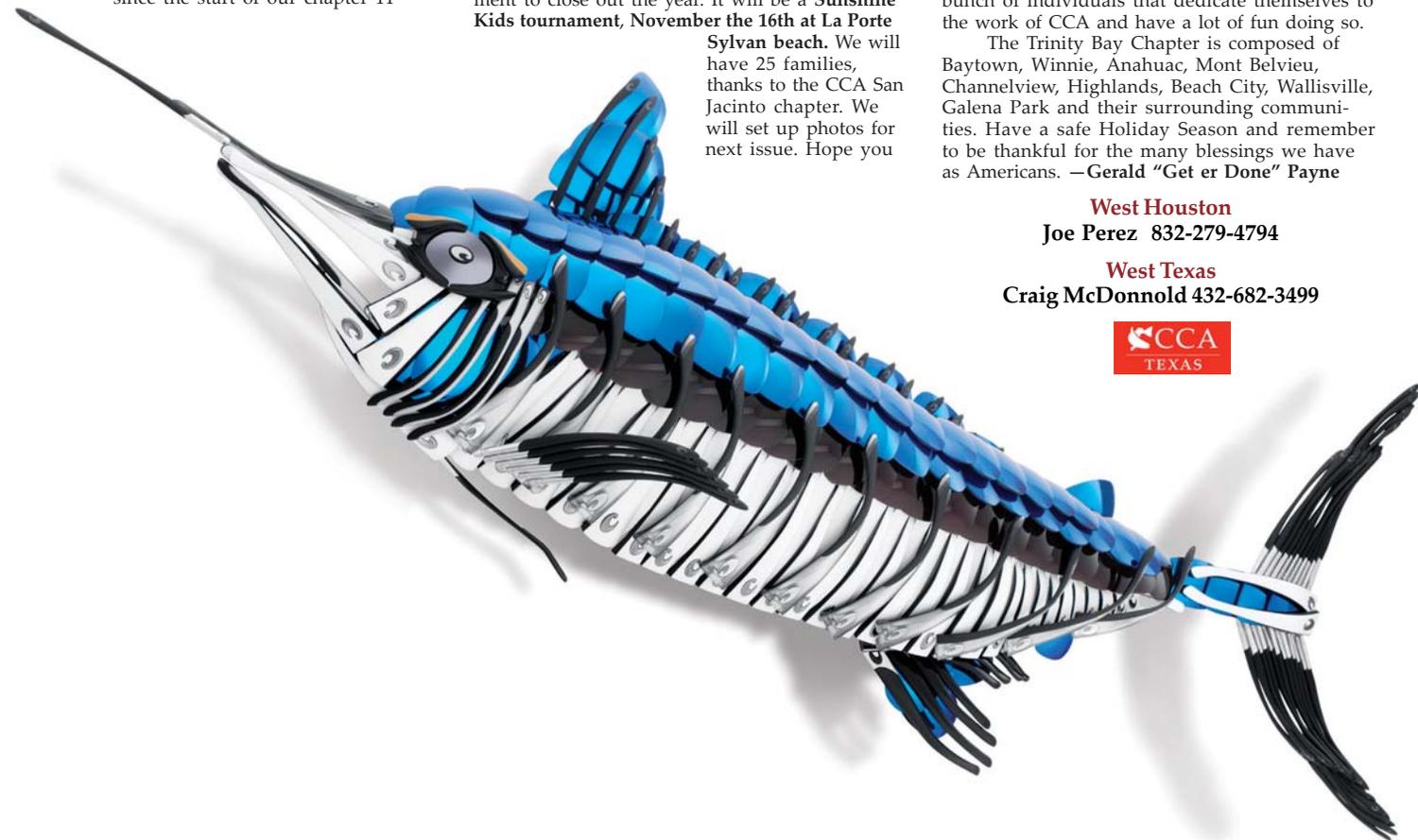
The Trinity Bay Chapter is composed of Baytown, Winnie, Anahuac, Mont Belvieu, Channelview, Highlands, Beach City, Wallisville, Galena Park and their surrounding communities. Have a safe Holiday Season and remember to be thankful for the many blessings we have as Americans. —Gerald "Get er Done" Payne

West Houston

Joe Perez 832-279-4794

West Texas

Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499



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Dropping in for dinner? Great Wildlife/Action photo, brown pelicans, by Pauline Osborn

©Sun-Shine Photography

Want to share even more of your Great photos? Currents had many fine images submitted again this issue. 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 2012

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

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.

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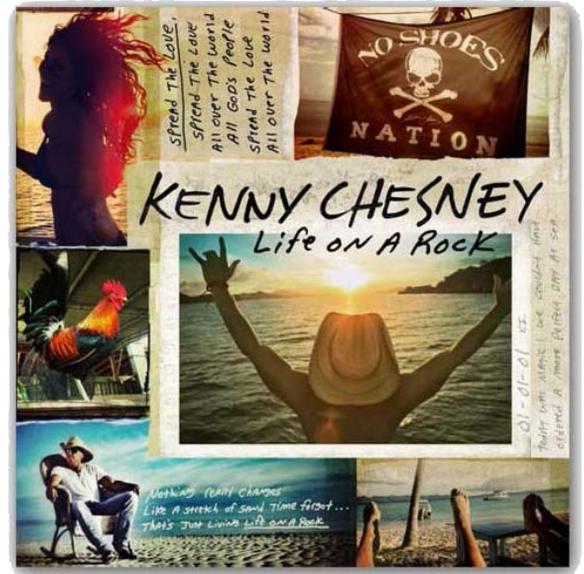
TexasSportingJournal.com



One more of those magnificent sand sculptures from Port O'Connor's Wounded Warrior event. This one is titled, "Port O'Connor Food Chain."

The Last Laugh

CCA's friend and supporter, Kenny Chesney, has released his new album, *LIFE ON A ROCK*. Get your copy today.

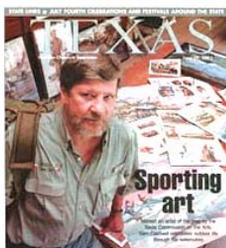


When Kenny Chesney decided to get personal, he stripped away expectations, pulled out a bunch of songs he'd written just for himself and kicked back for a soul-search that turned into *Life On A Rock*, available now on iTunes.



Normandy, 70 Years Ago

Painting for a WWII article. You can watch this painting and other paintings grow from sketches to finish, in videos made as the art progressed.



Drop by my website, where you'll also find paintings from recent CCA events. All are available as 20-edition Giclee prints.

www.samcaldwell.com

Texas State Artist 2004
DU State Artist 2010-2011
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Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Suite 100 / Houston, TX 77024

CURRENTS NEWSLETTER

December 2013 / January 2014

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Best wishes for a fine Holiday Season, and big fishes in the new year from the staff of CCA.

U.S. Coast Guard Air & Sea Rescue

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

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



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



COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (including STAR Entry)

Name _____ Phone _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Method of payment

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

- MEMBER: \$25 _____ 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 _____ Same as above, plus "FREE" STAR Tournament entry.

Members 17 and under only

Age: _____ Date of birth: _____
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