

CURRENTS

August / September 2014



Texas
Seagrasses
Foundation
of Sea Life

Improving fish habitat by conserving Texas seagrasses

By Brittany Foster

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Coastal Fisheries Division
Fish and Wildlife Technician-
Port O'Connor

On a clear, bright and sunny day you may have noticed that the bay bottom is covered in more than just sand or mud. Texas bays have a variety of bottom or benthic habitats known as essential fish habitat (EFH).

EFH habitat includes all types of aquatic habitat where fish spawn, breed, feed, or grow to maturity and includes wetlands, oyster reefs, seagrass, tidal and mud flats. They provide spawning grounds as well as food and shelter for many commercially and recreationally important species. These benthic habitats are not only utilized by fishes, shrimp, crabs, sea turtles, and other aquatic organisms, but also by waterfowl and migratory bird species as resting, breeding and feeding grounds. Benthic habitat types vary along the Texas coast.

The most common type of benthic habitat is open, muddy bay bottom.

These areas do harbor marine life, but not nearly to the extent of other habitat types.

The reason for this difference is what's known as structural complexity. Salt marshes, mangroves, oyster reefs, and seagrass beds all provide structure that helps create a diverse ecosystem. These habitat types provide the basic necessities for marine organisms: food and shelter. It has been estimated that organism abundance can be up to 25 times greater in seagrass beds than in adjacent bare areas. The estimated world value of seagrass is \$19,002 per hectare per year based on the ecosystem function of nutrient cycling. There are plants and fungi that live on the seagrass blades and below the seagrass amongst the roots and rhizomes in the sediment.

Animals such as marine worms and crustaceans swim around and crawl along the bottom in these dense underwater meadows. All of these smaller creatures, in turn, provide food for larger animals. It's estimated that 80% of the redhead duck population return to the Texas coast each winter to dine directly on seagrass roots and rhizomes. Sport fish, such as red drum and spotted seatrout, frequent the seagrass beds looking for crabs, shrimp and smaller fish. The key to this abundance of life are the seagrasses themselves.

Seagrasses are the only plants that are able to generate new plants via flowers and pollen, photosynthesize, and complete their entire life cycle while being completely submerged in the marine environment. Seagrass meadows create

highly productive shallow water habitats and perform a variety of ecosystem functions.

Seagrass beds not only provide organisms with food and shelter but with oxygen as well. During periods of photosynthesis, the leaves and roots release oxygen into the water column and sediment. They maintain water clarity by trapping sediment with their leaves and reduce coastal erosion by stabilizing sediment with an extensive root and rhizome system. Seagrasses have been referred to as the canary in the coal mine for estuaries as they can indicate when there is an imbalance in the ecosystem alerting resource managers to take action.

Approximately 235,000 acres of seagrass cover the Texas bay bottom. Seagrass distribution varies along the Texas coast as a result of freshwater inflow, salinity, depth and water clarity. The upper coast (Galveston Bay, Matagorda Bay and San Antonio Bay) comprises around 13% of total seagrass coverage. Higher annual precipitation and heavier freshwater inflow in these bay systems create areas of low salinity and turbid water not as suitable for

sition are attributed to both natural and man-made or anthropogenic factors. Natural processes include hurricanes, drought, algal blooms, sedimentation and sea level rise. Anthropogenic effects include nutrient runoff, dredging, coastal development, and propeller scarring.

All of the factors that affect seagrass beds can contribute to habitat fragmentation. Large, continuous tracts of seagrass meadows can become fragmented, or split apart, over time. This fragmentation diminishes the effectiveness of the overall habitat, much like a road does when constructed through the middle of a forest. In order to move around this new habitat, animals must now cross over these bare areas, leaving them vulnerable to predation and currents. If the seagrasses root system is removed, it may take several years to recover and recolonize an area if at all. One of the most significant and immediate ways that seagrass beds can become fragmented is by propeller scars. Propeller scars are created when boaters run through shallow seagrass beds, digging up sediment and seagrass roots with their boat's propeller.

Seagrass habitats provide the basic necessities for marine organisms: food and shelter.



Before (left) and after (right) aerial imagery for RBSSA scarring

seagrass growth. Alternatively, the upper and lower Laguna Madre, due to shallow, relatively clear and salty waters, promote the most seagrass growth along the Texas coast. Twenty-five percent of the state's total seagrass coverage is found in the upper Laguna Madre while the most extensive coverage (50%) is found in the lower Laguna Madre. Studies from the 1970s to late 1990s suggest an overall decline of seagrass along the coast due to various impacts with some areas, such as Galveston Bay, experiencing severe loss.

Changes in seagrass distribution and species compo-



Tailing red photo, Roger Swiderski. All other photos are courtesy of TPWD.

On the cover: Capt. Sally Black pulls a spoon-fed red from a bed of turtle grass, prior to CPR. Photo, Sam Caldwell

Texas' Five Seagrass Species

Star Grass

Elliptical leaves in palm pattern / Small tropical species / Can be obscured by other species



Shoal Grass

Primary food source for redhead ducks / Narrow, flat leaves with blunt tips / Fast-growing



Turtle Grass

Grazed on by sea turtles / Wide, flat leaves / Slow-growing / Indicative of stable conditions



Widgeon Grass

Narrow, flat leaves with pointed tips / Can grow in freshwater



Manatee Grass

Cylindrical leaves / Slow growing / Indicative of stable conditions



the creation of Redfish Bay State Scientific Area (RBSSA) in 2000, to research, monitor and protect seagrass beds in this 32,000 acre area. Initial efforts in RBSSA included marking voluntary no-prop zones but after four years showed little success. In 2006, a new regulation went into effect making it illegal to uproot seagrasses within the state scientific area boundary.

To assess the efficacy of the no-uprooting regulation in RBSSA, TPWD staff conducted a study which showed a 45% reduction in propeller scarring from 2005-2009. Additional information was collected through a survey to assess changes in boating behavior due to the regulation in RBSSA. The survey showed that 88% of boaters were aware of the regulation and 90% indicated that the TPWD outreach and education campaign was successful.

Seagrasses Continued, page 9

Watch for this informational sign at your favorite boat ramp.

HELP PROTECT SEAGRASSES

Lift

Drift

Pole

Troll

Know the running and takeoff depth limitations of your boat.

- Seagrasses provide improved water quality, a food source and high-quality nursery and foraging habitat for a variety of marine species including gametfish.
- Propeller scars caused by careless boaters in shallow seagrass beds damage valuable seagrass habitat.
- Protecting seagrass is important for good fishing.

UPROOTING SEAGRASS IS ILLEGAL

Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

Projects Enhancing and Restoring Texas Coastal Habitat

CCA Texas's habitat initiative, Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT) continues to move forward with habitat restoration and creation up and down the Texas coast. Projects including Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough restoration, Galveston Bay Oyster Restoration, Bird Island Marsh Restoration (West Galveston Bay), Oyster Lake Shoreline Stabilization (West Galveston Bay) and Port O'Connor Nearshore Reefing Site permit acquisition are still in process and are set to be completed by the end of the year. The Nueces Bay Delta Water Management control system was completed in late June and is now in full operation.

The Nueces Bay Delta Water Management control system was completed in late June. This project was led by the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP) and CCA Texas contributed \$70,000 in funding to this project. The basis of the project is to keep water that is pumped into the delta in the delta, and not allow it to back flow back into the Nueces River, thus bypassing the lower portions of the delta. After a temporary pilot project of swinging gates proved to have some success, the project moved forward with the installation of three 48" box culverts with sliding gates installed on them. As water is pumped into the delta per agreements with local agencies, these new gated culverts will keep the water in the delta and force it to flow that direction. By creating the "dam", the delta will get the full benefit of the water pumped into the system. Downstream salinity monitors allow CBBEP to see when the water has reached the lower

end of the delta and once pumping is completed and the water has made its way downstream, the gates will be opened back up to allow for natural tidal movement.

CCA Texas looks forward to continuing habitat restoration and creation work with CBBEP in the future and continuing to build a strong partnership.

The Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough Restoration project continues to move forward and estimates still are looking for a mid to late-September 2014 completion date, with weather days figured into the schedule.

The dredging and excavation process is moving along at a steady rate and as of July 7, 2014, 2,900 feet of advancement had been made by the dredge in Cedar Bayou and 3,100 of advancement had been made in Vinson's Slough with the use of two excavators and off road dump trucks. The intersection of Cedar Bayou and Vinson's Slough is expected to be

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Top photo: Project site prior to installation of water control gates, Nueces Delta Water Control Project with partner Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program.

Finished product upstream side of new water control gates at Nueces Delta Water Control Project, with partner Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program. Photos by Lisa Laskowski





TWO TAGGED REDFISH WINNERS CONFIRMED!

As we approached the end of June, nagging winds and off-color water resulted in some tough conditions along the entire coast. A month into the competition and there were no tagged redfish winners. So the Tournament Committee came up with a remedy that would also help commemorate STAR's 25th Anniversary. They voted to release 25-percent more tagged redfish up and down the coastline just in time for the 4th of July holiday! That means there are more than 60 tagged reds in the water and a 25-percent greater chance to win big! And, by the way, we now have two confirmed redfish winners and here are their stories.

Highlands resident, Micah Nethercutt decided to setup his rod with a piece of squid and try his luck. Suddenly, his line took off. After landing the fish, he saw something covered in algae. It was tag TA589 for the 2014 CCA STAR Tournament. He contacted the STAR Tournament office to notify them of his catch then headed to official STAR weigh station, West End Marina. Micah Nethercutt is the first official winner of the 2014 CCA Texas STAR Tournament, Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division. He will receive a 2014 Ford F-150 Texas Edition XLT SuperCab truck, Haynie 23' Big Foot boat, Mercury 150 L Pro XS OptiMax motor and Coastline trailer.



Temple resident, Mark Richner booked a guided trip in Baffin Bay. They met fishing guide, Capt. David Rowsey. A half day charter was fast... stop, fish and move. As the morning wore on, they worked their way towards a nice grass line. Soon, all three anglers had nice reds, but Richner's happened to be the one with Tag #TA635! Richner headed over to official STAR weigh station, Roy's Bait & Tackle to weigh-in his special catch. Mark Richner is the second official winner of the 2014 CCA Texas STAR Tournament, Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division. He will receive a 2014 Ford F-150 Texas Edition XLT SuperCab truck, Haynie 23' Big Foot boat, Mercury 150 L Pro XS OptiMax motor and Coastline trailer.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST TWO TAGGED REDFISH WINNERS! Fortunately for Micah Nethercutt and Mark Richner, they were registered.

Each will be awarded their truck/boat prize packages at the STAR Awards Ceremony in October.

So far ten tagged redfish have been caught, but only two confirmed as winners at this time. That means there are still over sixty tagged redfish still out there swimming and truck/boat prize packages and boat prize packages available to win by STAR anglers who bring in the first 10 tagged redfish. The first five winners will drive home in a 2014 loaded Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT SuperCab, pulling a brand new 23' Haynie BigFoot boat rigged with a Mercury 150L Pro XS OptiMax motor and Coastline trailer so there are still three truck/boat packages available. The next five tagged redfish winners will each claim a 23' Haynie BigFoot boat with a Mercury 150L Pro XS OptiMax motor and Coastline trailers. For young anglers not of legal driving age who reel in the famous tagged red, he or she will receive the boat package plus a \$20,000 college scholarship, in lieu of the truck.

Last year eleven tagged redfish were caught, but only six anglers claimed prizes. The others, unfortunately, were not registered for the CCA Texas STAR.

YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN TO WIN! Are you spooled up? Therapy is too expensive and your entry fee is too cheap, so why take a chance? Now through 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 1 (Labor Day), anglers will have all summer long to compete for one of the many prize packages in the 2014 CCA Texas STAR Tournament, including truck/boat packages, boat packages, UV packages and scholarships.

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 salt-water fishing event, **an angler must be a CURRENT member of CCA, plus be registered as a 2014 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 2014 and older, is eligible to win the prizes being offered (even the TAGGED REDFISH DIVISION)! Get everyone signed up for the 2014 STAR...*right now!*

YOUNG ANGLERS FISH FOR FREE! For young anglers ages 6-17, a \$10 "New Tide" membership fee is required annually, but their STAR entry fee still remains FREE!!! Parents, 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 2014 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.

Don't miss "the boat" or "the truck and boat" ... register today! You can sign up NOW online at <http://www.startournament.org!!!>

gling, Berkley Gulp! and Abu Garcia Revo Reels are teaming up to provide STAR anglers more chances to win! If you're looking for a winning edge this year, be sure and take the **2014 Berkley Gulp/Abu Garcia Revo Reels Challenge "Use Gulp, Abu Garcia and Win!"** To qualify for the Berkley Gulp/Abu Garcia Revo Reel Challenge Prize Package, STAR anglers must catch a winning fish using a Berkley Gulp bait or Abu Garcia Revo reel, abide by all rules of the CCA Texas STAR Tournament and be on the FINAL leaderboard after the close of the 2014 CCA Texas STAR Tournament on Sept. 1st, 2014. **The prize package will include a Limited Edition All Star Team Series Rod, Abu Garcia Revo S Baitcast Reel, Berkley Trilene XL fishing line, Gulp Alive Bait and Berkley tackle bag.** This fine collection is bound to enhance your skills even further. Berkley Gulp, Gulp Alive baits and Abu Garcia Revo Reels are available at **Academy Sports + Outdoors**, another proud partner of CCA Texas STAR tournament. You can see the display there. We thank Berkley and Abu Garcia for their continued partnership with us in the spirit of CCA's mission. We all want to put something back into the water for everyone.

And, of course, don't forget to take advantage of all the other great Member incentives available to CCA Texas STAR participants. Please see below for more details.

CCA TEXAS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS - Our most generous sponsor offerings still continue to add more value to your CCA Texas Membership. Be sure and remember to take advantage of the following wonderful benefits your CCA membership affords you!

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

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

SPECIAL BONUS FROM ACADEMY SPORTS & OUTDOORS - One more great reason to sign up! Academy Sports + Outdoors will be mailing current CCA members a \$10 gift coupon just in time for hunting season! 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 2014 STAR, but did not declare that you would like this special offer and/or have questions regarding your past or current subscription, please call (713) 626-4222 or email star@ccatexas.org.



BEST IN TEXAS

BERKLEY GULP CHALLENGE RETURNS! Icons in competitive an-

2014 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT SuperCab with Haynie 23 Bigfoot, the Redfish Division prize.

2014 PRIZE LINE-UP - This year's contestants have a chance at winning over 100 prizes including trucks, UV, 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 2014 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" truck. Haynie Boats returns with the awesome Haynie 23 Bigfoot rigged with a Mercury 150 L Pro XS motor and Coastline Trailer completing this amazing package. The next five weighed in will receive the same boat, motor and trailer packages.

For young anglers not of legal driving age and who reel in the famous tagged red, he or she will receive the boat package plus a 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 with a Mercury 150 L Pro XS motor and McClain trailer. **SPECIAL NOTE:** If you're unsure a trout is large enough to qualify, consider this "easy rule-of-thumb" - if length is less than 27 inches, chances are it won't meet the eight pound minimum weight requirement for the Trout Division. Unless you intend to mount your fish as a personal best, why not think about releasing anything that might not make the cut so she can re-seed the bays.



Offshore Division - Blue water anglers who land the heaviest kingfish, dorado and ling (cobia) will each win an awesome Polaris Ranger® Crew 570 EPS UVs in Polaris Pursuit Camo each with a Big Tex 35sa 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, a Mercury 115 L OptiMax motor and McClain trailer.



In the past nineteen years, \$4,810,000 in college scholarships has been awarded to fisher-kids across the state. And 2014 continues to offer plenty of reason for everyone to round up their kid(s), a rod and reel and head for the water.

Capital Farm Credit 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. **SPECIAL NOTE:** Look for the upcoming mailer from Capital Farm Credit- proud partner of the STAR Tournament!



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.



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



More Chances to Win Great Prizes!

2014 Berkley Gulp/Abu Garcia Revo Reel Challenge "Use Gulp and Win!" - To qualify for prize package, STAR anglers must catch a winning fish using a Berkley Gulp bait or Abu Garcia Revo reel, abide by all rules of the CCA Texas STAR Tournament and be on the FINAL leaderboard after the close of the 2014 CCA Texas STAR Tournament on Sept. 1, 2014. Prize package includes a Limited Edition All Star Team Series Rod, Abu Garcia Revo S Baitcast Reel, Berkley Trilene XL fishing line, Gulp Alive Bait and Berkley tackle bag.



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 2014. "NewTide"/STAR participants at least, 6 - 17 years old in 2014, are eligible for a bonus drawing that will net one lucky youth a \$20,000 college scholarship even if the participant never wets a line or enters a single fish during the entire tournament.



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



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 25th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament include:

Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Home Corporation, Capital Farm Credit, Mercury Marine, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, Ozarka, Berkley Gulp, Abu Garcia, Rio Ammunition, KTRK-abc13, Houston Community Newspapers, Fox Sports Southwest, Time Warner Cable, Hoffpauir Auto & Outdoor Stores, Haynie Boats, Shoalwater Boats, Dargel Boats, Blue Wave Boats, Texas Fish & Game Magazine, Texas Oilman's Charity Fishing Tournament, Coastline Trailers, McClain Trailers, Chris's Marine and Mt. Houston Marine.

STAR has reached \$4,810,000 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.



Trout Division: Shoalwater 22' Legend with a Mercury 150 Pro XS Optimax



Inshore Division: Blue Wave 180 SV Southern Skiff with a Mercury 115 OptiMax



STAR Offshore Division Prize: Polaris Ranger® Crew 570 EPS. Photo for representational purposes only.

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 member by creating a print depicting a classic wade fishing scene... check out the Great White Heron! This special offer includes your CCA membership (new or renewal), your 2014 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: <http://www.startournament.org> 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. See all four of these fine paintings on page 6.

STAR continues on page 6



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



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.



Get a load of these two great items from one of our new STAR sponsors, **Rio Ammo**.

RC20 (Rio 20ga Field Load) - The RC20 from Rio is the top choice for your dove field this season. Whether you want more of a challenge, like the softer recoil, or just don't like carrying heavier shells the Rio 20ga Field load is right for you.

TX Game Loads – Getting back to our roots, as we first started in Houston and are heading back to TX, Rio's TX Game Loads seal the deal! Available in 1-1/4oz payloads and either 3-1/4 or 3-3/4 dram, Rio's TX Game Loads pack the punch to fold 'em!



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 November, 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.



Visit the CCA Texas Online Store and check out our newest product!

16 oz Silicone Pint Glass
Perfect for a day on the boat!

- BPA Free! - The world's first silicone pint glass
- 16oz. pint glass is unbreakable! - Made of 100% food grade silicone, FDA approved and non-toxic
- Dish wash it, nuke it, freeze it, bake in it, bounce it and even run over it with your car. - No more broken glass or throw away cups.



Visit the CCA Texas Online Store at joincca.store.com



Heroes of Conservation



National Field & Stream awards now include four CCA-Texas finalists: **Ronnie Luster**, First national winner, 2006; **Capt. Billy Sandifer**, 2009 and now in the finals for 2014, **Miller and Kathie Bassler**. For a video starring 230 Texas conservationists, visit this site:

www.fieldandstream.com/ Then click on hero-for-a-day/portmansfield/videos



Andy Caroselli, in the teen division of the Hill Country tourney caught the biggest red of the tournament weighing in at 7.98 pounds! Maybe Andy will come fish for CCA and TP&W in the future.

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Editor, Sam Caldwell / sam@samcaldwell.com
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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,
August 16 till
11 am, August 21.

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

Good luck! — Matthew Still
Assistant Director



48qt Igloo cooler custom wrapped w/ CCA logo, and (2) Tervis Tumblers w/ cca logo.



Handcrafted metal flounder sculpture by Chase Allen. Includes signed certificate of authenticity.

Sponsored by our
friends at Costa.



ROASTED FISH WITH SPANISH CHORIZO & FRESH BEAD CRUMBS

Adapted from a recipe in *Bon Appetit*, August 2013

½ french baguette or country style bread, crust removed / 4 T olive oil divided / 1 cup chopped cilantro
2 small shallots minced fine
½ lb (1-2 links) fresh Spanish chorizo (casing removed) / 2 T Sherry or red wine vinegar / Salt and pepper
4 fish fillets

Heat oven to 425. Pulse bread in food processor until coarse crumbs form. Heat 2 T of the oil in ovenproof skillet over medium high heat. Add bread crumbs. Cook, stirring until golden and crisp, about 3 minutes. Transfer to a bowl and season with salt and pepper. Toss together with chopped cilantro. Wipe out skillet.

In the same skillet, heat 1 T oil over medium high heat. Add shallots and

chorizo and cook through, 3-4 minutes. Transfer to a bowl and mix in Sherry OR vinegar. Wipe out skillet.

Pat fish dry and season with salt and pepper or your favorite seafood seasoning. Heat remaining oil in skillet. Add filets to skillet and cook until just opaque, 3-4 minutes, depending on the thickness of fish. Remove from heat and top filets with chorizo mixture and breadcrumbs. Transfer skillet to oven (or transfer filets to Pyrex dish) and roast until fish is cooked through, 5-7 minutes. Cook time will vary depending on the fish you use. Cod was used in the original recipe but we substituted trout filets for this recipe.

Do Ahead: Do breadcrumbs ahead of time. Toss with cilantro just before heating. Chorizo mixture could be done ahead as well.



Texas Parks & Wildlife Commissioner Dick Scott visited a recent CCA Texas Board of Directors meeting. He discussed our partnership and how valuable CCA is to TPWD.

Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR TEXAS MARINE HABITAT



Photos by Lisa Laskowski

Approximately 3/4 of an acre planted at Oyster Lake Shoreline Stabilization Project with partner Galveston Bay Foundation.

CCA Staffers Kim Ogonosky and John Blaha plant grass at Oyster Lake Shoreline Stabilization Project with partner Galveston Bay Foundation.

completed in late July before this issue of *Currents* hits the news stands. The final portion of Vinson's Slough will be completed by hydraulic dredge. CCA Texas looks forward to the completion of this historic project and all the benefits that will be realized by the surrounding bays and wetlands. For weekly updates, be sure to visit <http://www.ccatexas.org/conservation/habitat/cedar-bayou/>

The East Galveston Bay Oyster Restoration Project continues to move forward. Originally scheduled to be completed in July, the project now looks to be finished the first of August, culminating in the completion of the 10-acre CCA Middle Reef restoration work. This project will have restored 180 acres of oyster reef in the East Galveston Bay complex once completed. This includes 85 acres at Hannah's, 70 acres at Pepper Grove, 15 acres at Middle Reef and 10 acres at CCA Middle Reef. This effort is one of the largest to date in the Galveston system and has a total cost of over \$3.5 million with CCA Texas contributing \$500,000 towards the effort.

TPWD and CCA Texas encourage local recreational fishermen to take part effort to collect data in the "Citizen Scientist" program. This effort will help set baselines for this restoration work and requires fishermen to fish in specific areas and specific methods. For more information, please visit <http://www.ccatexas.org/ccatexas-tpwd-fish-survey/> or contact John Blaha at jdblaha@ccatexas.org or Bill Rodney at Bill.Rodney@tpwd.texas.gov.

CCA Texas has contributed in excess of \$3.6 million dollars to habitat projects since the inception of Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow in the winter of 2009. These contributions are through the direct efforts of CCA Texas volunteers via the banquet fundraising process. Dollars raised in Texas stay in Texas.

CCA Texas staff and volunteers along with volunteers from Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF), NRG Energy United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW), and the Houston Zoo gathered in June for a grass planting at the Oyster Lake Shoreline Stabilization Project.

This effort was to plant approximately three-quarters of an acre with over 2,000 smooth cord grass plants provided by NRG. These plants were placed behind the first 500 feet of breakwater on the West Galveston Bay side. This project is a great example of the success that breakwater and marsh restoration efforts can have.

Since the installation of these initial breakwaters in September, roughly 1,100 cubic yards of sediment materials have since filled in behind the breakwater on the West Galveston Bay side of the project, which is a good start to rebuilding the barrier island between West Galveston Bay and Oyster Lake. Once completed, this breakwater will span approximately one mile along the West Galveston Shoreline.



Additional breakwaters are also being placed inside Oyster Lake as well.

CCA Texas contributed \$200,000 to this effort. NGOs such as GBF and CCA Texas are another example of groups working together to ensure a healthy coastal resource in Texas.

CCA Texas has contributed in excess of \$3.6 million dollars to habitat projects since the inception of Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow in the winter of 2009. These contributions are through the direct efforts of CCA Texas volunteers through the banquet fundraising process in chapters across the state. Dollars raised in Texas stay in Texas for projects like these, supporting Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Coastal Fisheries and Game Warden divisions, graduate student scholarships, and TPWD hatcheries and their efforts. 🍷

Report from TP&W
Game Wardens



Caught Redhanded!

On December 7, 2012, Galveston County Game Wardens **Bobby Kana** and **Adam Clark** located a gill net on the Intracoastal waterway of Bolivar Peninsula.

Using night vision donated by CCA, the Wardens staked out the net. After three hours, the suspect showed up and began to remove the flounder. The Wardens watched from the cover of darkness until the suspect began to leave the area. That is when they made the arrest. The equipment allowed them to monitor every move made by

the violator without giving the Warden's hidden location away.

Later: The violator paid a \$2200.00 fine in County Court for the use of the net. In JP court he was assessed a total of 72 hours of community service for exceeding the legal limit of fish.

— **Edward E. Tanuz**

*Captain Game Warden
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Texas Game Wardens Serving Texans Since 1895 -
Law Enforcement Off the Pavement* 



Photo courtesy of Texas Parks & Wildlife wardens

Seagrasses, from page 3

The success of the regulation in RBSSA as well as recommendations from the Coastal User Working Group played a major role in passing additional legislation that applies to the entire Texas coast. As of September 1, 2013, it is illegal to uproot seagrass with a boat propeller from the bay bottom anywhere in Texas coastal waters. TPWD launched a statewide education and outreach campaign to not only increase awareness of the value and importance of protecting seagrass but also to ensure people are aware of the regulation. On-going agency outreach efforts include: public service announcements, distribution of brochures, social media postings, signage at boat ramps as well as billboards of which CCA will be sponsoring over the next year. In addition, TPWD staff is continuing to monitor changes in propeller scarring along the Texas coast.

The program has since grown to include the assessment of propeller scar damage in other areas of the Texas coast. Through the use of GIS equipment and computer mapping software, severity and location of propeller scars are documented throughout the bay ecosystems. Scars are located using aerial imagery, marked with GPS coordinates and verified using a shallow water boat and GIS equipment.

Data are collected such as the width of the scar, amount of drift algae within the scar, and any regrowth. This information can be used to determine the severity of the scarring in a particular area and can be used to determine how fast the scars are recovering.

Additional coastwide seagrass sampling is also being conducted during the growing season (spring to fall) to look at changes in coastwide distribution.

Propeller scar assessments using computer technology coupled with field sampling enable resource managers to monitor seagrass habitat along the coast. This allows for a more accurate assessment of threats to, and loss of, seagrass in specific areas, and to identify if there is a need for further management or protection. Long-term and continual monitoring of the habitat also aids in determining the overall health of aquatic environment which in turn could mean better habitat for fisheries.

To help conserve this fragile habitat, TPWD encourages boaters to avoid damage to seagrass beds along the coast by remembering to LIFT, DRIFT, POLE OR TROLL: LIFT motors when in shallow vegetated areas; DRIFT by using the wind to cross shallow flats; use of a push POLE through shallow areas; or TROLL with a trolling motor in shallow fishing areas. 

As part of TPWD and CCA's outreach program for seagrass protection, you will be seeing a number of billboards in favor of seagrass protection.

For more information on Texas seagrasses, visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/seagrass

SECOND ANNUAL OPERATION GAME THIEF HOUSTON CLAY STOPPERS TOURNAMENT



FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2014
WESTSIDE SPORTING GROUNDS

Operation Game Thief, Texas' nationally recognized "crime stoppers" and Texas' Game Wardens invite you to join us for a morning of clay shooting and fun, a Game Warden Fish Fry, and the chance to win some fantastic hunting and fishing prizes.

Schedule of Events

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Team Captain Check-in, Raffles and Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - Shooting Opens on Three Courses / Super Final Immediately Following. *20 Game Wardens will be shooting against one another, but as "Fifth Men" on 20 teams. If you would like to have the opportunity to shoot with a Game Warden, check the website. For all details and entry, go to:*

www.ogttx.com/

OGT receives no taxpayer funds and is totally funded by gifts. Your generosity will allow OGT to continue to pay rewards for information leading to the conviction of flagrant game violators, will contribute to immediate death benefits paid to the families of wardens and park peace officers killed in the line of duty, and will give OGT the funds to purchase technologically advanced equipment such as body armor, sonar, enhanced communications devices and night vision. OGT thanks you in advance for your kind contribution to our efforts on behalf of the hunters and fishermen, wardens and wildlife of Texas.

Operation Game Thief

501 (c)(3) Organization

Fish need seagrass.



Uprooting
seagrass
is illegal.

LIFT YOUR PROP



Upper Coast

By Capt. Jeremy Chavez

Milder winds, hot fishing

August will see the hottest fishing of the year—literally. High temps of course, but really good fishing to go along with the heat. Just make sure you've got your sun gear on, and keep your cool.

The good news is that milder winds will make for calm water and better visibility—usually. On those days when a nice breeze becomes wind, depending on the direction, you'll fish the protected shorelines and do it early. On those really fine days (which should be most of August and deep into September), you'll have a huge choice of bay water, and you'll keep an eye out for bait activity and birds working in tight groups. Where the birds and bait are is where you'll be.

I'll be poling the marshes in my skiff, early, and watching for fish action. My go-to lures in the early morning are usually top waters. The SheDogs are a good choice, but I favor anything with chrome on it. Later in the day on the big water, depending on depth and conditions, I'll switch to gold spoons—the old Johnson Sprite is hard to beat. The paddletail lures from TTF—Texas Tackle Factory—are a favorite. I like the Morning Glory version.

That's August into mid-September. The fishing can still be hot, especially when the cold fronts begin and the shrimp migration gets going. That's when the trout action really turns on. I'll be in the back lakes, estuaries and marshes, poling shallow water, watching the spartina grass for the big ones. In deeper water, watch for those same birds working, but don't bust in on other anglers.

Shallow or deep, remember that the bay belongs to all of us. Give your fellow anglers plenty of room. Remember that conditions can change from great to bad in a short time, so go prepared. Remember the size limits, and think about sending the really big girls with all the spots back for further duty. —**Capt. Jeremy Chavez** 281-546-1393 castingtales@gmail.com

Middle Coast

By Capt. Ron Coulston

Hot weather thinking time

It's time to adjust to hot weather fishing. Increased water temperatures mean fishermen need to be where the fish want to be. Cooler and more oxygenated water, moving water, whether tide or wind-drive. More oxygen equals more fish. Fish will be deeper and over softer, mud bottoms because the water there will stay cooler. Early mornings, fish may still move to shallow water since shallow water cools off more during the night, but they won't be far from deeper water and they won't stay long after sun up.

The surf will be good fishing throughout August and September. If you are boating and the waves are down, you can go out through the jetties and fish back near the shore in the first three guts. Generally, the second bar and gut out from the shore is most productive. Lures of choice are those top waters and soft plastics that mimic small bait fish.

Using croaker and piggy perch will box good size fish, but even better is live menhaden taken with a throw net. BUT—surf fishing from a boat is not for beginners. A good anchor is essential. In the surf, you must monitor the weather closely since summer storms can get between you and the way home.

Lure fishermen in the bays will look for cuts, guts and shorelines with moving water. Baitfish will be leaving the back lakes due to increasing temperatures; redfish will be following them to outside shorelines. Bait fishermen in the bays should look for deep reefs and cuts with moving water. Another good choice is to fish the wells in 9 to 14 feet of water with piggy perch.

Many guides recommend releasing all trout over 24 inches, though you can legally keep one per day over 25 inches. Think about how many fish you can reasonably eat, and release all the others. Cleaning out one's freezer a year from now and discarding those valuable fish is not a good thing. —**Capt. Ron Coulston** Ron's Guide Service / 361-557-0555 www.ronsrockportfishing.com

Lower Coast

Capt. Rene Hinojosa

Wind—your friendly foe

Wind: It can be your friend if you work it right. Keeps you from burning up, and a nice breeze lets us drift, but the southwest and west wind can cause fish lockjaw. So, early on, we'll find the west shorelines, knowing that the southeast wind can eventually come along. Meanwhile in mid-August, it'll be like a key turning on, and big schools of trout get together, heavier fish getting eggs and ready to spawn. Of course, we'll remember size and limit regulations, so there'll always be more for later.

Big reds will still be in the bay, thinking about that trip offshore. They'll also be in the deeper grass flats, looking for my Old Reliable, Go-To lure, the Norton Sand eel. The Bull Minnow will also pay off, and never miss a chance to tie on a topwater when nothing else seems to be working. Last year, while wading, Miller Bassler saw a huge trout miss someone else's big topwater, located a small, silver and blue topwater in his bag and engaged a huge fish. That fish is still out there, so be sure you have a small, silver and blue topwater in your kit. I like the Skitter Walker in white and pink, and the Sea Dogs work well. Vary your retrieve, of course, until that big hit happens. Then try to remember exactly what you were doing when the explosion occurred.

Wadefishing in August high heat can be the most comfortable way to bump into a fine stringer of trout, with that occasional big trout looking for a lure. Drifting in a mild breeze and looking for the edge of big open areas in the grass is one of the pleasures of Lower Coast fishing. All this will probably be true into mid-September.

In late September, the cooler weather comes along, and the fishing can change from warm conditions to cool considerations, but really hot fishing for the larger reds and trout. Remember that Texas weather is always about to change, so go prepared. Be considerate of the fish and your fellow fishermen. —**Capt. Rene Hinojosa** 956-966-0719 shallowcharters@gmail.com



CPR, of course. Chase Stanzel says the tarpon were working in the Port O'Connor surf.



CPR on the Laguna Madre. Scott Sanderson's release, by Joseph Sanderson.

CCA Texas Social Happenings

Be sure to check out our newest videos, "Cedar Bayou, 5/21/2014" and "Oyster Lake Shoreline Grass Planting" on the CCA Texas Project Videos page (www.ccatexas.org/project-videos).

We post weekly updates on the progress of Cedar Bayou, so check our website for the latest (<http://www.ccatexas.org/cedar-bayou>).

The CCA Texas Facebook page has now received over 10,000 likes! Thank you to everyone; you are spreading the word about the positive impact CCA Texas is making along the coast.

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



Facebook:

Joseph Sanderson with his 30+trout.

Scott Sanderson is the Austin Chapter President, and his son **Joseph** was one of the first Junior Board Members there. Joseph submitted photos of Scott's 30.25" trout sight taken on a fly [See **Scott's CPR on page 10**] and his own 30 incher, caught within 200 yards of each other, both around 10 pounds, both in 4-6" of water, both released. CPR rules!

Twitter:

?@iamkevnlucas: Can't wait to head to the Alvin/Pearland @CCA_Texas Banquet tonight! Always a blast.

Instagram: [augseptinstagram.jpg](#)

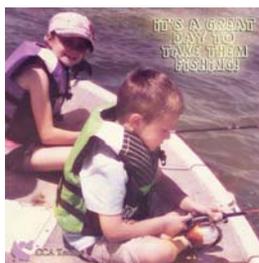
The weather's nice, take a kid fishing this weekend! For more information on CCA Texas kid fish events, contact your local chapter.

CCA Texas on

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/CCAATexas

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

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



Chapter Updates

Alvin-Pearland

Emery Sadler 713-501-2778

The June 2014 21st annual Alvin/Pearland CCA banquet was a huge success and a great time was had by all! A special thanks to our great supporters/sponsors and our hard working Board for making it a huge success!

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

We would like to say thanks to **Capt. Jesse Arsula of Reel Life Adventures** for his informative presentation at the June general chapter meeting. **July** - No General Meeting / **Tuesday August 5th** - General Meeting: Shimano Pro Staff; Spring Creek BBQ - Pearland 7:00 PM
Tuesday September 2nd - General Meeting, TBA: Spring Creek BBQ - Pearland 7:00 PM / **Tuesday October 7th** - General Meeting, TBA. Spring Creek BBQ - Pearland 7:00 PM / **Tuesday November 4th** - General Meeting: TBA, Spring Creek BBQ - Pearland 7:00 PM. We welcome new board members who would like to get plugged in. Our monthly chapter meetings have a great speaker lineup and we will have a raffle. Bring a friend, a kid and get plugged in!

— Emery Sadler

Aransas Bay

Carter Crigler 435-830-5984

jccrigler@hotmail.com

Our 15th Annual Banquet is scheduled for 9 August at the Paws and Taws Convention Center in Fulton, Texas. Title sponsor for the 2014 banquet is **Ron Hoover RV and Marine**.

Come join us for a fun-filled evening consisting of a live auction including trips, sculptures, art, raffle; door prizes and silent auction. Tickets will be available at **Rockport Tackle Town** and **Ace Hardware Rockport** and include dinner (catered by **Castaways Seafood and Grill**), open bar, and include a CCA Membership. For any questions concerning advanced ticket reservations, sponsor opportunities, donations or any other matters contact **Michelle Green**, Banquet Chairperson, at jeepgirl.green@gmail.com.

Babes On The Bay report

The 350 teams and over 1300 entrants for the 15th Annual CCA Babes on the Bay tourney were met by strong winds as they headed out. In spite of the weather, numerous nice stringers of fish were weighted in by dedicated hard-fishing teams. Many thanks to all participants who helped make **Babes XV** a success. On behalf of the Aransas Bay Chapter of CCA we would like to thank our sponsors **Ron Hoover RV and Marine, Rosendin Electric Company, L & F Distributors, American Rodsmiths, Black Dog, Coastal Innovations, and Rockport Mail Center**. Many thanks to all vendors and Aransas Bay Chapter volunteers who helped make this event a success. A special thank you goes to tournament director, **Karol Scardino**, for her leadership and dedication to Babes on the Bay. A big thank you also goes to **Terri MacDonald** for handling vendor signups. First place winners in their respective divisions were: Non-guided Artificial - **Chicas Con Plastics**. / Non-guided Any Bait - **Pady Wackers**. / Non-guided Juniors - **Cesillie Mokry**. / Guided Artificial - **Reel Fin'addicts**. Guided Any Bait - **Croaker Soakers**. / Junior Division Guided - **Taylor Schulze**. For complete list of winners and weights, go to www.babesonthebay.com

Mark your 2015 calendars for the **16th Babes on the Bay Tournament to be held in Rockport, Texas, May 15 - 16, 2015**. Tight lines, — Carter

*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**.*



CONGRATS, AUSTIN: 35 YEARS!

Austin

Scott Sanderson

512-637-1750

scott@mbsquoteline.com

As the dust settles from Austin's 35th Anniversary banquet, there's time to take a breath and appreciate what phenomenal times these are for CCA.

Austin logged another \$1mm event, San Antonio did the same, CCA Texas membership is at an all-time high, the Cedar Bayou Restoration project is underway, oyster reefs are being restored, near shore reefs are being built—and so much more.

CCA funded nearly \$2mm in conservation projects in 2013 and is certain to eclipse that mark in 2014. Every sponsor, donor, member and volunteer is to be thanked, and we should all be proud of the difference we are making in the future of our coastal resources.

Be sure and mark your calendar now to attend Anglers' Night Out September 17th. We're "cooking" up a special one in conjunction with one of Austin's great sponsors, **Jack Allen** of Jack Allen's Kitchen. Details will follow soon but suffice it to say there will be some incredible food provided by Jack and it will be a special ANO.

As our chapter grows, we need your help. If you have a little time to volunteer we welcome you to join the great group of men and women that



COASTAL
CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION

TEXAS



Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

get the latest FISHING GEAR



Selection and prices vary by store.

Prices good August 1-September 30, 2014.

6⁹⁹

EVERYDAY!

CCA
6" Stainless Steel
Pliers with Sheath
Style CCA-4A



2⁹⁹-4⁹⁹

EVERYDAY!

CCA
Utility Boxes
Styles FSCSFE1014,
FSCSFE1013



39⁹⁹

EVERYDAY!

Zebco CCA
Spinning Combo

Style CCA40722M,,NS3

- Aluminum spool and 11" handle
- 230 yds./10 lbs.
- Two-piece design
- Five bearings
- Use with mono or braid



59⁹⁹

EVERYDAY!

CCA Deluxe Tackle Bag
• Includes 3 utility boxes



34⁹⁹

EVERYDAY!

CCA Tackle Bag
• Includes 2 utility boxes



ZEBCO

39⁹⁹

EVERYDAY!

Zebco CCA
Inshore 6-ft., 6-in.
Spincast Combo

Style CCA733C,20,NS3

- 11-in. EVA handle
- Two-piece design
- 90 yds./20 lbs.

RIGHT STUFF. LOW PRICE. EVERYDAY!

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



39⁹⁹
EVERYDAY!
CCA
Landing Net
Style CCA-TEL-400



499⁹⁹
EVERYDAY!

Heritance Angler 12' Sit-On-Top Fishing Kayak
• One-piece, high-strength polyethylene construction



5⁴⁹
EVERYDAY!
CCA
5-gal. Bucket
Style CCA 5 GL RED
• Use to hold bait and more
• Made in the U.S.A.



9⁹⁹
EVERYDAY!
CCA
Collapsible Waterproof Bait Bucket
Style CCA-SFTBKTB



make up the Austin Board. We have a lot of fun doing our part carrying out all the great work of CCA. My contact info is below, jump on board!

"Like" Coastal Conservation Association Austin Chapter to keep up with everything going on in Austin, or check www.ccaatx.org so you don't miss a thing. Your Austin board thanks you for all your incredible support and wishes you a fun, safe and successful summer on the water. Join STAR and may there be a tagged redfish in your future! — **Scott Sanderson** 512-637-1750 scott@mbsquoteline.com

Bay Area

Curtis Anderson 832-421-6377

Brazoria County

Wes Dingee 979-299-8245

We have been quite busy supporting CCA's habitat efforts! Local members joined **John Blaha** with CCAs Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT) and **Kim Ogonosky** to help with planting grass for the Oyster Lake Shoreline Restoration project. Representatives from **NRG, Houston Zoo Interns, Galveston Bay Foundation, US Fish and Game and the GLO CEPR**A were all in attendance to lend their helping hand. A total of 20 buckets of grass were planted behind the phase 1 breakwater that was installed previously by GBF in September, and the difference that alone has made in eight months is something everyone should see.

The amount of shoreline that has been reclaimed naturally is amazing, and once this project is complete it will enhance marsh functions, including habitat and feeding grounds for fish and wading birds. The final construction phase is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2014.

For those local CCA members interested in becoming more involved with the chapter, we are having our **final GMM for the year on October 21** – details on location will follow (keep updated on www.ccatexas.org). Anyone interested in attending our meetings, please contact **Dan Johnson**, 979-481-3907 or email at djohnson@sparklingclear.com.

Brazos Valley

John Ben Strother 979-220-1738

jbsunlimited@yahoo.com

Welcome to Summer. As we all know, this means crowded weekends, short tides, and water too hot. The best thing that you can do is quit fishing for that trophy you didn't catch this Spring, and take a kid fishing. A piece of shrimp on a small hook at any dock will put a smile on any kid's face.

The Interchapter Challenge has come and gone. We had over two dozen chapters, tough competition, and prevailing winds. The best part was all the fish tales with the other chapters. Our mighty team gave it their best but we put all our boats in one area and could not believe that the fish were not there two days in a row?

We had our last general meeting on July 8 and had a great fish fry with all the trimmings. Our next general meeting will be September 9 and we are hoping to see more new faces. The last two meetings we had several new people that have been on trips with us already.

Brazos Valley CCA members need to be at the September meeting because we will be making plans for the Fall Club Trip. We meet at 6pm the second Tuesday of the month at the **Brazos Valley Pavilion** with food, drinks, and lots of fish tales. If you need more information call, text, or email me. Hope to see you there. — **John Ben**

Brenham

Dennis Crowson
979-451-2472
Dennis.crowson@hotmail.com

We meet the 4th Thursday of each month at **Mike Hopkins Distributing**. We are gearing up for our annual **Howard Kiecke Memorial fishing tournament** held in Port O'Connor. This year's tournament will be August 1st and August 2nd. For more information or an entry form please contact **Dennis Crowson** at dennis.crowson@hotmail.com or 979-451-2472.



Congratulations to the Brenham chapter's team in placing second at this year's Interchapter Challenge tournament. Below is a picture of the team.
— **Dennis Crowson**

Brush Country

Hank Henry 361-215-6803

We held the **Dean Ash Memorial Baffin Bay Shoot-Out on May 31st**. Although it was a week later than the STAR opening, and it followed a cancellation of the event in 2013, we had a good turnout with a few good fish.

We wish to thank several folks for their support this year: **Andrew's Distributing Company, L&F Distributing Company, Gregg's Short Stop of Kingsville, the Brush Country Board of Directors** (particularly **Jack Frankenhauser** for cooking brisket once again), and especially all the local fishermen who supported our event. We are looking forward to next year!



Here are the winners in each category:

Trout 1. **Junior Castillo** / 2. **Hunter Rutoski** / 3. **Robert Saenz**
Redfish 1. **Robert Ochoa** / 2. **Scott Rutoski** / 3. **Adrian Garcia**
Drum 1. **Hunter Rutoski** / 2. **Scott Rutoski** / 3. **Travis Lewis**
Oversized Redfish: **Ronnie Tate**.

Kids' Fish Day

On June 28, we hosted our annual **Kids' Fish Day**. This event is held to help promote kids involvement in fishing and conservation. This year over 40 kids registered for the event. We would like to thank the **Alice Optimist Group** for supplying and cooking the awards lunch. We would also like to thank the **Ruth Sparks Foundation** for their generous donation that

allows us to have the kid's tournament with no cost to participants. All winners in our ten categories win a rod and reel and every child that attends receives a participant's gift. Here are the winners in each category: (see picture of winners below)

Biggest Trout: **Juan Alvarez** / Biggest Redfish: **Joey Alfaro** / Biggest Black Drum: **Joey Alfaro** / Biggest Hardhead: **Salyssa Cantu** / Biggest Skipjack: **Juan Alvarez** / Biggest Croaker: **Robbie Munoz** / Biggest Piggy Perch: **Robbie Munoz** / Youngest Angler - Girl: **Elizabeth Garcia** / Youngest Angler - Boy: **Eli Clore**.
Go fishing, — **Blaine Wise**

Centex

Brad Hensel 254-776-3411

Central Houston

Todd Buster
Mobil, 713-545-1897

Colorado Valley

James Loehr 979-250-3958

Greetings! Our chapter committee and their spouses enjoyed a delicious meal at **Murphy's Steakhouse** in Winchester to celebrate our success with pulling off one of if not the best banquet we have had yet. We discussed some of our accomplishments and discussed other ideas which may help make next year even better yet!

We have heard some good fishing reports from some of our members but it seems everyone is struggling with the wind. Hope everyone had a terrific 4th of July weekend and hope to see you on the water. Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all!
— **James Loehr 979-250-3958 / Eugene Ulrich 979-249-7425**

Corpus Christi

Welcome new president,
Jay Gardner 361-658-7199

jaygardner@scientist.com

It is a tremendous honor to follow in some "big shoes" to serve as the next CCA-CC chapter president. Thanks for all your hard work, **Randy Poelma!** The banquet was a smashing success, and hopefully our members, sponsors, and attendees at next year's banquet will "step up" again. Thank you everyone.

Please mark your calendars for our other great events coming up in the fall, starting with the **Poco Rojo Kids Fishing Tournament** to be held September 6, 2014 at the MDC/CCA Hatchery in Flour Bluff at the end of Waldron Road. Please keep tuned to your emails, as again we will be doing online registration only. Contact **Mike Henry** at 361-816-0300 or **Jay Gardner** at the number above. I would like to pre-thank the Hatchery Staff (**Robert Vega, Rodney Gamez, and crew**) for hosting this worthwhile event.

The CCA-CC Guides Cup will be held October 2-3, 2014 at **Doc's Restaurant** under the JFK Bridge at 6pm. There will be a Captain's meeting with fishing the next day. Call **Bruce Laser** at 361-548-2035 for more information.

Babes on Baffin and Blue Ladies Fishing Tournament will be held on October 18, 2014. The event will occur again at **Bluff's Landing in Flour Bluff**, starting with a Friday night check-in and social starting at 6pm. Registration and rules are on the website at <http://www.babesonbaffin.com>.

This tournament features a live weigh-in in conjunction with the CCA/MDC Fish Hatchery, where the fish that are weighed in are donated to serve as brood stock for the hatchery, and for fish in the KidFish ponds. Fun and Conservation at the same time! Thanks to our title sponsors **Majek Boats** and **Premier Yamaha**. Contact Tournament Director **Lauren Roesener** at 361-500-3799 to learn how to get involved or be a sponsor.

If you have an interest in joining our local board and being involved in the great conservation

projects that we do (such as Cedar Bayou; Dig It!) please contact the Houston office or myself at jaygardner@scientist.com. — **Jay Gardner**

Dallas / North Texas

Robert DiCicco 214-799-2369

We held our first regular gathering of 2014 at our new meeting venue, **The Flying Fish Restaurant** at Preston Center, 6126 Luther Lane, Dallas. Those that came had a great time talking about outdoor adventures and meeting with longtime CCA friends and new members. Anyone interested in CCA is welcome to join us. Please come enjoy some good seafood and a good time with your local CCA membership and guests next month at our next meeting on Tuesday, August 12, 6:30pm at the same venue. Additional dates are scheduled there the second Tuesday in October, January, February and March.

Congratulations to the Dallas ICC team...one of our guys got a 27 3/4" red which came in second in that division...our team finished among the top 10 Chapters.

Hal Thomas, Chapter President / **Julio Morales**, Chapter Vice-President / **Robert DiCicco**, Chapter Treasurer. — **Henry A. (Hal) Thomas** 972-768-3521

East Texas

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

Fort Bend

Robb Gaston 281-239-9755

Hey y'all, here is a little recap so far for this summer: Our **Lingerie On The Bay** all ladies fishing tournament was another HUGE success. We had 200 ladies sign up and they fished their tails off. Some great fish were brought in and the only thing bigger than the fish that won, were the smiles on everyone's faces.

Our **Jimmy Guest Memorial Kid's Fishing Tournament** was also a great event with over 100 young anglers fishing this year. The biggest thing caught this year? **Fishing fever!** It is great to see these kiddos finding enjoyment in a great sport. A special thanks to everyone who helped and donated their time and effort. It was still pretty warm, but dramatically cooler than last year. We look forward to another great tournament next year.

Feel free to look at pictures, upcoming events, and tournament results by checking us out on Facebook. www.facebook.com/fortbendfishermen. While you are there give us a like! Until next time, keep those lines tight and your rods bent! — **Robb**

Fort Worth

Fearn Mastin 817-291-1302

The Fort Worth Chapter is taking some time to rest and hit the flats after another successful banquet this year. We would like to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU again to some of our sponsors. **Joe White Tank Company** and **Academy** led the charge as banquet sponsors. It is always great to have Joe White and his team at the event to add to the excitement of the live auction.

If you are looking to purchase a boat or service on your boat please go see **North Texas Marine** and **Brad Wallace** who were table sponsors this year. For those who are considering some remodeling or are in need of a pool service we would recommend you call our friends at **Ferguson Bath Kitchen and Lighting Gallery**, **Trident Water Services** and **Howard F Kane Plumbing**.

Catch of the Day: Great Wildlife, Humor by Archie Stacey Brown

Lastly we would like to say thank you to **BOBCO LP** and the **Markham Family** for their continued support as our chapter tries to raise awareness and money to support our fishing habitat. Another great banquet is in the books and we hope that each of you had as much fun as we did. We look forward to seeing everyone at our fall event at **Rahr Brewery** – details to follow soon. Until then, Tight lines—**Fearn Mastin**

Galveston

Dr. Ken Ellis 713-962-7731

Greetings from the Galveston Chapter. We just had our 22nd annual banquet on Saturday August 2nd. We'd like to thank all those individuals who came out to support the Galveston Chapter and CCA Texas. We couldn't do it without the support of our local businesses, generous donors and sponsors.

Our chapter was proud to host the **Game Warden Officer of year for Region 4**. Congratulations and thanks to **Game Warden Vu Nguyen** for being a devoted member of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and for his dedication to the law enforcement division's mission of conservation enforcement. We are planning to host a **Kids tournament** in October. The tentative date is set for **Saturday, October 11th at Seawolf Park**. Look for more information on our website. Finally, I'd like to thank all of the Galveston board members who worked tirelessly seeking donations, selling tickets and tables and for continuing to support the chapter to ensure its growth and success. Tight lines — **Ken Ellis**

Golden Triangle

Josh Kaczynski 409-554-1325

I am pleased to report the 34th Annual Golden Triangle Chapter Banquet held in May was a record event for us. We set record numbers in attendance and brought in the most money we've ever raised in our chapter history – plus we had a lot of fun.

One of the highlights of the banquet was a live auction item to win a fishing trip with a wounded war veteran through the organization **Heroes on the Water** (<http://heroesonthewater.org/>). We had a table with 5 wounded war veterans there and had them draw straws for who would get to go on the trip. **Chris Miller** won the trip in the auction and requested another veteran go in his place so that two wounded war veterans could go fishing. Then, the local Golden Triangle Board of Directors stepped up and said they'd take the other veterans so they could all

go fishing. It was an amazing moment and a small way that we can give back to the brave men that were injured protecting our liberties.

I'd like to personally thank all of you who had a part in this year's banquet. It was an honor to serve as banquet chairman. Hope you all have a great summer and the fish gods are kind to each of you. 2014 Golden Triangle Chapter Banquet Chairman — **Joel Foxworth** 409-466-2614 cell

Greater Sugar Land

Weems Turner 713-857-8897

wturner@ducommun.com

The Greater Sugar Land Chapter is very active in conducting **Kid's Fish events** in our area. We provide rods, reels, line, hooks, corks and bait for the kids. Most events start at 8:00 am and end at noon. Our second event this year was May 17th at Sugar Land Memorial Park.

We had over 250 kids participate in addition to their parents. For many of the kids and their parents, this was their first time to experience fishing and they were very appreciative of our support for this event. The **City of Sugar Land Parks & Recreation** provided the food, prizes, tee shirts and drinks for the event. Many thanks to **Tanya Dannhaus** for organizing and coordinating this event with us.

Sugar Land promoted this event to the community and it had more than double last years' participation. The fishing was very difficult and only a few fish were caught, however everyone enjoyed the opportunity. We want to thank our board members who assisted with the event; **Fred Howard, Barbra Lindley, Richard Lindley, Shelley Lendermon, David and Judy Kveton, Bob Nipper, Gary Blanchette, Buford Jurica, Capt Bill Hull, Deb Hull, Paul Lawson, "Lawyer Bob" Bailey, Brandon Cherry, Ryan Kemp and Matt Mahon.**

Our third event was June 21st at the Missouri City Community Park. We partnered with **Elks 151** to provide a fishing opportunity for kids with challenges and for our **United States Veterans**. A lot of catfish and perch were caught with the biggest catfish weighing 3 pounds 10 ounces. Missouri City had stocked the lake about two weeks prior to our event. We want to thank our board members who assisted with the event: **Fred Howard** (who coordinated the event with Missouri City), **Barbra Lindley, Richard Lindley, Jeff Flacik, Bob Nipper, Capt Bill Hull, Deb Hull, Paul Lawson, "Lawyer Bob" Bailey, Brandon Cherry, Ryan Kemp and Matt Mahon.** We want to

thank **Sally and Robert Di Palma** for organizing and coordinating this event with us. We were honored to have **Vince Grenfells** attend the event. Vince is a WWII veteran who served his tour of duty in Hawaii. We all enjoyed Vince's recall of his military experiences. **Elks 151** provided and cooked the hamburgers and hot dogs and supplied the cookies and soft drinks.

In the 2014 Interchapter Challenge Tournament, we entered a team of **Capt Bill Hull, Jeff Flacik, Dr. Kirk Vakey, Tyler Vakey and me.** We fished the Port O'Connor area and did well on redfish, but could not find any keeper trout. We had a great time and want to thank CCA for providing this opportunity to share the great outdoors.

Big thanks to **Barbra Lindley** for chairing our Kid's Fish events. We request our chapter member's assistance in conducting these events. If you are able to assist us, please contact me. We did not meet in July, but we will meet the 1st Wednesday of each month from August 2014 through May of 2015 at **Spring Creek BBQ, 4895 Hwy 6, Missouri City, TX 77459 at 7:00 pm.** — **Weems Turner**

Greater Woodlands

James Kay 281-363-4417



www.ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands

This will be a short Currents article from the GWC due to banquet preparation. Our banquet will be complete by the time this article is in your mailbox. We would like to thank all our Sponsors and Banquet participants for this year's fund raising.

Chester Moore will be our guest speaker on August 19. We are planning the meeting for **Cilantro's Mexican Grill** at 314 Sawdust Rd., The Woodlands, TX 77380 (Please check our website as the location could change.) Keep Conserving...to Keep Fishing! —**James Kay**

Guadalupe Valley

Jon Eric Rodriguez 361-243-1017

Hays County

Tim Young 512-573-7939

hayscountycga@gmail.com

Heart of the Hills

Randy Plummer 830-377-0737

Hope you had a good summer and were able to get a few relaxing days at the coast.

In June, Heart of the Hills members participated in the Inter Chapter Challenge tournament in Aransas Pass. Congratulations to **Donald Castro** who caught the 2nd place trout. **Start making plans to attend your banquet in Boerne in mid-September.** If you would like to help with the banquet, give me a call. See you there! —**Jim Simmons 210-380-5709**

Hill Country

Darlene Cook 800-594-2056 ext 217



Hill Country's POLARIS RANGER

We had our annual Chapter Family Fishing Tournament June 7th in Rockport. We had over 70 people attend. Some fished for the first time and several young anglers caught their first fish! **Andy Caroselli**, in the teen division caught the biggest red of the tournament weighing in at 7.98 pounds! Way to go Andy! [See Andy's catch on page 6]

The dinner and awards were held at **Drifter's Hall and Resort** in Rockport.

Hill Country had a team of 10 that fished the ICC. We came in ninth place. **Bill Daugherty** was our captain, **Keith Cook**, **Jimmy Rabon**, **Dennis and Travis Williams**, **Don Whitaker**, **Darlene Cook**, **Joe Mark Miller**, **Michael and Michael Laskowski Jr.** made up the team. Great team work guys!

Our Banquet is August 21st at the New Braunfels Civic and Convention Center. We are accepting Donations for the Silent and Live Auction. We need two night stays at condos or vacation homes or, we accept cash donations to purchase art or guns and other items. We are still accepting Banquet Sponsorships. If you would like to make a donation or get a Sponsorship give me a call at 830-214-3067. To purchase a table for the Banquet contact **Todd Thetford** at 830-660-8825.

We are selling 300 raffle tickets for a 2014 Polaris Ranger. The tickets are \$100 each. Contact **Royce Harborth** 830-832-7430, **Miles Engelke** at 210-260-8968 or **Darlene Cook** at 830-214-3067 to purchase a raffle ticket. **Only 300 will be sold!** Don't forget to get your STAR card! See you on the water! —**Darlene Cook** darlenc@kribt.fm

Houston Real Estate

Dale Couch 281-953-2510

Thanks to new directors of our chapter — **Bobby Orr** of **Orr Commercial Properties**, **Bob Barnes** of **IBOC**, and **Stephen Najvar** of **Revenna Homes**. Also a big thanks to donations for this year's event to **Peter Houghton** of **Bridgelands**, **Bob Greenberg** of **Stewart Title**, **Ken Kapelka** of **Firemark Insurance Agency**, and **Kurt Watzek** of **Beazer Homes**. Next event for our calendar is an industry dinner mixer on Tuesday, February 10, 2015. Put it on your calendar. —**Dale Couch**

Katy

Clint Hilton 713-515-3991

They Katy Chapter had its 14th annual banquet on June 19. This year's event was so well attended that our Assistant Director thought we were giving stuff away.....There's no doubt that we broke another record for Katy banquets, and I have to give all the credit to the Katy Board, our donors, and our attendees. It's obvious that without the generous support of our attendees and buyers our chapter wouldn't be a stitch of its current self. We also had some first rate donors step up!

As you shop for first class items, please support those that support us:

Fire Disc Grills

www.firediscgrills.com (for 15% off on an order use coupon code CCAKATY)

LED Shop of Texas
www.ledshopoftexas.com/
Wet Sounds

www.wetsounds.com/ **Mobile Innovations**
www.mobileinnovationstx.com/ **Chicken Boy Lures**

www.chickenboylures.com/ **Bobby Steph Custom Coolers**

Sarge Custom Rods www.sargecustomrods.com/ **Red River BBQ** www.redriverbbq.com

Our Board is made of a group of outstanding men, and the Katy Chapter is much stronger because of them. You guys know who you are, and I sincerely thank you for your efforts! Rest assured though, the Katy group isn't going to take any time off! We'll recap this year's event and start planning to outdo it next year!

If you enjoyed the banquet and would like to get involved please come to our monthly meetings. We meet at **Red River BBQ**, on Mason Road, around 7pm, the 3rd Wednesday of each month (excluding November and December). We host guest speakers every other month and discuss chapter business in between. We've got a heck of a chapter and always welcome new faces. —**Clint Hilton**

Laredo

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

Lee County

Jason Seale 979-412-0270

jason@basslerenergyservices.com

Mark your calendars for the 4th Annual Lee County Chapter banquet on Thursday, October 16, 2014.

We had a fine day on the beach of Padre Island, during the 6th Annual Beach and Cut Cleanup. For a visit with the Field and Steam video and our cleanup efforts, go to page 6.

—**Jason Seale**

Live Oak

Brad Kotrla 979-732-1669

Lower Colorado

Tim Munos 979 332-2876

Get ready! This is the month for our 6th Annual Lower Colorado Chapter Fundraiser Banquet. Doors open at 5 pm on Friday night, August 15th, at the Bay City Civic Center, and activities start at 6 pm.

We are excited to present our new **20 foot SVT Tran Cat boat with black and gray upholstery accented with red pencil trim. The center console is equipped with black powder coated aluminum rod holders and console rails. The outboard is a matching black 4 stroke 175 hp Suzuki, and all of this is sitting on a black powder coated aluminum Coastline tandem axle trailer.** This is THE BOAT that dreams are made of and you will be on top of the world fishing out of it. Not to mention, it is going to make your truck look great too. We have four sponsors to thank for putting this rig together. They are **Transport Boats of Palacios**, **Busha Boat Works of Bay City**, **Suzuki**, and **Coastline Trailers**.

For the price of a banquet ticket, you get a CCA membership, a delicious meal, drinks, entertainment, and a world class Auction, all this for the



Lower Colorado's 20' Tran Cat boat

price of a tank of gas. There will be special raffles, bucket raffles, and the famous **Crab Craps** for those who like to throw the "bones."

It takes a lot of effort from a lot of people to make this event a success, and we have worked hard to get here. We have a lot of great sponsors stepping up again this year to make this banquet a success. If you can help with banquet ticket sales, boat raffle ticket sales, contacting Underwriters, or just need information, contact our Banquet Chairman, **Stephen Zapalac** (979 244-6633) or **Tim Munos** (979 332-2876), **Ronnie Bose** (979 429-0457), or **John Kubecka** (979 245-9571). Put a reminder in your calendar for August 15th and make plans to be there. And don't forget to bring the kids, we will have 25 rod and reel combos as door prizes just for them.

Our chapter meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6 pm. Call Tim or myself for location and/or information. We would be glad to have you come. —**John Kubecka**, Secretary, 979 245-9571 or jkubecka@yahoo.com.

Lower Laguna Madre

Welcome new president, Oscar Garcia III 956-491-8148

Our Lower Laguna Madre Chapter 5th annual fundraising Banquet will be held this year on Thursday August 14 at Port Isabel Event and Cultural Center, 309 E Railroad Ave, Port Isabel, Texas. Platinum tables \$1,500 / Bull Red tables \$1,000 / Individual tickets \$85.00.

For more information please contact: **Oscar Garcia III** at 956-233-9489 or 956-491-8148. Or, **Javi Suarez** at 956-330-9788. Thank you for Supporting CCA TEXAS! —**Oscar Garcia III**

Mainland

Eric Minor
281-534-6242

Matagorda Bays

Linc Lutrick 979-541-9901

On June 26 at the El Campo Civic Center, we held our 29th Annual Banquet. This was our 7th consecutive SOLD OUT banquet. The crowd of over 800 spent the night buying boat raffle tickets, \$5 raffle tickets, and raffle caps (sponsored by **Mustang Cat, El Campo Boating Center, and Prasek's Hillje Smokehouse**), Koozies (sponsored by **Polasek Construction and R&M Forge and Fittings**), and tumblers (sponsored by **H&H Oilfield Consultants and Energy Construction**).

The live auction (sponsored by **Gulf Coast Lease Service, Full Auto Firearms, and Wiese Crop Insurance**) was another huge success. Some of the items that received the most attention were a trip to Costa Rica, a roll top BBQ pit donated by **Multi-Fab Metals**, Custom Golf Cart donated **B&D Carts in El Campo**, and of course, all of the Guides Cup trips (sponsored by **Duckett, Bouligny & Collins, L.L.P, El Campo Sheet Metal, and Harbor Bait & Tackle**) donated by professional guides from Matagorda.

We want to say a special thank you to all of our Matagorda Guides who donate their time, effort and equipment to make the banquet a remarkable success each and every year: **Capt. Tommy Countz, Capt. Nick Stillwell, Capt. Dwayne Newbern, Capt. Rob Cummings, Capt. Leighton Keen, Capt. Jimmy Riddle, Capt. Scott Reeh, Capt. Kenneth Hauff III, Capt. Stan Sloan, Capt. Kenneth Hauff Jr., Capt. Ozzie Arnold, Capt. Walt Schelle, Capt. Troy Keen, Capt. Walt Wendtland, Capt. Charlie Paradoski, Capt. Lee Warmke, Capt. Mark Talasek, Capt. Bink Grimes, Capt. Jesse Arsola, Capt. Ken Sabin, Capt. Floyd Ciruti, Capt. Kit Caston, Capt. Kevin Kosick, Capt. Nate Koenig, Capt. Tommy Alexander.**

The highlight of the evening was the raffle drawing for the **Matagorda Bay CCA boat**. This year's boat was a fully rigged 23 ft.HDX Dargel KAT with 200 HP Yamaha, McClain Aluminum Trailer, donated by **Dargel Boats**. The lucky winners of this beautiful boat were **Logan and Tanner Howard** from El Campo, TX. These two brothers split a \$100 boat package and boy, did it pay off! I think dad, **Scotty Howard**, was just as excited. Also a big Thank You to **Danny and the crew at Mt. Houston Marine** for helping us service the boat in time for the 4th of July weekend. It is very nice to see great customer service is still available, thanks again Danny!

Thank you to our boat sponsors, **Polasek Construction and Solid Liberty Services**. A sincere thank you to our all of our Sponsors along with long-time



Great Photo, Action category. Chase Stanzel, Port O'Connor surf.



Two happy Howards — Logan and Tanner Howard shared a \$100 ticket, and took home the fine Matagorda Bays boat.



supporters, **G&W Production, Solid Liberty Services, Gulf Coast Lease, El Campo Sheet Metal, B&S Services, Quality Hot Mix, CMF Construction, Cedar Creek Woodshop, Eichorn, Gonzales & Miller, First State Bank of Louise, Del Papa Distributing, Capital Farm Credit, Forbes Energy Services, NewFirst National Bank, Sam Caldwell, Amanda Wadsworth, Full Auto Firearms, Silver Star Helicopter, Bamm Bamm Charters, BLS Construction, Prosperity Bank, CIC Construction, VonDerAu Ford, Wendel Electric, Hlavinka Equipment, Crowell Drilling, RWS, Farms, Terral Seed, Greathouse Construction, K.C. Services, Mickelson Pump Shop, Comet Cleaners, Schmidt Implement, Mid Coast Title, Erwin Construction, Rob Kolachny, C2 it, Hartman Distributing, E.A. Collins & Sons, Mr. Charles Cooper, Wiese Crop Insurance, Academy Outdoors, and Multi-Fab Metals.**

Also, a big thank you to all of our directors whose hard work and dedication to our chapter make this event a huge success every year. Matagorda Bay CCA would like to thank everyone for making our small town event one of the largest fund raisers in the State of Texas for CCA. — **Linc Lutrick**

MidCoast

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

Hello All, This is a great time of the year. Summer is here, get to go on vacations, being able to take the kids out fishing and our STAR TOURNAMENT is now in full swing. The Cedar Bayou project is now going

great and they are progressing slowly but getting the job done. What else could we ask for?

Our Banquet was held in early May, which was a big success, thanks to all who attended. It was another record for our chapter and could not have been done without the help of our hardworking board members, donors and again all who were in attendance. My special thanks to the following: **Eric Simmons, Simmons Custom Boats** for building a most beautiful boat for our Banquet. Thanks, **Academy Sports, Waterloo Rod Co. USA, Speedy Stop, Lowes, Hartman Distributing, Del PaPa Distributing, Victoria All Sports, Detar Hospital, George and Margaret Fredricks from The Tackle Box** for ticket sells and babysitting the boat this past year. Thank you too much. Also, there are two others who went over and beyond: **Hector Mendieta** our Table Chair, who kept us on the ball selling tables, and last but not least **Perry Rankin**. For all of your donations and support, thank you! Tight lines and have a wonderful year — **David Jenkins 361-578-5580**

Northeast Houston

Jason Law 713-898-8594

Northwest Houston

Alan Massey 281-414-6341

August 14th, 2014, 6:00 PM. Save that date because you do not want to miss the Northwest Houston CCA 25th Annual Banquet & Fundraiser. It will be held at a new location, the Raveneaux Country Club 9415 Cypresswood Drive in Spring, Texas west of Champion Forest Drive.

There will be complementary draft beer and soft drinks. A cash bar is available through the Country Club. For banquet tickets contact: **Loretta Vasquez** loretta.vasquez@att.net 281-723-9693 for tables, **Brett Crawford** brett@fourstarproducts.com 713-252-5755 Banquet Chairman, **Kim Vollentine** kimbrown@cctexas.org 713-626-4222 single tickets.

Also in August, please join us for our General Membership meeting on the 5th. Speaker to be announced but there will be our usual raffle and of course free draft beer courtesy of **Houston Distributing**.

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. If we don't have your e-mail address and you would like to receive announcements of future events please send your e-mail address to loretta.vasquez@att.net — **Loretta Vasquez** Secretary 281-723-9693

Orange County

Scott Bandy 409-988-3667

sabandy@ymail.com

Make your plans now! On August 21, at the Orange County Convention and Expo Center, 6pm we will have our 6th banquet and fundraiser. Thanks to the team at **Granger Chevrolet of Orange, Texas** for stepping up again as our Banquet Sponsor, and Sportsman Raffle sponsor. These Guys really do their part for our Community and for Conservation.

This year, **Redfish Spenser's** list has grown with the help of **Vincent Recycling, Rodney Townsend Attorney at Law, Stout Home Builders, Goodyear Beaumont Chemical, and Golden Pass LNG**. There is still time to get your name or company name on the Redfish list.

The Banquet this year will offer a wonderful meal of rib-eye steak and all the fixin's prepared by **Spanky's Bar and Grill**. Drinks of choice will be available. The Card raffle will be sponsored by **Mike Lemoine** in honor of his father, hat raffle and 20 item sportsman raffle sponsored by **Granger Chevrolet**, \$5.00 raffle, and silent and live auction.

There's still time to get your table of 8 seats or 16 seats. Individual Tickets are also available. This year's banquet has really shaped up to be our biggest and best banquet ever, so don't miss out. For more information please email, Scott Bandy at scottbandy77@yahoo.com or Louis Moore at Louis_moore@yahoo.com -**Scott Bandy**

Port O'Connor Bill Moore 361-983-4690

We hosted a General Membership meeting and appreciation dinner in the Cantina room at **Josie's** in Port O'Connor on August 7th. Rockport fishing guide, **Captain Jay Watkins**, gave our group a fantastic and lively presentation. Thanks to Capt. Watkins for coming out and speaking to us. If you haven't had a chance to hear him speak you can check out his website for upcoming seminars. He really does a great job. Thanks to the crew at **Josie's** for the meal and great service.

Our annual banquet and fundraiser will be held on Saturday October 18 at the Port O'Connor Community Center. Tickets and tables will be on sale soon. If you are interested in becoming involved with our chapter please contact me. We would welcome the participation. We hope you'll make plans to join us here in POC, "Where it all began....." -**Bill Moore**

Prairie Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103

Hope everyone is having a great summer of fishing. On May 17, we had our annual appreciation dinner to show thanks for everybody that helped with the April 3rd banquet. It was a great success! The evening started with appetizer of breaded frog legs followed with a dinner of rib-eye steaks and boiled shrimp. Thanks to all the board members that helped with this event.

After the meal we had a bean bag tournament and the winners received gift cards. Thanks to **Gordon** and **Sharon Goebel** for the use of their party barn. On June 13 and 14 we had a team of ten board members go to Port Aransas to compete in the CCA Inter Chapter challenge fishing tournament. A big thanks to **James Henderson** for being the team captain. Friday night at the Captain's meeting, **Lori Cruz** won the CCA cooler. On Saturday the team enjoyed a day of fishing. They did not win the ICC Tournament but had a great time. They all said they cannot wait until next year.

On July 26 we will have our chapter tournament which will be held at Bullhead Lake in Cat Spring. On August 9th we will be hosting our 13th annual Kid's Fishing Tournament held at **Wietstruck Farm**, 4:00-6:00 pm. The address is 3093 Wietstruck Rd, Bellville, Texas. Thanks to **Larry Wietstruck** for the use of his catfish pond, everything free. Prizes will be given 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. We will be serving hot dogs, chips and drinks. Just bring your fish-



San Antonio: It was a full house, and another record-breaking event for the Alamo city.

ing pole and yard chairs. Worms will be available. Kids can keep all the fish they catch. For more information, call **Lori Cruz** at 713-992-7874 or **Lezlie Askw** at 979-877-9623. Hope to see everyone at the tournament! -**Ron Chess, Sr.** 979-992-3295

Redfish Bay Norman Oates 361-758-0266

We have had our annual banquet and our annual Take a Kid Fishing events since last report. Both were great fun for participants. The banquet had the most corporate tables and attendance of any previous banquet. Attendees had a good time and smiles were everywhere. Our table sponsors and donors get special thanks this year for going above and beyond. Our board puts a lot of work into the banquet, and it is great to see such a fun evening.

We could not have a successful event without our supporters, donors, board and CCA Texas people. In addition to the event being a lot of fun, our net income was also the highest ever. This means more monies for Texas conservation projects!

The Take a Kid Fishing event is always a great event. The only rule is that there are no rules - except that kids have fun. **Woody's Sports Center** provides the space and most of the labor - along with bait for the kids as needed. CCA Texas funds the rods and reels, the **Port Aransas Boatmen Association** funds the trophies, and the **Doug Daniell's Family** funds the hot dogs. Special thanks to the many folks who work on the shrimp boil on Friday evening. Special thanks also to the six local Game Wardens who participated in the event. Four Game Wardens took twelve kids fishing on their boats - a thrill for young kids who have never been on a boat! The Take a Kid Fishing event is always the first weekend in June - make your plans now for 2015.

Our annual Beeville Fish Fry will be the Thursday night before dove season starts. See you there! -**Norman Oates**

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

Sabine-Neches
Darin Johnson 409-790-9855
Welcome new president, **David Rocknic 409-460-8885**
david@rocknic.com

Greetings from Southeast Texas! We certainly hope everyone is enjoying their summer and experiencing some great fishing. We had another great year in the Sabine Neches chapter, with a very successful banquet in March and a terrific kid fish event in May.

I would like to thank our board members, sponsors, and members, and I look forward to another great year in 2015. A very special thanks to our outgoing president, **Darin Johnson**, who has done an outstanding job the last several years. I have some big shoes to fill, for sure, but I look forward to the challenge. Tight lines to all! -**David Rocknic**

Sam Houston Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908

The time is here for our 19th Annual Banquet at the Veterans center on SH 75N on Thursday September 4th. This is

always a great time to get together and meet new people. Doors will open at 6pm, dinner will be served at 7. There will be a raffle to include guns and rods/reels, also a live and silent auction. Tickets and tables are available in advance. Individual tickets may be purchased at the door.

For more information or tickets, please call **Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908** or **Tim Buhler 936-662-4615**. We hope to see everybody there. -**Brandon Kolaja**

San Antonio Jimmy Gibson 210-287-4378

Summer is in full swing and we have been catching a few good fish. The San Antonio CCA ICC fishing team placed 4th in the Inter Chapter Challenge the weekend of June 14th. Weights for the stringers were crazy close; 0.02 lbs between 4th and 3rd, .08 lbs between 4th and 2nd and a quote from our group leader "Somebody forgot to pay the weighmaster!" As they say, close but no Cigar!

A special thank you to our team members, **Trevor Siller, Carson Gibson, Troy Moldenhauer, Bob Brumby, Dr. Mike Sarosdy, Charles Sabatura, Cat Bani Yassin , Tom Weber, and Liz Hewitt.** It was definitely a team effort and we had lotsa fun!

We have had an exciting 6 months having put together our 1st Hooked on Clays Sporting Clays event, our Biggest CCA Banquet ever and to top it off enjoyed a few days on the water. That said, I always need to thank our generous membership and our unbelievable volunteer staff. Without you, CCA would not have become the voice for the recreational angler it is today.

Moving forward we are planning to have a CCA night out in the fall and are presently working on a time and place. We will send out an update as soon as things are finalized. Until then, enjoy the coast. The reds, trout, and kingfish are waiting for you. Or, if you just need some time off, the beaches are a perfect spot to spend a lazy afternoon. Enjoy your summer, get out on the water. Vaya Con Dios -**Jimmy Gibson, CCA Volunteer**

San Bernard Jayson Zahradnik 281-202-8438

San Gabriel
John Melnar 512- 497-8284

San Jacinto
Jim Wilson 713-828-7639

Southwestern

Jody Jacobs 210-827-7180

TAMU

Cameron Blackwood 713-591-7097

Texas State University

Ryan Wishnow 832-444-3598

rw1303@txstate.edu

Tomball/Magnolia

Matt Maddox 281-770-7858

Tri-County

Jason Trial 830-570-2988

Trinity Bay

Gerald Payne 281-385-2894

August and September on the Upper Texas Coast means everyone keeps an eye on the tropics. This is also the time of the year when folks are tired of the heat and look forward to that first bit of slightly cooler temperature that can sometimes arrive in late September, bringing a welcome relief from the humidity for a few days. Anglers are busy making that last push in August to get on the STAR leader board, while preparing for some hunts of fast moving flights of dove and teal in the month of September.

In addition to these outdoor activities, members of the Trinity Bay Chapter are busy preparing to host our annual banquet on August 22. As in the past, banquet goers will enjoy delicious plump boiled shrimp and side dishes along with beverages for all ages. After the feast, raffles, auctions, card and dice games will excite the attendees as many will go home with an assortment of prizes purchased and won. This will be our first year at our new banquet facility which provides a larger seating capacity. *Individual Tickets - \$40 each, \$70 per Couple (CCA membership and meal included) *Reserved Tables 8 persons - \$500, *Title Sponsor - \$1,350, *Executive Sponsor - \$2,250 *Platinum Sponsor - \$3,250* All Reserved and Sponsor Tables include CCA memberships for each guest, banquet meals, table gifts and more. Title/Executive Sponsor in-

cludes 2 tables of 8 - Platinum Sponsor includes 3 tables of 8. **Banquet information: August 22, 2014 at Nuevo Leon Social Events, 1000 Park Street, Baytown, Texas 77520.**

We look forward to seeing everyone again this year and we want to sincerely thank all of our sponsors. —Gerald Payne 281-728-6278

Trinity Valley

John Hebert Jr 936-334-2528

We held our **First Annual Trinity Valley CCA fishing tournament** on May 31st. It was held at Crystal Beach, Texas. We would like to thank **Blue Water Bait Camp** for allowing us to use their facilities for registration and weigh in. We had a great turnout for our first year and everyone had a good time. We would also like to thank **Chris Gatlin**, owner of the **Tiki Bar** where we held our meet and greet for the tournament. He also generously provided meals for all of the fisherman after the tournament.

We are planning our 2nd Annual Trinity Valley CCA Banquet. Mark your calendars for September 11 at 6 PM. It will be held at the Dayton Civic Center, 801 South Cleveland St., Dayton, Texas. Pork tenderloin will be served by the **Haiduseks**. Ticket and table sales have begun. We will have a silent auction as well as a live auction. For more information, please contact Banquet Chairman, **Jennifer Creel** at 936-334-2314 or jencree1936@aol.com.

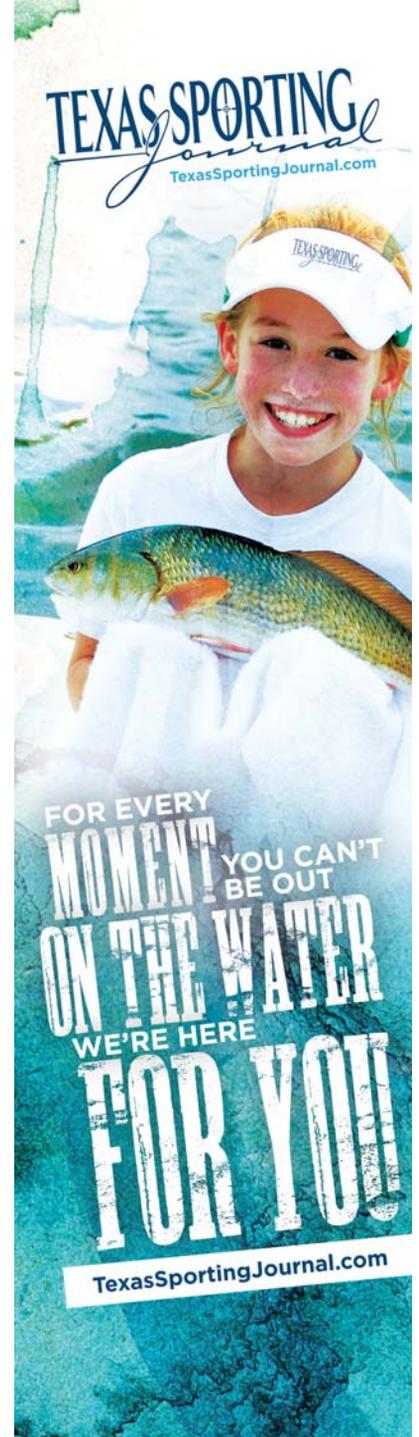
We invite anyone who is interested in becoming involved in our chapter to contact us. —**John Hebert Jr.**

West Houston

Joe Perez 832-279-4794

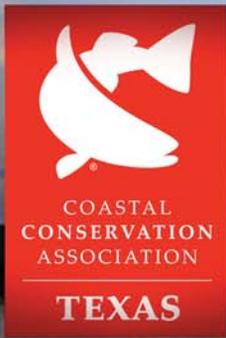
West Texas

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Your \$1,000 tax-deductible life membership in CCA will help us continue our important coastal conservation work in Texas. Supporters like you allow our team to work at our State Capitol and on our coast everyday to ensure the long-term well-being of our critical marine resources.

We strive to secure the wonderful fishing we enjoy across our coast today and keep it available for generations to come. *Thank you for your continued support of CCA.*

CCA Life Member APPLICATION

Name _____

CCA Member ID# _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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- Cash Check Credit Card: Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover

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Phone 713.626.4222 | Fax 713.961.3801 | www.CCATexas.org

Anheuser-Busch is proud to be a sponsor of CCA Texas again for 2014. We appreciate all the great work that CCA Texas does to help our coastal fisheries as well as their fight for freshwater inflows. Fresh water reaching our bays is an essential part of keeping them healthy.

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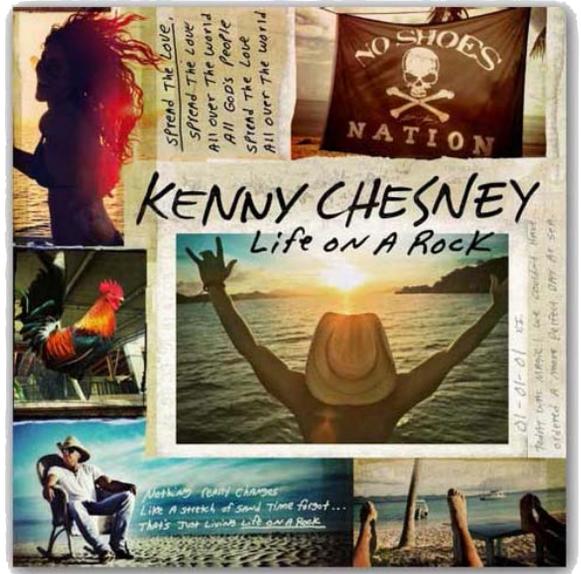
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CCA's friend and supporter, Kenny Chesney, has released his new album, *LIFE ON A ROCK*. Get your copy today.

Iron Mike

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A visit with American history

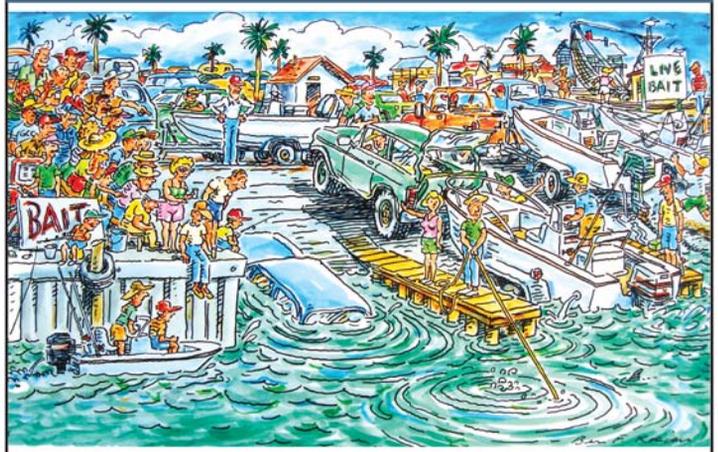
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CURRENTS NEWSLETTER

August / September 2014

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Photo by Roger Swiderski

Texas Seagrasses Foundation of Sea Life

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

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



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

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



COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (including STAR Entry)

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- 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 _____ **Members 17 and under only** Age: _____ Date of birth: _____
Same as above, plus "FREE" STAR Tournament entry. Age: _____ Date of birth: _____

Credit card number _____ Signature _____

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