

CURRENTS

August / September 2016



John Cowan's painting for the 1986 GCCA Stamp and print



Herb Booth's painting for the 1984 GCCA Stamp and Print

Cedar Bayou Project: Al Barnes' 2014 painting for a banquet art piece



"Sail Away!" Ben Kocian's painting for a GCCA membership print



CCA Artists Remembered

John Cowan, Herb Booth, Al Barnes, Ben Kocian

By Sam Caldwell

Comments in part from interviews in *Change of Tides, 2001*
A History of the Coastal Conservation Association

John P. Cowan

In 1976, Artist John Pemberton Cowan said a small group of irate fishermen from Rockport drove to Houston for a meeting about a new idea- a coastal conservation association. That meeting heralded the beginning of the GCCA. He said, "There were die-hards from Rockport, a few more from San Antonio and many other angry men from all over the coast."

It was a fateful meeting, one that engaged all the skills of nationally known artist Jack Cowan, and in turn, the work of many other outdoor artists attracted by Cowan's stature.

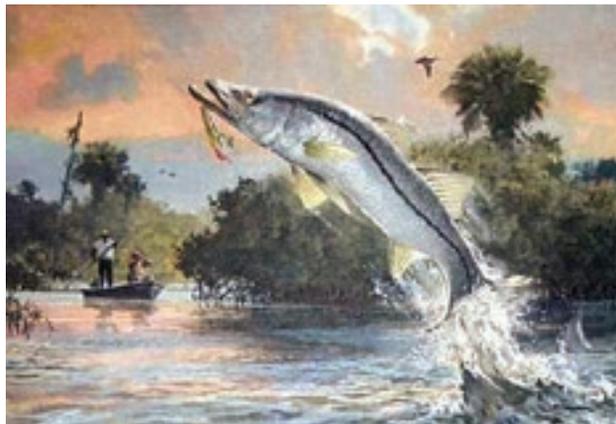
Perry R. Bass spoke of Cowan's impact on conservation: "Jack Cowan was so upset by what he considered the illegal netting of the resource, he hardly painted for a year. Instead, he traveled the coast and appeared at committee hearings in Austin. Jack also had a powerful voice in aiding the Texas Parks & Wildlife research and enforcement levels."

When it came time for the newly formed GCCA to begin fundraising, Cowan created and donated *Memories*, a classic bay fishing scene that brought a large amount at the new GCCA's first live auction. Later, Cowan allowed the association to make a limited edition of *Memories* as membership prints, bringing additional sums for conservation purposes.

John Cowan said in 1996, "Without GCCA and an enlightened TPW, our bays would be fishless by now...it will still be a fight to keep the spoilers from destroying it all again."



Herb Booth "Jack Cowan came by my studio in Rockport after an early GCCA meeting in Houston. He said this new group had formed in Houston that was going to do something about the fish situ-



John Cowan's 1986 CCA Conservation Stamp and Print

Herb Booth included himself, John Cowan and Al Barnes in "Hog Heaven"



CCA will miss four artists

CCA Texas has been extremely fortunate over the years to have had many wildlife artists supporting our cause, but these four played a tremendous role in our fundraising success.

This All-Star team of Cowan, Kocian, Booth and Barnes not only helped CCA, but made an impact on so many conservation groups in our state. Their passion for capturing a story, memory or experience through their paintings that we all can relate to, was one of the reasons they became so much a part of the outdoor world. There are probably not many Texas outdoor enthusiasts who do not have at least one of their paintings in their home or office. They all have touched us in one way or another and their memories will last forever through the artwork they created.

*Robby Byers, CCA Texas
Executive Director*



ation, and I had better get off my tail, and send them some money and join, so I did. When they had the first banquet in Houston, I donated a painting.

"Enforcement was a big issue early on, once we got some laws passed, and that's why I helped Al Barnes and other good guys start the Redfish Bay Chapter. We bought night vision equipment for the wardens, and I went out with the wardens at night a few times using that gear and saw what the wardens were up against. It has been very rewarding to see what artists have accomplished."

Herb Booth was mentored by John Cowan and became one of the finest of all sporting artists.

Al Barnes

Al is remembered by his close friend, Corpus Christi sculptor, Kent Ullberg: "One day offshore from Isla Mujeres, it was bloody rough, but we were catching a lot of sailfish. And Al Barnes wanted to see those fish in the worst way. He had a yellow Minolta, a little underwater camera, maybe good to 10 feet. I grabbed him by the ankles, and big Herb Booth and I were hanging him over the transom, because that's where the fish were being brought in, as we were backing down on them. The props were churning, waves breaking, diesel fumes smoking — God, if we had dropped Al

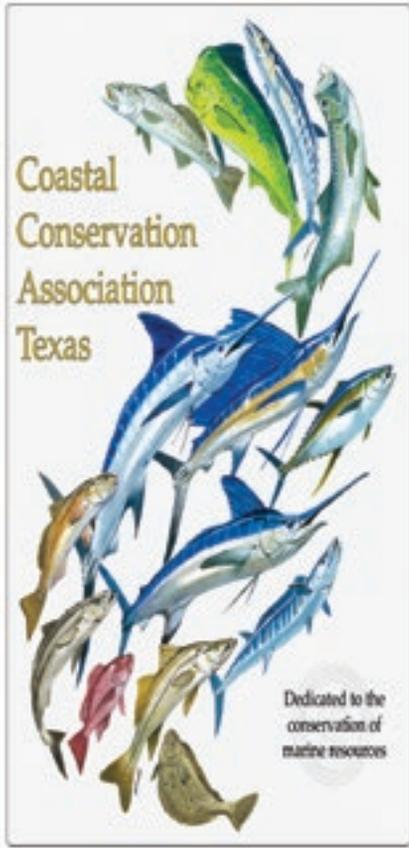


Barnes, artistry in America would have been different!"

Al Barnes was described by John Cowan as an "artist's artist," and a truly 'Fine Artist.'

Al Barnes said, "The first time I heard about GCCA, I was at the Rockport airport, and Jack Cowan was there with his painting, *Memories*. Jack told me, "You need to get involved, Al. This is really a good group of people.

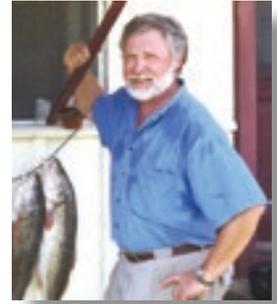
The GCCA brought coastal art to the forefront. And, as Cowan said, the people turned out to be really good people. It's all in the attitude of the people who own the fish. Us."



Al Barnes created this poster for the STAR Tournament program.

Ben F. Kocian

The burly designer/artist/fisherman had a powerful impact on GCCA even before its formal inception, and was a dedicated worker for the CCA until his death 37 years later. A nationally-known illustrator, he accepted the critical task of developing communications early on.



Kocian produced the first Houston banquet program, which became the *GULF TIDE* newsletter, and in 1980, became the national *TIDE Magazine*. Along the way, Kocian designed dozens of the iconic illustrations that today are a part of every CCA publication and event. Kocian's CCA redfish bumper sticker may have been seen on more cars and boats than any sticker in history.

Ben Kocian was stunned when he was named the first CCA Man of the Year in 1983. From his interview in *Change of Tides*: "When they called my name, it was a big surprise. But the neat thing was, inscribed on the back of the watch was; 'Captain Ben Kocian, GCCA's Best.' I've worn it ever since the day I got it. It's with me when I go wade fishing, sleeping, working.

"I'll point out that there were hundreds of other artists from all over the nation that have helped keep GCCA, and now CCA, programs funded. The art print program has brought in a lot of dollars to help keep our programs and hatcheries funded.

"Communicating with paintings, drawings, photography; that helped the organization in the beginning and is still helping now. I hate to leave anyone out, but I think all the artists would be proud to be represented by some of the earliest art donors, who were also involved workers. Jack Cowan, Herb Booth and Al Barnes made a huge difference.

I can't leave out two artists who donated paintings at that first banquet in 1977 and are still donating in 1999, Sam Caldwell and me." 



One of many award-winning illustrations by Ben Kocian. This one stars Herb Booth and sons.

Kocian's bumper stickers decorate cars from Mexico to Canada.





27th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo

THE REDS ARE BACK! SPREAD THE WORD AROUND!

Your best chance is now! But, please be sure you are IN if you want to WIN. Now that the June floods are gone, the tagged reds are trickling back to their spots, which are likely your favorite fishing spots. At press time, only four tagged redfish catches were reported. This is very unusual. Typically nine to twelve have been caught by now, and we want them caught! Why not you, why not now?

Although we have seen some very impressive weights in the trout categories, we have only one confirmed tagged redfish winner so far.

Here is his story... Jeff Myers was almost too tired to go fishing, but he knew his girlfriend, Karin, would be very disappointed. He noticed the quart of shrimp just purchased on the way to the Texas City Dike only had a few that were good enough size to fish with, but little did Myers know, his eager-to-go fishing girlfriend and those few good-size shrimp were about to make him very glad he got out of bed.

Myers saw some good movement in the water. Within a few casts he had a bite. As Myers reeled in the fish, he could actually see a tag protruding from the fish! Myers' mood immediately turned into a good one. He told his girlfriend, "There's a tag on it!" His hands were shaking with excitement as he tried to read the little, tiny numbers on the tag. He determined it was definitely a 2016 CCA Texas STAR Tag! Myers and Karin rushed over to official STAR weigh station, Pelican Rest Marina, and weighed in Tag #TA816.

"It's hard to comprehend that you would catch one of those fish out of so many," said Myers. "I have entered the tournament for 8 to 10 years and have never caught one to even enter for size or weight... thank you CCA STAR!"

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST TAGGED REDFISH WINNER! Fortunately for Jeff Myers, he was registered and is now the lucky winner of a 2016



Jeff Myers with STAR tagged red

loaded Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT Super Cab, pulling a brand new 23' Haynie BigFoot boat

rigged with a Mercury 150 L Pro XS OptiMax motor and Coastline trailer prize package, which will be awarded to him at the STAR Awards Ceremony in October.

Keep in mind STAR doesn't end until Labor Day, September 5 at 5p.m., so there's still plenty of time to register for the tournament! **Over fifty tagged redfish are still out there swimming, and four truck/boat/motor/trailer prize packages and five boat/motor/trailer prize packages are still available to win in the CCA Texas STAR Tournament Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division.**

Just ask last year's fifth tagged redfish winner, Joe Contreras. With less than seventy-two hours remaining before the close of the 2015 CCA Texas STAR Tournament, Corpus Christi resident Joe Contreras made plans to go fishing after work, the Friday before Labor Day. Contreras decided to go check out the tide for bait. Finger mullet were in close, so Contreras caught



Joe Contreras, with his tagged red and STAR prizes



some and went wade fishing. After two hours, Contreras was down to one last mullet. He decided to make one last cast, then go home whether he caught a fish or not. Contreras wasn't paying attention, then looked up and realized his cork was gone. After a short fight, he landed a nice red. There was one piece of grass that would not come off, and he realized it wasn't a piece of grass... it was a CCA tag covered in moss! "I couldn't believe my eyes!"

Contreras weighed in his 2015 tagged redfish at an official STAR weigh station, Roy's Bait & Tackle. He passed his polygraph test and took home the fifth 2015 loaded Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT Super Cab, pulling a brand new 23' Haynie BigFoot boat rigged with a Mercury 150 L Pro XS OptiMax motor and Coastline trailer prize package last October. "Glad I went fishing that day!" said Contreras.

YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN TO WIN! ATTENTION ALL ANGLERS PLANNING TO FISH THE TEXAS COAST THIS SUMMER! In order to win one of a \$1,000,000 in prizes being offered in Texas' largest, richest, summer-long saltwater fishing event, an

angler must be a CURRENT member of CCA, in addition to being registered as a 2016 TEXAS STAR entrant. The CCA membership fee is \$30 annually, and the 2016 STAR Tournament fee is still \$20 for a total of \$50. In order to win at STAR, an angler must be registered and be a current member of CCA.

YOUNG ANGLERS FISH FOR FREE! Young anglers ages 6-17, the "New Tide" membership fee remains \$10 annually and the STAR entry fee is FREE!!! Of course, we want all kids on the water. CCA "New Tide" members will continue to have the opportunity to win giant scholarships to fund their college education for just the price of a \$10 CCA "New Tide" Membership. We thank our generous sponsors for making it possible for us to offer young anglers this great opportunity. **To be eligible to fish STAR, "New Tide" Members MUST BE at least 6 years of age in 2016 and under age 18 to enter for FREE. It is the "New Tide" Member's responsibility to make sure their CCA membership is current and that they are registered for the current year STAR tournament.**

Our great partner, Academy Sports + Outdoors, sent all current CCA Texas members a very special bonus just in time to help with some of your fishing expenses. We also want to remind you to take



advantage of all the other great member incentives available to CCA Texas STAR participants. Be sure and get everyone signed up. Please see below for more details:

Even if you haven't registered yet, but are planning to go fishing between now and Labor Day, don't wet a line without your STAR Insurance! Remember Joe Contreras' story... he went fishing just days before last year's tournament ended, caught a tagged redfish and won! Everyone entered in the STAR Tournament, who will be 6 years old in 2016 and older, is eligible to win the prizes being offered even the TAGGED REDFISH DIVISION! You can sign up NOW online at www.startournament.org!!! Don't miss "the boat" or "the truck and boat" ... register today!

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

- 🔥 Ford X-Plan Pricing (see details below)
- 🔥 \$10 gift card courtesy of Academy Sports and Outdoors (see details below)
- 🔥 Texas Fish & Game Magazine subscription (see details below)
- 🔥 \$1000 worth of free upgrades with your purchase of a new Tilson home (see ad on page 23)
- 🔥 \$330 Brute cooler with your purchase of a Hoffpaur Polaris ATV or UTV



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



FORD X-PLAN PRICING - CCA Texas members have been remarkably honored by the Texas Ford Dealers. They continue to offer X-Plan pricing for us; that is, every current member can buy (or lease) any Ford product at the same price Ford employees must pay. This means we can save up to \$1,000 or much more, just by having a valid \$30 CCA membership card!!! Our Ford Partner Code # is CCA 61; go to www.fordpartner.com, if you are considering a purchase.

SPECIAL BONUS FROM ACADEMY SPORTS + OUTDOORS - ATTENTION CURRENT CCA TEXAS MEMBERS! Hopefully, your membership was current prior to the kick-off of the 2016 CCA Texas STAR and you received your \$10 gift coupon from Academy Sports + Outdoors just in time for the kick-off. As we approach the end of the fishing season and start thinking hunting, please be on the lookout for another mailer containing a \$10 gift coupon. Special thanks to Academy Sports + Outdoors for continuing to make your CCA membership and STAR entry such an awesome value!

NEW! TEXAS FISH & GAME MAGAZINE "BONUS DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION!" - We all love FREE stuff, and speaking of FREE stuff many STAR anglers have discovered the benefit and convenience of using digital technology and have requested we do the same. Texas Fish & Game Magazine is thrilled to announce 2016 CCA Texas STAR participants will once again be eligible for a FREE one-year (12 issues) DIGITAL subscription. This subscription (normally \$11.99/year) will allow you to access the latest and most in-depth outdoors information anywhere and anytime on your smart phone, tablets and desktops. Now STAR anglers have the chance to embrace the latest in technology, plus conserve our natural resources. We are grateful to Texas Fish & Game for providing this STAR-only benefit, while saving some trees and giving you more options. Be sure and include your email address when you register for this year's tournament to automatically receive your FREE digital subscription. If you still wish to receive Texas Fish & Game in print magazine form, no problem... a special STAR angler price of \$8 a year (vs. \$17.99/year) is still available, including your access to the digital version at no extra cost! If you wish to take advantage of this special STAR angler discounted print subscription price, be on the lookout in your email or mailbox for details on how to activate this special offer. If you have questions regarding your past or current subscription, please call (800) 725-1134 or email subscriptions@fishgame.com.



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

DON'T FORGET... GRANDPARENTS' DAY IS SEPTEMBER 11TH - As we approach Grandparents' Day, we want to give a big shout out to all of the Grandpas and Grandmas for taking their Grandkids fishing! As Moms and Dads know, this is one of the greatest ways to really "connect" with our future anglers. To thank Grandpa and Grandma for ALL of the special things they do for the family, why not register them for a CCA Texas membership and 2017 STAR entry? This unique gift might put them in a new truck/boat combo during the 2017 STAR. See STAR Platinum Print Membership Package and the complete Platinum Print Series below for more, great gift ideas!

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

STAR has reached \$5,525,000 in scholarships awarded to children 6-17 years of age. Many thanks to our sponsors for making this happen. Without them, it would not be possible.

you were there! Specially commissioned for STAR members only, these beautiful pieces commemorate the precious opportunity found in Texas' blessed resources. The package includes your CCA membership (new or renewal), your 2016 CCA Texas STAR entry, plus your choice of either of these fine signed, limited-edition prints created exclusively for STAR, all for \$125! These one-of-a-kind prints are worth this price alone. If you would like to consider one, or several, of these limited-edition packages, go to www.startournament.org. For more details and/or to place your order with the STAR Dept., call (713) 626-4222. To ensure delivery in time for Grandparents' Day, **please place your order by Thursday, August 25, 2016.**

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

2016 PRIZE LINE-UP - One of our goals has always been to keep the tournament fee as reasonable as possible and thanks to our wonderful sponsors, we have been able to do so over the last two and a half decades. CCA Texas STAR has been extremely fortunate to provide members of all ages with some really outstanding prize packages and college scholarships and 2016 will continue to offer the same amazing prize line-up this year! Contestants have a chance at winning over 100 prizes including trucks, boats, motors, trailers and college scholarships in the following categories:

Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division - Texas Ford Dealers continue to make this division the "Best in Texas"! They will again give each of the first five registered STAR participants who catch tagged redfish a brand new truck to get to their fishing destination in a tough, dependable and stylish ride. The first five registered anglers to weigh-in a tagged red will receive a 2016 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" truck. Haynie Boats returns with the awesome Haynie 23 Bigfoot rigged with a Mercury 150 L Pro XS OptiMax motor and Coastline Trailer completing this amazing package. The next five weighed in will receive the same boat, motor and trailer packages.

For young anglers not of legal driving age and who reel in the famous tagged red, he or she will receive the boat package, plus a \$25,000 college

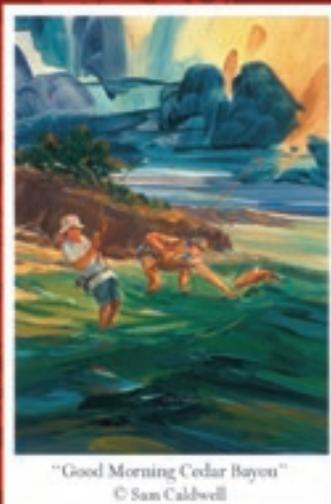
COLLECT THE 2016 STAR PLATINUM PRINTS



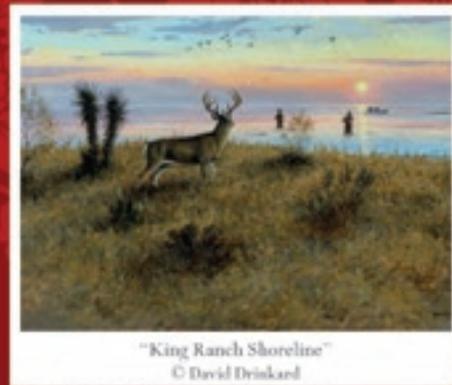
Two choices...one great cause!

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

CCA Membership and STAR registration included with your purchase.



"Good Morning Cedar Bayou"
© Sam Caldwell



"King Ranch Shoreline"
© David Drinkard

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

ccatexas.org ★ startournament.org
(713) 626-4222



All NEW Trout Division Prize - the Mowdy 22' V

scholarship, in lieu of the truck.

Trout Division - ATTENTION TROUT ANGLERS! We are thrilled to announce an ALL new prize offering for this division! Winners in the upper, middle and lower coast regions will each take home the legendary Mowdy 22' V boat with a Suzuki DF150 motor and Coastline trailer. The 22' V hull design is the perfect boat to handle shallow and rough water and remain completely dry. Mowdy fishermen know that the V-Hull is the most versatile hull on the market. With its 8" draft, the Mowdy gives you all of the best that a fishing boat has to offer. In true Mowdy heritage, the 22' offers everything that you expect from the Mowdy name. FRIENDLY REMINDER... If you're unsure a trout is large enough to qualify, consider this "easy rule-of-thumb" - if length is less than 27 inches, chances are it won't meet the eight pound minimum weight requirement for the Trout Division. Unless you intend to mount your fish as a personal best, why not think about releasing anything that might not make the cut so she can re-seed the bays?

Offshore Division - ATTENTION BLUE WATER ANGLERS! Hoffpaur Auto & Outdoor Store continues to partner with us to provide the offshore angler something that will come in very handy after a long trip on the high seas. Anglers who land the heaviest kingfish, dorado and ling will each receive an awesome Polaris Ranger® Crew 570 EPS UVs in Polaris Pursuit Camo each with a Big Tex 35sa Trailer! SPECIAL NOTE: Watch your inbox for a special CCA members only benefit email! While supplies last, Hoffpaur Polaris will, once again, generously provide a custom CCA cooler (\$330 Value) with purchase. What an awesome benefit as you gear up for hunting season!



Offshore Division Prize - Polaris Ranger® Crew 570 EPS

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

StarKid Flounder Division - This division gives entrants age 6-10 a chance to win a \$50,000 college scholarship for the larg-

est flounder caught throughout the summer.

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

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

Academy Sports + Outdoors StarTeens Trout Division - This youth scholarship division is open to all *New Tide* members ages 11-17 and awards a \$25,000 college scholarship for each fisher-teen with the largest trout in the upper, middle and lower coasts. FRIENDLY REMINDER... The minimum weight requirement for the trout is six pounds. For all fish weighing less than six pounds, if no intentions of mounting young angler's prize catch, please take a quick picture and immediately release back into the water.

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

But Wait, There's More...

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

"New Tide" Member Drawing - The "New Tide" Scholarship Drawing will be offered again in 2016. "New Tide" STAR participants at least, 6 - 17 years old in 2016, are eligible for a bonus drawing that will net one lucky youth a \$25,000 college scholarship even if the participant never wets a line or enters a single fish during the entire tournament.

Member Bonus Drawing - This unique drawing offers STAR entrants a chance to win a fabulous boat prize package even if the participant never wets a line. One lucky contestant's name will be drawn to win a Dargel 210 Skout with a Mercury 150 L Pro XS OptiMax motor and McClain trailer.

In the past twenty-one years, STAR has awarded \$5,525,000 in college scholarships to 175 fisher-kids across the state, ranging



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

from ages 6-17. STAR continues to offer plenty of reason for everyone to round up their kid(s), a rod and reel and head for the water. And, in 2016, there's even more incentive to get your kids and teenagers out on the water! We've ramped up our scholarships another \$35,000 for a total of \$325,000! The StarTeen Scholarships and Scholarship Drawing have been increased from \$20,000 to \$25,000!!!

Major sponsors for the 27th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament include:

Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Home Corporation, Capital Farm Credit, Mercury Marine, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, Rio Ammunition, LP Building Products, KTRK-abc13, Houston Community Newspapers, Haynie Boats, Mowdy Boats, Hoffpaur Polaris, Dargel Boats, Shoalwater Boats, Texas Fish & Game Magazine, Texas Oilman's Charity Fishing Tournament, Coastline Trailers, McClain Trailers, Chris's Marine and Mt. Houston Marine.

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

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

What can you do?! Sometimes we all feel besieged, and STAR is no different. Be it floods, vibrio, sharks or the economy, all CCA members experience setbacks. But, as Ben Franklin said, "We hang together, or we hang separately." Our passion for fishing and the outdoors, our love for family and our hope for the future, all binds us together like concrete. And, makes us just as strong. We thank all members, and certainly every single sponsor, for believing in this outdoor camaraderie called CCA, and making us the formidable force of nature we have become. Evermore, we are most grateful for the Force that makes it happen. Good luck. And, please, catch a tagged red!



BEST IN TEXAS



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Austin Calhoun, 2015 StarTeen Upper Coast Trout Winner. Austin was awarded a \$20,000 college scholarship.

Great Foods / Editor Liz Hewitt

CAPT. GIGGERS CRAB CAKE BURGERS

1 lb Lump Crab Meat
 1/3 C Bread Crumbs
 1/3 C Mayonnaise / 1 Large Egg beaten / 1/4 C Chopped Chives
 1/4 C Finely Chopped Green Onions
 1 T Worcestershire Sauce / Salt and Pepper to taste / 2 T Olive Oil
 Old Bay Sauce / 5 T Mayonnaise / Juice of 1/2 Lemon / 1 T Dill Pickle Relish / 1 T Old Bay Seasoning

1) Using a large bowl, combine crab meat, bread crumbs, mayonnaise, beaten egg, chives and Worcestershire sauce, seasoning well with salt and pepper. Stir as little as possible to bring this mixture together. Form into 5 patties.
 2) Heat 2 T oil (add more if needed) in a medium skillet, and cook patties at medium to medium high for 5 minutes per side, until golden brown.
 3) To make the sauce, mix the mayonnaise, lemon juice, relish and Old Bay Seasoning.



4) Assemble the burgers with the lettuce, onion, tomato and the Old Bay Sauce.
 5) Enjoy! Be on the lookout for the next issue - I will be featuring my Grandmother's Pickled Shrimp recipe!

Caught Redhanded!

Reports from TP&W Game Wardens



Calhoun county wardens seized 14 undersized flounder from a commercial facility. In another action, Calhoun county wardens seized ten spotted sea trout, two undersized flounder and 350 pounds of shrimp. The captain was over the limit. --Jason Campbell, Captain Game Warden



We want you to fish for us!

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

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

This effort continues to be an important part of the project. As a Fishing Scientist, your efforts will be critical in understanding the benefits of oyster reef restoration all along the Texas coast.

Contact: Bill Rodney (TPWD) at 281-534-0127
bill.Rodney@tpwd.texas.gov
 Or, Bryan Legare (TPWD) at 281-534-0103
bryan.legare@tpwd.texas.gov
 Or, John Blaha (CCA Texas)
 at 713-626-4222
jdblaha@ccatexas.org

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



Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR TEXAS MARINE HABITAT

Port O'Connor Nearshore Reefing Site to get \$1,000,000 Initial Reefing Effort

By John Blaha

Photos by Lisa Laskowski

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation announced on June 2, 2016 the creation of a new artificial reef located out of Port O'Connor, Texas. This project will be a \$1,000,000 reef that will be comprised of over 500 concrete pyramids and placed in Texas State waters. The project will be coordinated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's artificial reef program. It is being funded through a \$400,000 contribution from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, as well as a \$300,000 from both Coastal Conservation Association Texas and Building Conservation Trust (BCT), the Coastal Conservation Association's national habitat program. This reef site will be called the "Keeping it Wild" reef and is part of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation's fundraising initiative to generate more than \$100 million in private donations to help to fund Texas conservation projects.

"Habitat creation has never been more crucial in achieving lasting conservation benefit for our coastal waters," said Pat Murray, CCA president, "This historic reef reminds us all what can be accomplished when like-minded conservationists join together to make a difference."

CCA Texas and its habitat program, Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT) were instrumental in the development of the Port O'Connor nearshore reefing site early on. Sharing the common goal to have an artificial reefing

site out of every Texas port with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Artificial Reefing Program, CCA Texas approved a grant of \$100,000 in late 2013 to fund the permitting process to establish a Port O'Connor reefing site. With the permitting process on its way, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, BCT, and CCA Texas began the fundraising process to create the \$1,000,000 reef. CCA Texas approved another \$200,000 towards the project in 2014 and BCT contributed \$300,000 to go along with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation's \$400,000 commitment. This project exemplifies the importance of partnerships and common goals that are necessary to create successful conservation projects. These projects are important and a benefit to sportsman across the state of Texas, and leave a lasting impact to Texas's natural resources for generations to come.

It's a win-win deal for all involved," Carter Smith, TPWD executive director, said of the cooperative agreement which would create an artificial reef on a 381-acre tract in 60-70 feet of water off Matagorda Island near Port O'Connor on Texas' mid-coast. "The only way we can possibly do

projects of this scale is through leveraging public funding with private philanthropy. It's allowing us to do something bigger and better - in this case, create and enhance vitally important and much-needed marine fisheries habitat - than we could do by ourselves with our limited resources."



The scale of the newly-developed concrete pyramids is apparent when you compare the size of the workers.

The center of the Port O'Connor reefing site is located approximately 11-1/2 NM SSW of the Port O'Connor jetties, 6 NM off of the Matagorda Island shoreline and at a depth of 66'. The location and depth of this site make it easily accessible for recreational anglers to enjoy and will provide the opportunity to fish for sought after species such as red snapper and pelagic species like cobia, amberjack, king mackerel and others year-round. At 381 acres, this site is twice the normal size off most nearshore reefing sites, which are typically 160 acres. In addition, there are currently two standing platforms within the reefing site and TPWD's hope is that these two non-operating platforms remain in the site and as part of the project.

CCA Texas is excited to see another nearshore fishing opportunity for recreational anglers," commented HTFT committee chairman Jay Gardner. "Recreational fishermen are a huge part of our local economies, and these nearshore reefing sites will not only help in giving recreational fishermen more opportunities to fish for sought after species, but also continue to grow these economies."

CCA Texas is committed to continuing the effort to provide nearshore reefing habitat along the entire Texas coast. To date, CCA Texas has contributed in excess of \$1 million to nearshore reefing efforts that include Freeport (Vancouver), Port Mansfield, Corpus Christi (Packery), Matagorda/Sargent, and new sites at Rio Grande, Sabine HI20, Galveston Big Man and Port O'Connor. For more information about CCA Texas's involvement in nearshore reefing and other habitat projects, be sure to visit www.ccatexas.org/habitat.



Upper Coast

By Capt. George Knighten

Working birds, slicks, mud boils

HOT! Hot for us and hot for the fish. About the only option fish have is to go deep and try to find the coolest water available to them. So, in August and September, you will find me working deep structure. Structure could mean an oyster reef, an isolated tow head or a gas well pad. My bait of choice is the Bass Assassin or Sea Shad. Color will depend on water clarity. The base rule is **bright and flashy** in the clearer water and **darker like red shad** in the off colored stuff. Most of the time, I will work the bait slow and close to the bottom, but I will let the fish and bait show me where they want it. If shad or mullet are flipping on the surface then I will work my bait closer to the surface.

August is usually just an extension of July, but September is a transitional month and can get tough. I have found that in September, the fish will usually start moving in the direction of their fall home and can be found in between or in route to those spots.

Yes, I know. That covers a lot of ground and is some of what makes September a harder month to stay on them with any consistency. As usual, look for the signs. Slicks are still one of the best indicators. Mud boils, cartwheeling birds and nervous bait can be the giveaway.

As with last year, we are dealing with a lot of fresh water runoff. Where we will be with that by September is anybody's guess. The freshwater has had the fish concentrated a lot of this year and conservation has been thrown out the window in favor of easy limits. *Please keep in mind that every fish going in the box is one less fish reproducing.* We may pay for those easy limits down the road.

Hopefully September will see the end of the heat. Working birds and cool, early morning top water blow ups are in our future. —**Capt. George Knighten** 832-310-9146 gtkphoto@yahoo.com

Middle Coast

By Capt. Steve Boriskie

Transition action begins now

Transitions are the name of the game as fish are gearing up for Fall. Now comes greener water than we see most of the year. We'll see tarpon at the jetties and our bays as well, anglers taking limits of trout in the surf. Watch for crabs migrating on top of the water around passes and bull reds underneath picking them off.

Anglers looking to take speckled trout in the bay in August will sprinkle a few live shrimp in the mix in September, as the change in seasons triggers a change in bait availability. Artificial baits will be good wading or from the boat early on shorelines, then as the day heats up, you'll move to drop-offs. I have not seen much in the way of our jelly friends, but especially in September, long pants and sleeves are recommended.

Guides at Bay Flats Lodge have been scoring scattered limits of slot reds, but the action will increase in August and September. Looking at my logs from years prior, reds and trout should be plentiful. Let's appreciate their life cycles, and how long it takes to achieve 'slot' size, so send the big girls back.

Flounder can be targeted in guts and cuts, but also look for sandy holes in the flats and pay attention to any subtle depth changes and moving water. Slow the presentation a bit, let the bait drop and surprise! The heaviness on your line is a flattie. Enjoy fresh black drum, prepared with light breading and lemon pepper, and you might begin to prefer these tough fighting fish from a culinary standpoint. Tight lines, and give me a holler out on the water! —**Capt. Stephen Boriskie** Bay Flats Lodge, Seadrift Texas bayflatslodge.com

Lower Coast

By Capt. Rene Hinojosa

Here comes heart palpitation time

As July winds relax and August turns the corner, we can expect some overdue action all along the lower coast. Hopefully, we wore out those month-long winds of July. Early morning is the time to expect the scattered reds to get together and cause heart palpitations by popping up here and there—but mostly on the flats. So start early, and aim West or East. Of course, you'll look for clear water and nervous bait, but the fish can be in the murky stuff as well. If the breeze cooperates, you might want to put out a drift sock and let the wind do the work. But wadefishing is now going to be a fine way to spend the day.

My go-to lures are invariably different flavors of Nortons, usually with 1/8 oz lead heads. Hard to beat the results I've had lately with the bull minnow in red and white, but the roach color has been competitive. Incidentally, Norton makes a slick quick-connect gadget that beats tying knots.

As September wears into August, we will again see massive schools of reds around the East Cut and the Land Cut area. Sight casting! Foretelling this was the huge school of reds Miller Bassler and friends got into in mid-July, even with wind and murky water. For top water fans, Miller can vouch for the Skitter Walk, but be sure you have your CCA boga style grip handy.

As always, safety comes first. If you're the captain, remember to suggest sun screen and sun protection. Give the big spotted girls a chance to spawn again, and be polite on the water—it belongs to all of us. —**Capt. Rene Hinojosa** 956-966-0719 shallowcharters@gmail.com

Headed East early. Sam Caldwell



CCA Texas Social Happenings

We hope everyone has been taking advantage of these warmer months, staying hydrated and getting out on the water! CCA Texas has wrapped up several fantastic banquets, and the CCA Texas STAR Tournament is up and running. We've also had some great events, such as the CCA Concert for Conservation, the public announcement of the \$1 Million Artificial Reef Project, and the Inter Chapter Challenge tournament - You can view photos from all of them on our Facebook page!

In each issue of Currents, CCA Texas will feature a recent Facebook photo, Twitter Tweet, and Instagram photo. Please "Like" our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter, Instagram and YouTube to get the latest updates from CCA Texas and become a part of the conversation! Want to submit a photo of a great catch or fun times at a CCA Texas event to be featured on one of our social media platforms? Email it to kogonosky@ccatexas.org for consideration!



Facebook:

CCA National President Pat Murray discusses the \$1 Million Artificial Reef Project, done in conjunction with the unveiling of a new Billy Hassell lithograph celebrating the Gulf Coast, at the William Reaves & Sarah Foltz Fine Art museum in Houston. CCA Texas is a proud partner of the project, with Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Coastal Conservation Association's

National Habitat Program, Building Conservation Trust.

Twitter:

@iii_rockinpy: ITS ALMOST STAR TIME!!!! Banquet Tonight in Laredo

Instagram:

@ cca_texas: The smiling Austin Chapter volunteers are hard at work, getting ready for their annual banquet tonight! We hope to see you there! #joincca #ccatexas



Facebook:

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

Twitter: twitter.com/CCA_Texas

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

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



Chapter Updates

Alvin-Pearland

Emery Sadler 713-501-2778

Monthly General Meetings (Anglers' Night Out): 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of the month.

Location: Spring Creek BBQ - 9005 Broadway, Pearland, TX 77584

Check out our info: <http://www.cca-texas.org/alvin-pearland/>

We will have a raffle at each meeting!

A big THANK YOU to our June 16

Banquet Sponsors - We would not be able to do what we do without their support!

Title Sponsor: Commonwealth Financial- Rex Richards, Sun Belt Valve, Academy Sports + Outdoors

Sponsors: Payne Brothers Firearms, Fishing Tackle Unlimited, Tran Boats, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Del Papa, Faust, Joes BBQ, BAAD Marine, All Star Propane, Manvel Furniture, Back Bay Rods, Hook Spit, Third Coast Graphics, Alvin HEB, Big Guys Shooting supply, Patco Hardware, Ron Carter Auto, Frost Bank, Texas First Bank, Meadow Group, Dacon/Dashiell, Southwest Refractory, Allied Fire Protection, Sprint Waste, ICS Management, Dorsett Brothers Concrete, Mike's Glass & Mirror, Baumann Marine, T&I Lease Services, KD Services, Central Welding Supply, and many more.

Thanks goes out to our recent speakers for their informative presentations at our monthly meetings: May 3: Brian Treadway, Chocolate Bayou mapping and fishing. June 7: Capt. Ralph Frazier, Galveston Bay fishing

2016 Meeting schedule: July-August: NO MEETING-GONE FISHING

YES, the type is SMALL!
But, we have to get everyone in, along with images.

For the full version, go to your chapter's area in the CCA website: www.ccatexas.org/chapters

September 6: Speaker - Capt. Zane Starr, Galveston bay fishing

October 4: Speaker - BAAD Marine-Brian Dietert, Galveston bay fishing and Tackle.

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

The 17th Aransas Bay Chapter's Annual Banquet will be held on 13 August at the Paws and Taws Convention Center in Fulton, Texas. The fun-filled event starts at 5:30 P.M., consisting of silent auction, raffle, live auction, open bar and dinner catered by Black Tie Affairs Catering, Inc. Title sponsor for the banquet is Ron Hoover RV and Marine. Contact Carrie Cox (432-230-9060) if you are looking for some last minute tickets.

The 17th Jim Ehman Memorial "CCA Babes on the Bay" had over 1,300 registered entrants participating on one of the 376 teams. Karol's "no rain request" to the weather gods was honored and the tournament was completed

Aerial view of Babes On The Bay XVII



without rain. As shown below, there were a large number of nice fish caught and weighed in. Based on conversations with team members as they weighed in, they had a great day on the water and some wild tales to tell. Many thanks to all participants and volunteers who helped make Babes XVII 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, Fishing Tackle Unlimited, Black Dog, Coastal Innovations, and Rockport Mail Center.** 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 **Jaye Lynn Turnbow** for handling vendor signups. By the way, Karol is already at work on **Babes XVIII.** We look forward to seeing you. First place winners in their respective divisions were:

Non-guided Artificial - **Reel Fish Dogs**

Non-guided Any Bait - **Trophy Wives**

Non-guided Juniors - **Elizbeth Sebera**

Guided Artificial - **Let The Good Times Roll**

Guided Any Bait - **Showing Tail**

Junior Division Guided - **Celeste Sanders**

For complete list of winners go to

www.babesonthebay.com

Mark your calendars for the **Babes on the Bay XVIII** be held on **May 19 -20, 2017.**

Tight Lines - **Carter**

Austin

Josh Cook 512-656-2964

The 37th Annual Austin Chapter Banquet is officially in the record books. Because of your

generosity, we were able to top the \$1.2M revenue number this year, which sets another Austin chapter and national record.

We had over 1,700 people in attendance, **Charlie Robison's** singing was outstanding and it took us all of about 22 minutes to sell 175 Yeti Coolers.

To our extensive list of sponsors and generous patrons, thank you for all that you did to help us accomplish this monumental task!

Please visit us at www.ccaaustin.org to see a list of all the sponsors who helped make this happen, as space constraints don't allow us to acknowledge all of them

in this letter. From the who's who in the Austin culinary world, to corporate powerhouses in the Austin business scene, we have the best group of sponsors in the state.

Congratulations to **Trey Mathis** of Austin who won the **21' Modified "V" Shallow Sport!** And, another congratulations to all of the winners from our stellar live auction and our vast array of other stand-alone games. We truly couldn't do this event without all of you and cannot wait to see you again next year.

Next up on the calendar is our **Angler's Night Out (ANO) on July 20th** featuring **Captain Billy Trimble.** Along with some personal stories, Capt. Billy will be providing information on a new user group - **Flats Worthy.** This is one you don't want to miss! **ANO is held at 6:00 pm at Abel's on the Lake, which is located at 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., Austin, TX 78703.** Get out there and go fishing this summer. We look forward to seeing all of you at ANO on the 20th! - **Josh Cook**

Bay Area

Curtis Anderson 832-421-6377

Brazoria County

Wes Dingee 979-299-8245

Brazos Valley

John Ben Strother 979-220-1738

jbsunlimited@yahoo.com

Brenham

Dennis Crowson

979-451-2472

The Brenham Chapter held their latest month-

ly meeting on **June 30th.** **Bill Kinney** from CCA STAR gave an informational talk on the status of projects being completed by CCA.

The July meeting will be held on **July 28th** at **Mike Hopkins Distributing.** The Brenham Chapter is gearing up for their **Annual Howard Kieke Memorial Fishing Tournament in Port O'Connor.** The tournament will be held **Aug. 5-6.** Entry forms are due by July 28th. For more information please contact Tournament Director **John Baker** at **(979) 830-5702.**

The Brenham CCA Chapter is sponsored by **Mike Hopkins Distributing.** Please join us the 4th Thursday of each month at Mike Hopkins Distributing for an evening of beverages and conversation. For more information contact Chapter President **Dennis Crowson** at **(979) 451-2472** or dennis.crowson@hotmail.com - **Dennis Crowson**

Brush Country

Brenda Ballard 361-296-4037

On May 28 the Brush Country Chapter of CCA held it's Annual **Dean Ash Memorial Baffin Bay Shoot-Out Tournament.** The following are the winners:

Black Drum: Gilbert Barrera, First Place; Ascencion Lara, Second Place; **Tori Kuntz,** Third Place **Trout:** Evaristo Alfaro, First Place; **Wiley Crowson,** Second Place; **Kristopher Alfaro,** Third Place.

Redfish: Rico Garcia, First Place; **Tammy Patrick,** Second Place. **Oversized Redfish-** **Xavier Garcia.**

All winners walked away with a rod and reel combo!

Our upcoming events will be our annual **Kids' Fishing Day** and our **Banquet.** If you are interested in volunteering or donating to our events please contact **Brenda** at **361-296-4037** or at brushcountrycca@gmail.com. - **Brenda Ballard**

Centex

Wayne Webb

254-405-1300

sheyhunt@aol.com

Central Houston

Todd Buster

713-545-1897

Colorado Valley

Eugene Ulrich

979-249-7425

Greetings from the Colorado

Fifth Annual CCA Concert For Conservation May 21

It was a memorable evening with **Ryan Bingham** opening to thunderous applause. Then, the crowd rose for **Alabama,** and it was standing enjoyment to the end of a fine evening.

Thousands of new CCA members will look forward to the **CCA Concert for Conservation 2017.**



Valley! I hope everyone had a fantastic Memorial Day Weekend and a great 4th of July.

Our chapter participated in the ICC Fishing Tournament last month and worked very hard, but did not place in the winner category. We had a lot of fun and were also treated to some great food, refreshments and prizes, along with fellowship with the other chapters. It turned out to be a very enjoyable event. Our participating members were **Rusty Kubena, Dave Fehlker, Bennie Rooks, Kenneth LeFrance, Stephen LeFrance, Jason Rowe, Dennis Inman, Verlene Ulrich and Eugene Ulrich**. We all had a great fishing day, but just could not come up with a winning stringer. There were several very nice stringers turned in that anyone would have been proud of. Congratulations to the winning teams!

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer and getting as many trips in as possible. You never know when that tagged redfish will show up!!! Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all! – Eugene Ulrich

Corpus Christi
Jake Herring 361-244-0258
jakeherring@hotmail.com

Planning for our fall events is well under way. Our chapter has several events on the calendar that you will not want to miss. First up, get the kids ready for the **Poco Rojo Tournament to be held at the CCA Marine Development Center on September 10**.

Following Poco Rojo we are holding our **Guides Cup Tournament on September 29-30**. Our chapter is wrapping up the fall schedule with the **12th Annual Babes on Baffin all women's fishing tournament, which will be held October 7-8, 2016 at our NEW venue, Marker 37 Marina**. We are looking for sponsors, vendors, and anglers! Please contact **Valerie or Judy** at babesonbaffin@gmail.com, or visit our Facebook page CCA Texas Babes On Baffin, or website www.babesonbaffin.org. Stay tuned – It is going to be a great fall! Yours in conservation – **Jake Herring**

Dallas / North Texas
John Humbert 214-563-3122
jhumbert@softwareimaging.net

The Dallas Chapter competed again in the **Inter Chapter Challenge Fishing Tournament** on June 10th and 11th. The weather was perfect on Friday, but deteriorated on Saturday. Our chapter placed a respectable 8th out of 28 teams participating, despite being a chapter 380 miles inland. But we are vowing a stronger comeback next year!

In the meantime, the Dallas chapter is busy preparing for our Inaugural **"Hook on Clays" Sporting Clay Tournament** this July

21st at the Dallas Gun Club in Lewisville. There is still time left to register a team at www.ccatexas.org/dallas, or call **John Hansen** at (214) 243-9435. Check-in starts at 11:30 am and shooting begins at 1:00 pm. It's going to be a lot of fun, so come on out and show your stuff!

Dallas area folks should keep a close eye on your email for member meetings being held at **Tailwaters Fly Fishing** (www.tailwatersflyfishing.com), located at 1933 E Levee St near downtown Dallas. Or swing by the shop and check for meeting notices. There's always something to do there!

We're looking forward to August when CCA will be teaming up with **Mariner Sails** (www.mariner-sails.com) and **Robert Field** to hold the **"Heros on the Water" Benefit Event on August 11th, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm at Mariner Sails located at 1110 N Stemmons Fwy, Dallas, (972) 241-1498**. The evening's entertainment will start with a Happy Hour at 6:30 pm at Mariner Sails followed by Robert's presentation from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Robert Field of YakFishTV will be presenting his tried and true techniques to help you take your action videos from "home movies" to professional quality videos. Check out some of his award winning work at YakFishTV. All Proceeds from this event will benefit the Dallas Chapter of Heroes on the Water. Buy your tickets now! **Limited to 75 Participants.** – **John Humbert**

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

Fort Bend
Robb Gaston 281-239-9755

Greetings all you angler and anglettes! Is it hot outside or is it just me? I feel like at any moment I could catch on fire. Speaking of "on fire," have you been to the surf lately? Matagorda and Freeport have been full of trout and flounder. I hope you had a chance to fill your freezers!

Our **Annual CCA Kids Fish** was another success. It is always great to see so many young anglers. Our next event will be **Lingerie on The Bay, September 9-10, 2016**. This is our annual ladies-only fishing tournament. **We will have our Captain's Party/Registration on Friday September 9 at the Matagorda Fire Hall**. There will be a meal provided.

Dawn Miller will be there once again with her Hooked On Hope merchandise. The shirts and cups are pre order only. Please contact Dawn at Dmm_20@hotmail.com to order. Rules and Registration forms can be found at www.matagordabay.com. Hope to see y'all out there! Say hi to your momma and dem for me! – **Robb Gaston**

Fort Worth
Hunter Baird 817-437-8351

Shortly after the banquet passes, your board finishes a busy fiscal year of planning events for our members and helping raise awareness/funds for CCA. Then it's time for us to take a break and hit the bays, as many of you are able to do throughout the year. Here in North Texas when the temps hit the 90s and begin inching toward 100 degrees, matching the humidity in intensity, it signifies the time of year to turn our headlights and attention south to some of the best bay fishing in the states.

We would like to take one more opportunity to thank our sponsors from another successful banquet on May 5th. We appreciate your support in making us the best chapter in North Texas. Your FW Board wishes you all tight lines and full bags this summer. Don't forget to enjoy a cold cerveza somewhere along the way. – **Jonathan Black**

Galveston
Dr. Ken Ellis 713-962-7731

As this Currents lands in your mailbox, our annual banquet will be held on August 6, at Moody Gardens. We will be giving away our Mowdy 22' - V/22 with a 175 hp 4 stoke Suzuki along with a CoastLine aluminum trailer. Tickets for the boat are \$25 each, or 5 tickets for \$100. Tickets are going fast, and I expect us to be sold out before the banquet, so please contact me personally, if you would like to purchase some boat raffle tickets.

The banquet this year is a homage to "Margaritaville," and we will have many new silent and live auction items, as well as a 10 gun raffle again this year. Hope to see you there! Tight Lines --**Dr. Ken Ellis**

Golden Triangle
Welcome new president, Tyler Coco
409-651-6004

tylercoco7@yahoo.com

It was another exciting banquet this year for the Golden Triangle Chapter. We had record attendance, record revenue and record profits! Special thanks to **Mobil Credit Union, Altus, Classic Chevrolet and Giglio Distributing** for your generous donations year after year. **I would also like to thank our board for all of their hard work in making this possible.**

Lastly, stay tuned for some new events from the Golden Triangle Chapter. If you are interested in becoming a board member, please contact me at the number listed. As we continue to grow our chapter, we would love to add additional quality board members. -**Tyler Coco**

Greater Sugar Land
Richard Lindley 832-270-0398
richardlindley@att.net

Even though we're taking a summer vacation from meetings, June was a busy month for our chapter. Our Kid's Fish trailer received a new paint job thanks to **John Breland** and the generosity of **Expert Collision Center** in Roseberg. Salude! A special thanks, too, to **Jeff Flasiak** for the graphic design and to all who helped refurbish the trailer. The trailer looks fantastic and will be a big plus for our chapter's visibility!

We joined with Missouri City for a Kid's Fish at their Community Park on June 11. The event was well attended. We had 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies for three age groups and served up hot dogs, chips and drinks for the kids. Chapter members **Richard Lindley, Fred Howard, Gary and Geri Blanchette, David and Judy Kveton, Buford Jurica, Bob Nipper and Weems Turner** all helped. Thank you for making the event a success!

A few days before the Kid's Fish, we gathered at the Kveton's home to prepare the new rods and reels we had purchased for it. Burgers and beverages followed. The rain and the 'skeeters held off and we all had a great time! Thank you, **David and Judy, John and Lynda Breland** hosted a pool party at their home on June 12. Honorees were all who helped make our banquet a great success, especially **Pam Canavan**, chair of the banquet committee, and her committee members, **Tara Jurica and Judy Kveton**. Thank you **John and Lynda** for a fun time!

Unfortunately, we also must report that **Barbra Lindley**, a director and past chair of our Kid's Fish Committee for several years, passed away unexpectedly on June 20. Barbra was very active in our chapter and we all enjoyed her company. **A service in her memory will be held on August 6 from 11:00 to 1:00 at the Elk's Lodge, 10150 W. Airport Blvd., Stafford 77477.** Thank you, Barbra, for your service and comradery—you will be missed.

Our regular meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and resume on August 2. They will be held at the Old Hickory Inn, 3334 FM 1092, Missouri City. For more information about our chapter, follow us on Facebook at "CCA Texas Greater Sugar Land Chapter."

The guest speaker for our August meeting is **Michael Okruhlik**, who has developed a controlled descent lure. Attendees will be treated to an interesting talk and a free lure. We hope to see you there! - **Bob Bailey, Vice President**

Greater Woodlands
Charlotte O'Dell 832-368-8263

Guadalupe Valley
Welcome to new president,
Chuck Howard
361-275-9464
chuck.howard@att.net

For the second consecutive year, the Guadalupe Valley chapter took the **InterChapter Challenge** championship honors with the **heaviest stringer of 3 fat beautiful trout and one bruiser redbfish**. The team consisted of **Cliff Weber, Paul Lucas, Stacy Cordes, Darryl Cordes, Bobby Lane, Eric Draper, Robert Caskey, Jay Bramlett, Greg Graham and Chuck Howard**, the new Chapter President.

See the team photo on page 18.

The chapter will be having their end-of-summer meeting sometime in late August, along with a great menu for all chapter members. Keep your eyes on your email for the details, and we hope to see you there! I would like to begin planning regular events for the chapter to share skills, stories and how to defend the ICC Championship title for the 3rd year in a row.

November will be the month for the Guadalupe Valley Chapter Annual Banquet, so start planning on filling up your tables now. If you would like to go ahead and commit to a table, contact Chapter President **Chuck Howard** at 361/275-9464 or chuck.howard@att.net. - **Chuck Howard**

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

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

We've had a busy summer in the Heart of the Hills. Elections were held recently - **Congratulations to the new Chapter President, Kelly Parks; Vice President, Blake McCarter; and Treasurer, Darrell Steubing.**

The chapter fielded a team of 10 fishermen and women and competed in the **Inter Chapter Challenge Tournament** in June in Aransas Pass. Everyone had fun and enjoyed spending some time on the water. We didn't place this year, but Kelly is already preparing a strategy for next year. Thanks to the CCA staff for hosting this event!

Quentin Hall from the Harte Research Institute Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation was the speaker at our **General Membership Meeting on June 21st**. Quentin holds a Master's in Marine Biology from

Texas A&M and shared information he has learned from his hands-on studies of Cedar Bayou. He also talked about shark research being conducted by the Institute - really interesting! Congratulations to our attendees who won raffle prizes, and thanks to **Apache Rifleworks** for providing a classroom for the meeting. When you get a chance, go check out Apache's state-of-the-art complex. They offer an indoor firing range, sales, instruction and custom built rifles at **50502 IH-10 West in Comfort**. Call 830-995-3894 for more information.

Save the date for our **Heart of the Hills Chapter Annual Banquet on September 8 at The Cana Ballroom at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Boerne**. We'll have great food, drinks, a live auction and raffles. Call **Kelly Parks** at 210-669-3732 if you are interested in tickets, donating to the banquet or volunteering. Tight lines! - **Randy Plummer**

Hill Country
Miles Engelke 830-303-1827

What a busy year it's been! We hosted the **Crawfish Boil for Todd Hoffman May 13**. **Cajun Cookers** did a fine job cooking the crawfish. Thanks to our board members, **Luke Franke, Valarie Franke, Monica Franke and Joe Mark Miller** for assisting to make this a successful event.

On May 21 we hosted the **Board of Directors fishing trip in Rockport for Tri County Distributors**. Thanks to **Bill, Dennis, Kenny, Kevin and Miles** for donating their time and boat to put these guys on the fish. Thanks to **Dennis and Sherri** for hosting the Friday night meal and **Bill and Lena** for hosting the Saturday weigh-in.

On June 4 we hosted our **Chapter Fishing Tournament in Rockport**. We had approximately 129 entries, good food and fellowship. A fun time was had by all! Thank you **Darlene and Jim Cook** for being the Tournament Chairs, and thanks to all who handled the weigh-in and other details.

On June 11 we participated in the **ICC tournament and for the second year in a row, our team won 2nd place!** Way to go team members **Bill, Don, Michael, Michael Jr., Dennis, Travis, Miles, Jerry (Pooch), Kenny and Kevin**. **Don also won 1st place for individual trout - Way to go Don!**

Our next **General Meeting will be on July 19 with Captain David Rowsey as our Guest Speaker**. David has been fishing all of his life and will have some great information to share. The meeting will be held at the **Elks Lodge in New Braunfels, Texas**. We will have several vendors at the meeting displaying and selling their products. We hope to see you

there!

Thursday August 25 is our Annual Banquet at the Civic Center in New Braunfels. Invoices were sent to past table buyers a couple of weeks ago. For ticket information call Todd Thetford at 830-660-8825.

Our last General Meeting of the year will be Tuesday October 25 with Captain Everett Johnson, editor and publisher of *Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine*. The meeting will be at the Elks Lodge in New Braunfels, Texas.

If you have any questions or you would like to get involved with our chapter, cast me a call at 210-260-8968. Treasure The Trips – Miles Engelke

Houston Homebuilders
Mack Davis 832 381-6130

Houston Real Estate
Dale Couch 281-953-2510

Summer is here! Best news is one of our founding Board Members caught a career trout while fishing in the STAR Tournament in early June, 29 1/2 inches!!! It was released back to the Laguna Madre. Way to go! We are beginning to work on next February's banquet. Any ideas to make it better are greatly appreciated. –Dale Couch

Laredo
Jesse Martinez 956-763-5555
jesse@laredo.twcbc.com

Lee County
Byron Kalbas 979-540-0056

Mark your calendars folks for the 6th Annual Lee County Chapter Banquet that will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at the Sons of Herman Hall in Giddings, Texas! Preparations are underway to make it another great event. Contact me or any Lee County committee member for tickets & details. – Byron Kalbas

Live Oak
Brad Kotrla 979-732-1669

Lower Colorado
Tim Munos 979 332-2876

Lower Laguna Madre
Oscar Garcia III 956-491-8148

Mainland
Eric Minor 281-534-6242

Matagorda Bays
Chad Hensley 979-543-2734

Well it's a wrap! The "Sold Out" signs were once again pulled out and taped to the front doors of the El Campo Civic Center for our 31st Annual Matagorda Bays Chapter Banquet. This is the 8th year in a row that the banquet has sold out. The banquet this year

was dedicated in memory of Terry Karstedt. Mrs. Karstedt was presented with a portrait of Capt. Terry. The portrait was painted and donated by Sam Caldwell, the 2004 Texas State Artist.

The sudden passing of Terry this past year still weighs heavy on everyone who knew him. Terry was a long-time supporter of CCA and our great chapter.

Banquet guests enjoyed a fun-filled evening



Leah Morton was the lucky winner of the fully rigged 23' Dargel Attackafloat with a 175 HP Suzuki, sponsored by Dargel Boats and by long time chapter supporter Polasek Construction.

Below, portrait of late guide Capt. Terry Karstedt, donated by Sam Caldwell



with chances to win on the pick-of-the-litter cap raffle, sponsored by Prasek's Hillje Smokehouse, El Campo Boating Center and Mustang Caterpillar, a koozie raffle sponsored by R&M Forge & Fittings, INC and First State Bank, and a tumbler cup raffle sponsored by Energy Construction, INC. and Polasek Construction. A great Ribeye steak meal with all the trimmings was prepared by board member Slade Stary and his top-notch cooking crew. The live auction, sponsored by Full Auto Firearms, Wiese Crop Insurance and Gulf Coast Lease Service was full of great items that ranged from fishing and hunting trips from around the world, to guided fishing trips right here on the Texas coast. The Jim Ehman Memorial Guides Cup trips were once again a big hit among buyers. This tournament sponsored by Duckett Bouligny & Collins LLP, Harbor Bait and Tackle and El Campo Sheet Metal is held every year in September in Matagorda and can only be entered by purchasing a trip in our live auction.

The highlight of the evening of course was the drawing for the fully rigged 23' Dargel Attackafloat with a 175 HP Suzuki, sponsored by Dargel Boats and by long time chapter supporter Polasek Construction. A big thanks goes out to these guys for their continued support. This year's lucky winner was Leah Morton. As always, I wish I could list everyone who donates and contributes to our chapter, but here are a few who are there year after year: Cedar Creek Woodshop, Multi Fab Metals, Eichorn Gonzales & Miller Jewelers, Las Palmas Lodge, Capt. Troy Keen, Red Bluff Prairie Hunting Club, Del Papa Distributing, Hartman Distributing, Texas Coast Limo Services, Full Auto Firearms, Mustang Cat, Hodges Welding, Lamco Feeders, Salt Grass Lodge and Charters and Academy Sports + Outdoors.

Once again, thanks to all the members of our great chapter, and I look forward to seeing all the Guides Cup buyers in Matagorda, September 26-27! Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the chapter. – Chad Hensley

MidCoast
David Jenkins 361-578-5580

After several months of planning, and after all of the hard work put in by our board members - led by our Banquet Chairman, Curt Allison - we enjoyed another successful banquet this year on May 6. I would like to express my thanks to all of our board members and chairpersons who worked SO hard. Job WELL DONE! Thanks to all of the attendees of the banquet. We could not have done it without you and your support!

We are very grateful to all of the donors

from Victoria and the surrounding area for their generosity in giving. Chris' Marine and Haynie Boats - Aransas Pass; Coastal Bend Marine, Sonny's Marie and POC Rod & Gun - Port O'Connor; Forever Last - Hallettsville; Hartman Distributing, Uncle Mutts' Bar B Que, Victoria All Sports, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Waterloo Rod Co USA, The Tackle Box of Victoria, Eichorn, Gonzales & Miller Jewelry, Old Victoria Outfitters, Atzenhofer Chevrolet, Cadillac, Mizubishi and the fishing guides who will participate in our Annual Guides Cup Tournament.

Our next CCA Event will be the Guides Cup Tournament which will be held on October 6 and 7, 2016. Please be careful while in our coastal waters, and I hope to you see you soon! - David Jenkins

Northeast Houston
Casey Eakin
713-948-5799

Northwest Houston
Alan Massey 281-414-6341

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

Contact Info: Scott Bandy - scottbandy77@yahoo.com / Louis Moore - louis_moore@yahoo.com
Davis Dixon - dcdixon149@yahoo.com

Port O'Connor
Bill Moore 361-983-4690

We hope everyone is having a great summer, and that the crowds on the weekends are taking advantage of all the activities on this end. Without taking anything away from the summer activities, we want to remind everyone to **come join us on Saturday, October 15, for our 17th Annual CCA Banquet. It will again be held at the Community Center.**

Tickets and/or tables are readily available from any POC CCA member at the CCA office (800-262-4222), or at any of the following POC businesses: Sonny's Marine, Coastal Boat Services, Coastal Bend Marine, Port O'Connor Rod & Gun and Tigrett Real Estate. Also, the golf cart that is being raffled for this year's banquet has been on display at Coastal Bend Marine.

If you want to get involved, give us a call and definitely come join us on Saturday, October 15 in POC! "Where it all began" - Bill Moore

Prairie
Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103

Redfish Bay
Norman Oates
361-758-0266

Thanks to the Redfish Bay Chapter Board, John Blaha, and all of our members and supporters, we have had a great year so far. The 2016 Annual Banquet was a success, and the Take a Kid Fishing Event was, as always, fun for all. The Beeville Fish Fry will be the Thursday before dove season starts - watch for final date information. - Norman Oates

Rio Grande Valley
George McCaleb 956-984-8688
gmccaleb@hotmail.com

Sabine-Neches
Darin Johnson 409-502-1010

Sam Houston
Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908

San Antonio
Mike Sarosdy 210-863-7288
urodoc@satx.rr.com

San Bernard
Jayson Zahradnik 832-535-7738
jayson.zahradnik@alleytonresource.com

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512-632-9222
ikocher12@gmail.com

Texas State University
Alex Limon 817-880-4044
arlimon26@gmail.com

Tomball/Magnolia
Matt Maddox 281-770-7858

Tri-County
Christian Hildebrand 830-534-2730

Trinity Bay
Gerald Payne 281-385-2894

Trinity Valley
John Hebert Jr 936-334-2528

The 4th Annual Trinity Valley CCA Chapter Banquet will be held on Thursday, September 8 at the Dayton Community Center. We are looking forward to what is shaping up to be another great fundraising event. Along with our great Live and Silent Auction lineup, we will have numerous raffle prizes to give away including several high-end firearms. We are currently taking reservations for individual and couples tickets and have several levels of reserved tables to offer. We will have plenty of refreshments and a delicious fried catfish dinner with all the trimmings. To get your reserved tables or tickets while they last, please contact **John Hebert Jr. at (936)334-2528** or **Larry Hanson at (713) 447-1918**. Tickets and tables will soon be available online at www.ccatexas.org/trinity-valley, under the "Banquet" tab. If you would like to reserve your tables with a credit card directly, please contact our **Assistant Director Brian Meuth at bmeuth@ccatexas.org** or (713) 626-4222. Good luck on the water and we hope to see you soon at the Banquet! – **John Hebert Jr.**

West Houston
Mike Ayers 832-248-9352

West Texas
Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499



How about those Guadalupe Valley Fisherfolks--two in a row. Are they going for three in 2017? For names of the Guadalupe Valley Team, see their update on page 14.

2016 CCA Texas Inter Chapter Challenge

Every year, CCA Texas hosts the Inter Chapter Challenge (ICC) fishing tournament as a way to say "Thank You" to our hardworking chapter presidents and board members. The tournament takes place in Aransas Bay, and it's always a great time! Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's event, which was held this past June. We appreciate all of the hard work you do year-round to make this organization great! Below is the breakdown of the 2016 ICC winners. Congrats on a great tournament!
For photos, facebook.com/ccatexas

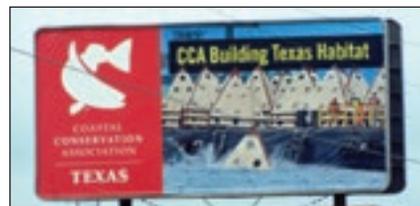
Stringer of 3 Trout and 1 Redfish:
1st Place: Guadalupe Valley

2nd Place: Hill Country
3rd Place: Austin

Biggest Trout: 1st Place: Don Whitaker, Hill Country Chapter
2nd Place: Chuck Howard, Guadalupe Valley Chapter

Biggest Redfish: 1st Place: Karen Lewbeck, Brenham Chapter
2nd Place: Robert Caskey, Guadalupe Valley Chapter

Biggest Other Fish: Jack Crevalle, Trinity Valley Chapter



Members can watch for several CCA billboards and CCA/Academy Sports+Outdoors billboards on the highways from Victoria to Brownsville.





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- > Al Barnes

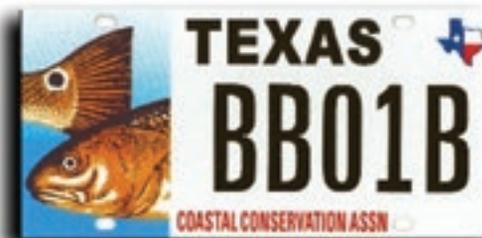


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www.charliesgallery.com

CCA Plates for Projects



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

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www.samcaldwell.com

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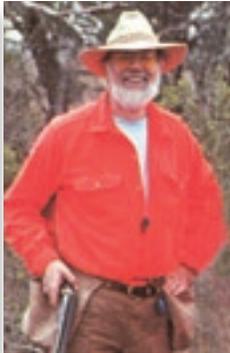
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August / September 2016

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oil spills: 361-888-3162
Port Aransas: 361-749-5217
Port O'Connor: 361-983-2616
Freeport: 979-233-3801
Houston, Galveston: 409-766-5620
Sabine: 409-971-2195

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



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

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



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- NEW TIDE: \$10 _____ Tide newsletter, decal.

NEW TIDE / Star: \$10 _____ **Members 17 and under only** Age: _____ Date of birth: _____
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