

A yellow CAT excavator is positioned on a steep, eroded bank of dark soil and sand. The excavator's arm is extended, and its bucket is open. The bank is eroded, showing layers of soil. To the left of the bank, there is a body of water with white-capped waves crashing against the shore. The sky is blue with some white clouds. The excavator has "CAT" written on its arm.

CURRENTS

December 2014 / January 2015



*Cedar Bayou
is open*

Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough flow freely to the Gulf once again

By John Blaha

September 25 marked the day that fishermen across the state of Texas have been waiting for, for a long time. With approximately 100 local residents, dignitaries and CCA Texas volunteers on hand, Aransas County Judge Burt Mills took to the controls of the excavator and dug the final scoop of sand that allowed Cedar Bayou to flow into the Gulf of Mexico once again.

"The middle Texas coast, and more specifically the Mesquite Bay complex, just underwent a successful "double bypass" following the historic re-opening of Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough," commented CCA Texas Chairman Mark Ray. Mark commented further, "with dedication and closely coordinated effort between CCA Texas, Aransas County, state agencies and the Texas legislature, the essential arteries for water exchange and the highway for larval and adult fish migration are again flowing. This iconic natural resource of Texas coastal waters has been re-gifted to the fishing and naturalist public of Texas."

"CCA Texas was a great partner in our quest for getting Cedar Bayou opened," said Aransas County Judge Burt Mills. "All of our partners have done an outstanding job in working together to ensure the restoration of this pass."

Due to the Ixtoc Oil spill in the Bay of Campeche in 1979, state agencies made the decision to bulldoze the pass shut to prevent any oil from entering the ecosystems fed by Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough. Prior to its closure in 1979, Cedar Bayou was open approximately 87% of the time. There were temporary and short term closures dating back to the early 1900s and dredging events in 1939 and 1959 but in general, Mother Nature kept the bayou open. After the 1979 closure, Cedar Bayou was never the same. With the exception of dredging events in 1987 and 1995, the bayou remained open for



Aransas County Judge Burt Mills has been a steadfast worker for the Cedar Bayou project. Mills was at the controls for the last few scoops, then received a wading ovation from the onlookers.

short periods of time. In 2003, Hurricane Claudette opened the bayou one last time, but only for a brief period.



Photos in this article by John Blaha, Norman Oates, Lisa Laskowski, Fred Howard, James Kay, Sam Caldwell and Chris Smisek.



The effort to open Cedar Bayou has been a long and dedicated effort by many since it was closed in 1979. Save Cedar Bayou, Inc. (SCBI) was formed in 1985 and struggled to make head way. In 2003, the Aransas County Cedar Bayou Advisory Committee was formed to take a look at the challenges and obstacles in restoring Cedar Bayou. The committee's report energized the community once again and SCBI renewed its efforts to see that the bayou was opened.

Between 2006 and 2008, SCBI and the Texas General Land Office (TX GLO) spent \$400,000 in efforts to study and create a plan for opening and maintaining Cedar Bayou. After continuous efforts to secure the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit and to raise necessary funds the efforts began to stall and SCBI approached Aransas County to take over the permit process. In December of 2009, Aransas County accepted the request and the effort began to move forward once again under the leadership of County Judge Burt Mills. Aransas County worked hard to satisfy the permitting process of the USACE and moved through the process efficiently. On August 3, 2011, Judge Mills received and signed the

On front cover: Cedar Bayou joins the Gulf. First moments by Norman Oates.



Above, the last big scoop as Cedar Bayou joins the Gulf of Mexico again.

USACE permit to move forward with the restoration of Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough.

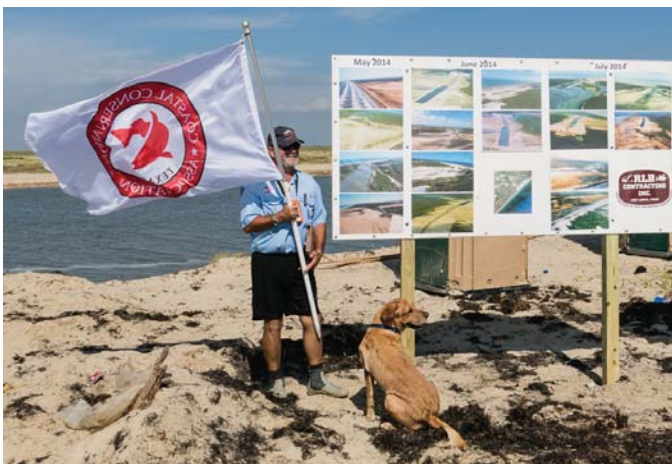
CCA Texas leadership maintained an interest in the restoration of Cedar Bayou as the permitting process proceeded and offered written support when needed. Once the USACE permit was secured by Aransas County, CCA Texas met with Aransas County leadership shortly afterward and offered to help in the effort to raise the necessary funds to make the project a reality.

In February 2012, the CCA Texas State Board approved an initial commitment of \$500,000 to jump-start the fundraising process and the partnership began to accelerate its efforts. CCA Texas eventually committed \$1,600,000 to the project through dollars raised by local chapters, secured from private donations and CCA National's Building Conservation Trust. Texas Parks and Wildlife committed \$3,000,000, TX GLO approximately \$1,400,000 and the balance of the \$9,400,000 project was secured and guaranteed by Aransas County.

With the money in hand and another window of opportunity for construction nearing in 2014, the Notice to Bid was issued by Aransas County and in December 2013, RLB Contracting was awarded the bid to restore Cedar Bayou and Vinson



Left, CCA Chairman Mark Ray and on-lookers watch as the ribbon is cut after the opening flood.



Slough. With a tight schedule and little room for error, RLB began its planning process and preparing for April 15, 2014 to start one of the most significant restoration efforts ever on the Texas coast in the eyes of many.

The surveying process started and with confirmation

that whooping cranes were gone, RLB began moving equipment in on April 15. There were many challenges ahead for the workers and by mid May, actual dredging and excavation had begun. The first task at hand was removal of the old dredge spoil sitting on Vinson Slough. As this was being completed, dredging in Cedar Bayou was underway and the excavators began the process of excavating materials within the template of Vinson Slough.

On May 21, 2014, CCA Texas leadership and members of Aransas County Commissioners Court made a group site visit and the project was moving full steam ahead. Construction continued

—Continued on page 8

Chris Smisek, left, says he and Mark Ray can claim First dog at Cedar Bayou and First Cast At the Pass.





WINNERS CLAIM ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY PRIZES

The 25th Anniversary CCA Texas Ford Dealers/Tilson Homes Corp/Capital Farm Credit State of Texas Angler's Rodeo wrapped up at 5PM on Labor Day, Sept. 1 with a NEW record. Approximately 48,000 registered for the 2014 STAR with over 10,000 NEW recruits into CCA! This year's tournament offered over \$1,000,000 in prizes and one hundred and thirty STAR participants enjoyed some fabulous prizes thanks to entering STAR! Twenty-five top prizes were claimed. Check out these winners below with their awesome prize packages as well as a list of ALL 2014 STAR winners.

Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division saw thirteen tagged redfish caught but only FOUR were lucky enough to get to drive home a truck/boat prize this year. Sadly, there were NINE unfortunate anglers who did not qualify for the CCA Texas STAR and lost out on prizes to the tune of about \$45,000 - \$80,000 each!!! WHEN WILL THEY LEARN?!!!

2014 TOURNAMENT RECAP - This year's tournament had hundreds of fabulous prizes up for grabs. A total of 130 prizes were claimed and the twenty-five top prizes were presented to the winners during the CCA Texas BBQ and STAR Awards Ceremony on Friday, Oct. 3rd at the Bayou City Event Center! These are the lucky winners of each division:

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



Nathan Skrobarczyk - Capital Farm Credit StarKid Scholarship Flounder winner and Wally Hinkle, Josh Krupa and Randal Prehoda of Capital Farm Credit



Jacob Serna - Houston Community Newspapers StarKid Scholarship Sheepshead winner with Jason Joseph and Tommy Legg of Houston Community Newspapers



Macayla Hebert - Fox Sports Southwest StarKid Scholarship Gafftop winner and Denise Janowski of Fox Sports Southwest.

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



Joshua O'Neal - StarTeen Middle Coast Trout winner and Sarah Cooke of Academy Sports + Outdoors.

Gage Schnitz - StarTeen Upper Coast Trout winner and Raymond Gonzales of Academy Sports + Outdoors.



Brandon Gill - StarTeen Lower Coast Trout winner and Chris Woods of Academy Sports + Outdoors.



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



Dylan Gill, StarTeen Flounder winner, Wally Hinkle, Josh Krupa, Randal Prehoda, Capital Farm Credit



Joshua Dimas, StarTeen Sheepshead winner and Mark Brown Whataburger



Becca DeLord, StarTeen Gafftop winner, Ardia and Roy Neves of Texas Fish & Game Magazine



STAR has reached \$5,235,000 in scholarships awarded to 165 children, ranging from 6-17 years of age. Many thanks to our sponsors for making this happen. Without them, it would not be possible.

Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division - Four out of the first five winners drove home a fully-loaded 2014 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" truck and Haynie 23 BigFoot, Mercury150 OptiMax outboard motor and Coastline trailer.

Derek Nethercutt of Highlands, 1st Redfish - Truck & Boat winner



Mark Richner of Temple, 2nd Redfish - Truck & Boat winner

Mike Capell of Corpus Christi, 3rd Redfish - Truck & Boat winner



David Johnson of Alice, 4th Redfish - Truck & Boat winner



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



Mike Eckhardt - Upper Coast Trout winner
Ryder Green - Middle Coast Trout winner



Arthur Toscano - Lower Coast Trout winner



Offshore Division - These lucky anglers won the Polaris Ranger Crew 570 UVS in Polaris Pursuit Camo each with a big Tex 35a Trailer:

Seamus Caskey - Kingfish winner



William Hefner - Dorado winner



Russell Book - Ling (Cobia) winner

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

Hank Hall - Flounder winner



Raymond Lake - Sheepshead winner

Jessica Darder - Gafftop winner



Runner-Up Winners - A total of 69 runner-up prizes were awarded this year. First through fourth runners-up in ALL divisions received a plaque, "special edition" STAR runner-up cap and gift certificates from Academy Sports + Outdoors. Gift certificate amounts for scholarship divisions: 1st - \$250, 2nd - \$150, 3rd - \$125, 4th - \$75 and for regular divisions: 1st - \$500, 2nd - \$250, 3rd - \$150, 4th - \$100:

StarKids Scholarship Division
Flounder: 1st: Morgan Sellers (age 10) of Rosharon, 3 lbs. 15ozs. / 2nd: Carson Gill (age 7) of Corpus Christi, 3 lbs. 14 ozs. / 3rd: Della Fournet (age 10) of Orange, 3 lbs. 10 ozs. / 4th: Ricardo Leal (age 10) of Harlingen, 3 lbs. 10 ozs.

Sheepshead: 1st: Rylan Basci (age 6) of League City, 7 lbs. 4 ozs. / 2nd: Dylan Wong (age 9) of Pearland, 6 lbs. 9 ozs. / 3rd: Walter Kilgore (age 8) of Nassau Bay, 5 lbs. 1 oz. / 4th: Travis Pulkinen (age 10) of Dickinson, 5 lbs. 0 ozs.

Gafftop: 1st: Laken Bellanger (age 8) of Orange, 6 lbs. 13 ozs. / 2nd: Gunner Grigar (age 7) of Fulshear, 6 lbs. 3 ozs. / 3rd: Joey Murty (age 10) of Bridge City, 5 lbs. 0 ozs. / 4th: Nick Bess (age 10) of Rosenberg, 4 lbs. 8 ozs.



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

Academy Sports + Outdoors StarTeens Scholarship Trout Division



Upper Coast: 1st: Remington Weaver (age 11) of Richmond, 7 lbs. 5 ozs. / 2nd: Jacob Brooks (age 17) of Spring, 6 lbs. 12 ozs. / 3rd: Colton Carner (age 13) of Santa Fe, 6 lbs. 11 ozs. / 4th: Cole Chambers (age 16) of Cypress, 6 lbs. 10 ozs.

Middle Coast: 1st: Micah Merritt (age 14) of Corpus Christi, 6 lbs. 12 ozs. / 2nd: John Flentge (age 13) of Bellville, 6 lbs. 4 ozs. / 3rd: Colton Knippling of Victoria, 6 lbs. 3 ozs. / 4th: NONE

Lower Coast: 1st: Wyatt Foster (age 13) of Friendswood, 8 lbs. 1 oz. / 2nd: Cole Cooley (age 13) of Raymondville, 7 lbs. 15 ozs. / 3rd: Tanner Thompson (age 17) of Spring Branch, 7 lbs. 12 ozs. / 4th: Kristina Anderson (age 17) of Port Mansfield, 7 lbs. 4 ozs.

StarTeens Inshore Scholarship Division

Flounder: 1st: Timothy Skrobarczyk (age 17) of Corpus Christi, 5 lbs. 10 ozs. / 2nd: Cameron Rodriguez (age 11) of Pearland, 4 lbs. 3 ozs. / 3rd: Gage Flowkes (age 11) of Houston, 3 lbs. 9 ozs. / 4th: Austin Rinn (age 15) of Lake Jackson, 3 lbs., 8 ozs.

Sheepshead: 1st: Ian Wells (age 15) of Kemah 7 lbs. 7 ozs. / 2nd: Taylor Shirley (age 16) of La Porte, 6 lbs., 12 ozs. / 3rd: Nathan Ancira (age 11) of Seabrook, 6 lbs. 9 ozs. / 4th: Connor Mauzey (age 17) of Brazoria, 6 bs., 8 ozs.

Gafftop: 1st: Jake Bell (age 13) of Orange, 6 lbs. 15 ozs. / 2nd: Saryn Meguess (age 17) of Beaumont, 6 lbs. 14 ozs. / 3rd: Sydney Pearson (age 12) of San Antonio, 5 lbs. 12 ozs. / 4th: Colt Pearson (age 16) of San Antonio, 5 lbs. 11 ozs.

Speckled Trout Division

Upper Coast: 1st: Christopher Smith of Big Sandy, 9 lbs. 1 oz. / 2nd: Kenneth Schupp of Lake Jackson, 8 lbs. 13 ozs. / 3rd: Kevin Heiman of Texas City, 8 lbs. 10 ozs. / 4th: Jason Moore of Dickinson, 8 lbs. 9 ozs.

Middle Coast: 1st: Terry Houchin of Corpus Christi, 8 lbs. 4 ozs. / 2nd: Gary Atkins of Matagorda, 8 lbs. 0 ozs. / 3rd: NONE / 4th: NONE.

Lower Coast: 1st: Jerry Vordenbaum of Seguin, 9 lbs. 2 ozs. / 2nd: Robert Saenz of Kingsville, 8 lbs. 15 ozs. / 3rd: Richard Gidrey of Corpus Christ, 8 lbs. 12 ozs. / 4th: Eric Popejoy of Corpus Christ, 8 lbs. 12 ozs.

Offshore Division

Kingfish: 1st: Chris Jacobs of Sweeney, 55 lbs. 7 ozs. / 2nd: Paul Gamino of Angleton, 52 lbs. 2 ozs. / 3rd: Brett Kainer of Corpus Christi, 51 lbs. 5 ozs. / 4th: Jason Connelly of Houston, 50 lbs. 15 ozs.

Dorado: 1st: Sheri Jackson of Corpus Christ, 49 lbs. 12 ozs. / 2nd: Timothy Fluit of Katy, 37 lbs. 3 ozs. / 3rd: Temi Osborne of Corpus Christi, 37 lbs. 3 ozs. / 4th: Marlin Johnson of Aransas Pass, 35 lbs. 15 ozs.

Ling: 1st: Kyle Holmes of Hitchcock, 73 lbs. 6 ozs. / 2nd: Tony Baboolal of Seabrook, 72 lbs. 1 oz. / 3rd: Reese Conner of San Antonio, 62 lbs. 12 ozs. / 4th: James Marigliano of Dallas, 59 lbs. 6 ozs.

Inshore Division

Flounder: 1st: Lane Meyer of San Antonio, 7 lbs. 8 ozs. / 2nd: Wayne Polster of Palestine, 7 lbs. 4 ozs. / 3rd: Cody Erms of Arlington, 6 lbs. 12 ozs. / 4th: Robbie Garcia of Corpus Christi, 6 lbs. 6 ozs.

Sheepshead: 1st: Dung Anh Nguyen of Houston, 8 lbs. 3 ozs. / 2nd: Trent Lake of Bastrop, 7 lbs. 9 ozs. / 3rd: Gilberto Medina of Baytown, 7 lbs. 7 ozs. / 4th: Jorge Flores of Galveston, 7 lbs. 2 ozs.

Gafftop: 1st: Janette Darder of Beaumont, 6 lbs. 14 ozs. / 2nd: Cody Green of Etoile, 6 lbs. 13 ozs. / 3rd: Brant Graham of Sabine Pass, 6 lbs. 9 ozs. / 4th: John Riley of Dickinson, 6 lbs. 5 ozs.

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

Henry Ehler of Pearland was the lucky winner of the Coors Light "Early Bird" Grand Prize - Dargel 210 Skout, Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax motor and McClain Trailer.



Martha Fry of Tiki Island was the lucky winner of the Mercury 9.9 ELPT BF Pro Kicker motor.



2014 Coors Light Early Bird Drawing Winners - Every 2014 STAR entrant who registered prior to May 24th went into this special drawing. A total of 21 names were drawn and the lucky "Early Bird" winners are: **Dargel 210 Skout boat, Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax motor and McClain trailer:** Henry Ehler of Pearland; **Mercury 9.9 ELPT BF Pro Kicker motor:** Martha Fry of Tiki Island; **Three (3) All Star Reel & Abu Garcia Rod combos:** Brian Hodges of Houston; Robert Gilliam of Seguin; A.J. Percle of Richwood; **Thermo-Electric Travel Cooler:** Gary Weeks of Lake Jackson; **Fifteen (15) CCA "Special Edition" Posters:** 1. Coleton Davis of Edna; 2. Stephen Jankevicius of League City; 3. Chris Daleo of Sour Lake; 4. Derek Moody of Bee Cave; 5. Zarion Clements of Pasadena; 6. James Murray of San Antonio; 7. Richard Rowe of Corpus Christi; 8. Timothy Dement of Portland; 9. Michele Wehba of Seabrook; 10. Patrick Forister of San Antonio; 11. John Hinote of Orange; 12. Mason Moran of Dripping Springs; 13. Eric Menchaca of Port Lavaca; 14. Gary Konarik of El Campo; 15. Cullen Gillaspia of Katy.

New Tide Member Scholarship Drawing Winner - All "New Tide" Members (ages 6 - 17) were eligible for a bonus drawing that netted one lucky youth a \$20,000 college scholarship. The lucky winner was Hendrick Hundl, age 11, of El Campo.

Kelly Gratzner of KTRK-abc 13 with New Tide \$20K Scholarship winner, **Hendrick Hundl**.



Member Bonus Drawing Winner - Explorer by Dargel 210TV with a Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax outboard and McClain trailer.

Becky Parker of El Campo was the lucky winner of the Member Bonus - Explorer by Dargel 210TV with a Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax outboard and McClain trailer.



2014 Berkley Gulp/Abu Garcia Revo Reel Challenge "Use Gulp and Win!" Winners - To qualify for prize package, STAR anglers had to 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. The lucky winners are: Nathan Skrobarczyk of Corpus Christi; Morgan Sellers of Rosharon; Della Fournet of Orange; Rylan Basco of League City; Dylan Wong of Pearland; Colton Carner of Santa Fe; John Flentge of Bellville; Timothy Skrobarczyk of Corpus Christi; Ian Wells of Kemah; Nathan Ancira of Seabrook; Kenneth Schupp of Lake Jackson; Jason Connelly of Houston; Lance Meyer of San Antonio; Brant Graham of Sabine Pass; Mark Richner of Temple; John Riley of El Lago.

2015 STAR NEWS! The STAR 2015 is set to begin at sunrise Saturday, May 23 and will run through 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 7 (**Labor Day**). In order to win at STAR, an angler must be registered and be a member of CCA. You're going to get in anyway, might as well do it now! Remember, everyone entered in the STAR Tournament, who will be 6 years old in 2015 and older, is eligible to win the prizes being offered (even the TAGGED REDFISH DIVISION)!!!

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 2015 CCA Texas STAR participants are now 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 desktop. 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. If you still wish to receive *Texas Fish & Game* in print magazine form, no problem... a special STAR angler price of \$8 bucks a year (vs. \$17.99/year) is still available, plus access to the digital version at no extra cost! Please be advised your subscription WILL NOT be sent automatically. If you wish to take advantage of this special bonus you must declare it when registering for the tournament. If you have already signed up for the 2015 STAR, but did not declare that you would like this special offer and/or you have questions regarding your past or current subscription, please call (713) 626-4222 or email star@ccatexas.org.



2015 EARLY BIRD DRAWINGS! Don't forget, by signing up now you'll get your shot at landing one of the many great prize offerings just for registering early! Be on the lookout for special "Early Bird" prizes available ONLY for those entrants who sign up before the tournament kicks off. Everyone who signs up for STAR by May 22, 2015 deadline will be automatically entered into the special Early Bird Drawings. Several prizes will be given away! They are sure to be a reel catch. The 2015 STAR entry fee is \$20 for ages 18 and up - an awesome bargain! Membership fee is \$25 annually and an additional \$20 to enter the 2015 STAR Tournament for a total of \$45. For kids age 6-17, "New Tide" membership fee remains \$10 annually and the STAR entry fee is "FREE"! Each "New Tide" member MUST sign-up each year for the current year tournament.

— STAR CONTINUES ON PAGE 6

—STAR continued from page 5

You can sign up NOW online at www.startournament.org!!!

LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA? Register family and friends, *of all ages* for a CCA Texas membership and 2015 STAR entry. This **Christmas gift** might put your loved ones in a new truck/boat combo or pay for their college education! Get everyone signed up for the **2015 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 V – We're excited about the new 2015 CCA Texas STAR Platinum Print package. Renowned artist David Drinkard has created yet another fine print to honor CCA Texas members... stay tuned for more details! Package includes your CCA membership (new or renewal), your 2015 CCA Texas STAR entry, plus a signed, limited-edition print created exclusively for STAR, all for \$125! This one-of-a-kind print is 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 & IV – STAR Reds, STAR Sightings, School Is In Session and Working the Spoils 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 five 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.

DESERVING SPECIAL ATTENTION: In the Spirit of the Season, we give grateful thanks to all CCA members for remembering that STAR sponsors make this giant event possible. Since we don't make a dime on STAR, your continued patronage of the products and services of these fine partners empowers their immense generosity to support the mission we all care about... kids, education, marine resources, and family fishing fun. We thank God for our blessed members and friends and wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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, Haynie Boats, Shoalwater Boats, Hoffpauir Auto & Outdoor Stores, 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.**

For more information, including a list of all the 2014 winners, go to <http://www.startournament.org>. Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!!!

STAR has reached \$5,235,000 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.

Abandoned Crab Trap Closure will begin on February 20 and run 10 days, through March 1.

By the time this Currents reaches your mailbox, full details should be complete and posted on the website of www.tpwd.texas.us. You can also email crabtrap@tpwd.state.tx.us for any questions.

Thanks again for the CCA's involvement. We look forward to working with you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. —**Art Morris**
Fishery Outreach Specialist
Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.
crabtrap@tpwd.texas.gov and
art.morris@tpwd.texas.gov and
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

Louisiana to join Texas in Crab Trap Cleanup

The Sabine Lake crab trap closure is scheduled to begin at 6 a.m. February 20, 2015 through 6 a.m. March 1, 2015 and also includes portions of the Sabine River and other parts of Cameron Parish immediately east of Sabine Lake.—**Martin Bourgeois** Marine Fisheries Biologist <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/news/38443>

Cedar Bayou maintenance fund receives \$1M grant, thanks to the Sid W. Richardson Foundation

The Sid W. Richardson Foundation has made a \$1 million grant to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation for the maintenance of Cedar Bayou in Aransas County, Texas. Mr. Pete Geren, the Richardson Foundation's president and chief executive officer, presented a ceremonial check on Monday, Oct. 13, 2014, for \$1 million, made payable to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, to Aransas County Judge C.H. "Burt" Mills, Jr. and Jay Kleberg, associate director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, during the Aransas County Commissioners' meeting in Rockport, Texas.

Through the efforts of a public-private partnership led by the Aransas County judge and county commissioners, Cedar Bayou was reopened to the Gulf of Mexico on September 25, 2014, reconnecting Aransas and Mesquite Bays and Vinson Slough to the gulf. The flows through Cedar Bayou will improve the

quality of the bay system and enhance the habitat for bird and marine life, and the quality of life for residents and visitors.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation will allocate the funds to Aransas County, which will oversee the maintenance of Cedar Bayou. Geren also recognized Coastal Conservation Association Texas, Save Cedar Bayou, Inc. and numerous private donors that joined with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas General Land Office and Aransas County in providing the funds necessary to com-

plete this historic \$9.4 million conservation initiative.

On hand for the presentation were Betty Stiles, Aransas County Commissioner; John Blaha, assistant director, Corpus Christi Chapter, Coastal Conservation Association Texas; Jack Chaney, Aransas County Commissioner; Mark Ray, chair, Coastal Conservation Association Texas; Jay Kleberg, associate director, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation; Aransas County Judge C. H. "Burt" Mills; Pete Geren, president and CEO, Sid W. Richardson Foundation; Leslie Casterline, Aransas County Commissioner; and Charles Smith, Aransas County Commissioner. 🐠

Photo by Diane Loyd



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

Editor, Sam Caldwell / sam@samcaldwell.com
This is the issue of December 2014 / January 2015
Vol. 33, Issue 1

Welcome to the CCA Texas Online Auction

Sponsored by Costa Del Mar

*We have some great merchandise up
for grabs this month!*

*Available online 11 am,
Dec. 8 till 11 am, Dec. 15.*

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

*Good luck!—Brian Weaver,
Banquet Assistant, CCA Texas*

CCA Texas Trophy Cooler

Just in time for deer season. Be one of the lucky few who own this CCA Texas Trophy Cooler. The



cooler is designed to keep your trophy deer on ice until you can make it to your favorite taxidermist. It features a mold to keep the head in place with the horns sticking out of the top, a must have for any big time deer hunters this season.

Redfish Coat Hanger

Our redfish coat hanger would be the perfect addition to any home during the



colder winter months, to add a bit of art and functionality. It can also serve as a key holder for you and your family when the winter coats are put away.

*Sponsored by our
friends at Costa.*



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.

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@cca.texas.org



Cold-stunned sea turtle advisory

*If you find a sea turtle in these upcoming
cold months, please contact
Padre Island NS*

*Division of Sea Turtle Science & Recovery
at 361-949-8173, ext. 226.*

During recent years, thousands of juvenile green sea turtles have been documented "cold stunned" in Texas inshore waters. Sea turtles cannot regulate their body temperature and at water temperatures below 50 degrees become immobilized. If you find any sea turtles floating or washed ashore (alive or dead), please report it immediately by calling 361-949-8173, ext. 226. For further information, visit our Facebook page at: Padre Island NS Division of Sea Turtle Science & Recovery or www.facebook.com/nps.pais.seaturtles



*Pamela Parsons
helped rescue a number of sea turtles in
the 2012 deep freeze.*

Great Foods / Editor Ellen Ohmstede Oyster Artichoke Bisque

INGREDIENTS: ½ cup butter / 1 cup chopped onion / 1 cup chopped celery / ½ cup chopped Tasso ham or chopped bacon
2 shallots minced / ½ t black pepper
½ t nutmeg / 2 t Old Bay Seasoning
¼ cup flour / 2 cups milk / 1 cup heavy cream
1 cup chicken stock / 1 cup oyster liquor / 1-2 T Worcestershire
1 qt oysters / 2 cans artichoke bottoms chopped
¼ cup dry sherry optional

PREPARATION:
Melt butter in large stock pot; add tasso/bacon and cook through. Over medium heat add onion, celery, shallots and

sauté until tender 8-10 minutes. Add Old Bay, nutmeg, pepper. Whisk in flour and stir constantly until all ingredients are combined for 3-4 minutes. Gradually add chicken broth and oyster liquor, mixing well. Add Worcestershire and artichokes and simmer a few minutes. Turn down heat; add milk and cream and continue stirring being careful not to scorch. Add oysters and sherry; simmer a few more minutes until oysters have slightly curled and are heated though. Garnish with fresh chopped parsley. 🍴



Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR TEXAS MARINE HABITAT

--Continued from page 2

through the summer and the weather seemed to cooperate with the exception of a few weeks of high winds.

The construction equipment took a beating, but RLB and their support crews stayed on top of things to ensure the timeline remained intact. By mid August the connection between Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough was made and the final dredging and excavation in Vinson continued. At this point, excavation for the final stretch of Cedar Bayou began. The end was near and the anticipation of completion began to grow for not only the residents of Aransas County and CCA Texas members but for the entire Texas fishing community.

"The opening of Cedar Bayou is a project that I have been working on for the past 8 years. It has historically been an ephemeral channel, which means it has been intermittently open and closed depending on the weather conditions. Since sand was placed in Vinson Slough, the channel was unable to re-open during optimal weather conditions. This also caused a continual accumulation of windblown sand within the inlet's natural path," commented Coast & Harbor Project Engineer Matt Campbell. Campbell continued, "We realized early on in our analysis how important it was to re-establish the connection with Vinson Slough, because it would help provide sufficient flushing within the inlet that is needed to maintain the hydraulic connection between the Gulf of Mexico and Mesquite Bay."

In the final month and a half of the project, the Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough area began to come alive once again with baitfish, shore birds and predator fish. Each trip to the job site was met with stories of increased fish and game activity in the area and the feeling that the end was near. September 25, 2014 is a day that will be etched

in the memory of many as the day that Mesquite, Aransas and surrounding bays and the area marsh came to life once again.

"Cedar Bayou is one of those great projects that have benefits on so many levels. Not only will it help the ecosystem in the surrounding bays, but will strengthen our fisheries, waterfowl and whooping cranes, while providing a world class fishing destination for all Texas anglers to enjoy," CCA Texas Executive Director Robby Byers commented. Byers continued, "This is truly a fantastic project for the Texas coast and CCA Texas looks forward to seeing the benefits it presents to the area ecosystem as well as the local communities and fishermen."

Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough have been open for over a month as this Currents is mailed, and the results of the opening have been amazing. The path of the two water ways seems to change daily and a strong flow of water continues to be present both incoming and outgoing as the tides and weather dictate. The Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation at Harte Research Institute started their formal post construction surveys in late October and the staff is finding an abundance of redfish larvae in the monitoring areas within Cedar Bayou and the surrounding areas. The prior two years of monitoring found no larvae in these areas before the opening. This finding alone is monumental and speaks volumes to the value of this natural pass when open and functioning. Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough and the surrounding bays are alive once again. 🐟



Red Drum larvae found in Cedar Bayou

Evidence of New Life Found Shortly After Opening of Historic Pass

Researchers and students with the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation were out only a few days after Cedar Bayou had been opened to do some preliminary sampling assessments. They were pleasantly surprised to already find a high abundance of very young and newly recruited red drum to the area.

While the post-studies are just in the beginning phase, this is certainly a very positive sign of the impact the Bayou will have. In stark contrast, the pre-studies in this immediate area over the prior two year period showed an absence of these fish when the inlet was closed even after intensive sampling. Now, only days after opening, it appears that the young larvae and early juveniles of spawning redfish and small fish about the size of a pinky nail in the Gulf have already found their way through the inlet to access the lush nursery habitats in the region.

This is a remarkable finding, given that we are just beginning to enter the spawning phase for red drum. Things should only get better as the peak of spawning season begins. 🐟

Photo by James Kay



Catch Cedar Bayou in photos and video!

We have a Cedar Bayou section on the website, mentioned in the social media column. It tracks the progress of the entire project with weekly updates, photos, and videos:

www.ccatexas.org/cedar-bayou

Also, the two videos we created on Cedar Bayou can be found here:

www.ccatexas.org/project-videos

To view them directly off YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFfag7ZMr0M>

(Opening Day, 9/25/2014)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oatAe3ekFhA>

(Check Presentation, 5/21/2014)

Visit the CCA
Texas Online
Store and check
out our newest
products!
[joincca
store.com](http://joincca.store.com)

Report from TP&W Game Wardens

Caught Redhanded!



On April 1, 2011, Galveston County Game Warden Bobby Kana received an Operation Game Thief (OGT) call advising him that three individuals at the South Jetties in Galveston were in possession of 30 bull red fish. Warden Kana notified Wardens Vu Nguyen and Mack Chambers of the violations and requested their assistance in locating the violators.

While in route to the South Jetty, Warden Kana made contact with the complainant who advised him that the three individuals had loaded into a grey pickup truck and were leaving the area. Warden Nguyen contacted the Galveston PD and advised them of the violations and vehicle description. Within minutes, Galveston PD responded that they had the vehicle stopped. Wardens Kana, Nguyen and Chambers arrived



at the location and found a pile of red drum in the back of the vehicle. The three individuals were transported to the local JP where a total of \$13,500 in fines was assessed. The violators were in possession of 29 red fish, of which 28 were bull reds, one black drum and one Jack crevalle.


During Memorial Day Weekend, 2014, a vessel was contacted to do a water safety inspection. When finished with the inspection, Game Wardens asked the occupants if they had been fishing and they responded, "No." The Game Wardens inspected the coolers on the boat and noticed a few slot red drums were visible.

Upon further investigation of the cooler, a plastic bag full of slot red drum was pulled out, totaling 23 red drum.

The Wardens then escorted the vessel to their dock for further investigation.

While investigating the vessel, 10 more red drum were discovered in a hidden compartment under the deck.

The four individuals on board the vessel were in possession of 33 red drum, ranging in size from 19.5 in to 27 in. Citations were issued totaling

\$2,400 dollars in fines and \$7,707 dollars in civil restitution. 

Currents Editorial Policy is No "Dead Fish" Pictures. However, these images show that the problems faced by TP&W Game Wardens continue all along the coast.

CCA Plates for Projects



You've seen our CCA Texas License plates driving the roads of Texas. We would like to ask all of our 70,000 Texas driving members to consider ordering their own plate today. For just \$30 you can have this fantastic-looking plate, and CCA will receive \$22 to be used for our Habitat projects.

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

If just half of our members drive with our CCA plates, it will generate almost \$800,000 each year to fund future Habitat projects. Now that is driving for a cause.

Please support us and order your plate today!





Upper Coast

By Capt. Ralph Frazier

A cold winter? Adjust.

All the predictions for the end of 2014 and the beginning of 2015 are that it's going to be an extremely cold winter. If that's true, we are going to have to start thinking more about deep water channel fishing which is not done very often in our area.

Learning how to fish drop-offs can be extremely challenging but also very rewarding. Lucky for us, the invention of all the new electronics should make it easier to zero in on the depth the fish are at. Side scan and remote control troll motors with GPS technology are taking a lot of the guesswork out of fishing. Still, the most critical part of deep water fishing is finding the exact depth. As all the bass guys know, suspended fish are the hardest to catch.

Always count your line down and make sure you pay close attention to exactly what you were doing when you got the strike as presentation is always the most important part of filling the ice chest. If you are not lucky enough to have all the high tech stuff, turn your depth finder so that you can see it while running your troll motor to stay on the drop-offs. Making sure to have proper clothing "layered" can sometimes be the key to catching more fish, as it's a lot easier to concentrate when you're not freezing. Good Fishing—**Capt. Ralph Frazier** 281-337-0321 Ralph2fish@aol.com

Middle Coast

By Capt. Jay Watkins

Gamefish respond to frontal passages

The winter months have long been my favorite times of the year to fish. Lower tides and cold water temperatures concentrate both trout and redfish along the Middle Texas Coast. We have a ton of shoreline drop-offs with deeper submerged grass beds, scattered areas of oyster shell. Locating the proper structure along with a food source is never more important than in the winter months when food can be scarce. Rockport area bay systems provide some really nice wind breaks during high wind situations, definitely an added attraction.

Recent rains and the opening of the Cedar Bayou and Vincent Slough area promises to improve salinity levels as well as add much needed tidal circulations, particularly in the Mesquite bay and Spaulding areas.

A special thanks to the CCA's John Blaha and Aransas County's Burt Mills for working to see that the pass was reopened.

Resident trout and redfish alike will be responding to frontal passages by moving up to the mouths of the drains and areas of grass or shell and waiting for falling water to pull bait fish to them. Patience, and paying close attention to your Solunar tables will increase your odds of scoring big. Bass Assassins in the 5" Shad and Die Dapper patterns and Corky's are my go-to lures. A 1/16th ounce jig head 99% of the time, preferring the slowest fall time that I can get during the winter months. I have found that Corky's with clear silver or gold sides and lighter colored backs work very well.

www.customcorky.com provides some really great color patterns. I hope your fishing adventure provides you and your family members great memories that will last a lifetime. May Your Fishing Always Be Catching—**Capt. Jay Watkins** 361-463-1074 www.jaywatkins.com

Lower Coast

Capt. Bill Sheka

Colder? Slower, deeper, bird action

In December, the extreme high tides that scattered fish and shrimp will be back to normal, so for a quick fix on gamefish location we'll be watching bird action. And, we'll be back to occasional winds. That can be good, since it brings the gamefish up under the birds, and may mean fewer human competitors.

Colder water, so slow down that retrieve, and start deeper. On those warm stretches of December, wadefishers will work shallower areas, but slowwwwly. When the fronts move in as the month moves on, look for the deeper areas on your chart. Consider working the Land Cut area, which can be a lot of fun and productive to boot, with sight casting a possibility in clearer water. Incidentally, the large number of black drum in that area seem to be back to health.

Be careful around the rocks in Baffin, but try the old Alameda Rattler, with live bait or Gulp! In fact, Gulp! is like that credit card ad: I never leave port without it. I like light baits, 1/8 oz, up to 3/8 depending on conditions. And, slowwww.

Of course, January fishing can be similar, but even colder and windier. Remember that conditions change fast, so know before you go and go prepared. It's important to leave plenty of room for your fellow fishers—this resource is all ours.

It's also important to remember our families this special time of the year. I wish you a Merry Christmas, and may God Bless!

—**Capt. Bill Sheka** 361-991-7191
billsheka@msn.com www.billsheka.com

Old salts on the Texas coast know Capt. Bill as a knowledgeable guide concerned for the resource, and appreciate his military service.

Great Action Photo by Chase Stanzel. Stanzel has gone from massive tarpon in the surf to shin-deep redfish in the back bay.



CCA Texas Social Happenings

The exciting news of late is that Cedar Bayou is officially open! We have a great video of the opening event from September 25, 2014 on the CCA Texas Project Videos page, which can be viewed at www.ccatexas.org/project-videos/! Curious about everything that went into the opening of Cedar Bayou? We posted weekly updates, so check <http://www.ccatexas.org/cedar-bayou> for all the info!

Thank you to everyone who has joined in on the CCA Texas online discussion through our various social media platforms. Your interest, engagement, and continued support helps spread 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

Chris Turner's son Jake caught this 4+ pound flounder in Trinity Bay. Great catch Jake!

Twitter

@SportfishCenter: CSSC Director Greg Stunz took his fisheries class to Cedar Bayou to study estuarine ecology & tidal inlets @CCA_Texas

Instagram

Today is the day! Cedar Bayou has officially opened, and it couldn't have happened without YOU! A giant thank you to our generous and dedicated members and partners who made the restoration of this iconic pass a reality!

CCA Texas on Facebook: [facebook.com/CCATexas](https://www.facebook.com/CCATexas)

CCA Texas on Twitter: twitter.com/CCA_Texas

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



Chapter Updates

Alvin-Pearland

Emery Sadler 713-501-2778

Hello All. 2014 has been a great year for the Alvin Pearland Chapter! We have had a great line-up of speakers for our "Angler's Night Out" events, we had another successful Fundraising Banquet, and our Chapter Membership continues to grow. Much thanks goes out to our dedicated Chapter Board, Businesses, Guides, and Individuals who continue to support CCA and our Chapter. Without all of you, none of this would be possible!

We will not be having "Angler's Night Out" events for the rest of 2014. We are already working on our Chapter Schedule for 2015. **Our first "Angler's Night Out" is scheduled for Tuesday February 3rd.** We will be sending out the complete 2015 schedule as soon as dates have been confirmed.

We are looking forward to 2015 being another great year for the Alvin Pearland Chapter! If you have an interest in getting more involved with our chapter at the board level, please send an email to AlvinPearlandCCA@yahoo.com to find out how and what is involved.

Thanks again to all of you who have made our Chapter such a great success! We hope everyone has a Safe and Happy Holiday Season! Tight Lines To All! Chapter Board: If you know someone who would be interested in receiving Chapter Event information, sign them up by clicking the [Join Our Mailing List] box (Down below the Redfish) and entering their e-mail address. Or... just forward this e-mail to them and let them sign up themselves.—Emery Sadler

Aransas Bay

Carter Crigler 435-830-5984

jccrigler@hotmail.com
What a year! Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough Restoration Project was completed ahead of schedule and guess what, red drum larvae have been found in Cedar Bayou Channel. Come on down.

A big "Thank You" to every person and everyone associated with an organization or government entity involved in the successful completion of the project.

The chapter activities in 2014 cannot compete with the opening of Cedar Bayou but we had another great year. Activities for the year: Babes on the Bay XV was a big success, support for the Abounded Crab Trap Clean-Up program continued, a large contingent took part in the Billy Sandifer Big Shell Cleanup, winners of the ICC, Aransas Bay Chapter Banquet XV had the largest gross/net ever and supported the Fulton 4-5 Leaning Center in Rockport to conduct its annual 'Wetlands Field Trips', where every student caught a fish.

The 15th Babes on the Bay and Banquet were great success stories thanks to strong participation/attendance and exceptional support

*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**.*

from sponsors and donors and strong volunteer support for community activities. We are looking forward to a great 2015.

January 2015 is just around the corner and that signals the beginning of registration for **Babes on the Bay "Sweet Sixteen."** As for the last several years, online registration will be used exclusively to sign up for the tournament. Karol has been hard at work designing and selecting goodies for the swag bags. Tournament colors will be neon blue and neon pink. Look forward to some unique items to celebrate this 16th reunion! Please visit the website (www.babesonthebay.com) in early January and review the registration process to determine if you have any questions. If you have questions contact Karol Scardino, Tournament Director, at 361-386-0028.

Mark your calendars:

15-16 May 2015: Babes on the Bay

8 August 2014: Aransas Bay Chapter Banquet

We wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas with family and friends.

Tight lines —Carter



Austin's 21 Shallow Sport with countless options including a T-Top this year, on a Coastline Trailer.

Austin

Scott Sanderson

512-637-1750

scott@mbsquoteline.com

We owe a very special thanks to **Chef Gilmore and Jack Allen's Kitchen** for an unforgettable Anglers' Night Out in September. Over 200 CCAers joined us at his soon to be Westlake location for incredible food and an old fashioned tackle swap. Chef went over the top serving prime rib, shrimp and too much more to list. The night will go down in the ANO record books for sure.



COASTAL
CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION

TEXAS



Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

Academy[®]

SPORTS+OUTDOORS

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.



Selection and prices vary by store.

59⁹⁹
EVERYDAY!

CCA Deluxe Tackle Bag
• Includes 3 utility boxes



34⁹⁹
EVERYDAY!

CCA Tackle Bag
• Includes 2 utility boxes



39⁹⁹
EVERYDAY!

Zebco CCA Inshore 6' 6" Spincast Combo
Style CCA733C.20.NS3
• 11" EVA handle
• Two-piece design
• 90 yds./20 lbs.



ZEBCO

5⁴⁹
EVERYDAY!

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



CCA Utility Boxes
• Two sizes available
2⁹⁹-4⁹⁹ EVERYDAY!



39⁹⁹
EVERYDAY!

CCA Landing Net
Style CCA-TEL-400



reel in the BIG ONE



Prices good December 1, 2014 - January 31, 2015.

499⁹⁹
EVERYDAY! Heritage Angler
Sit-On-Top Fishing Kayak

- Three rod holders
- Adjustable foot pegs
- Paddle holder clip



119⁹⁹
EVERYDAY! No Limits
Redfish
Kayak Paddle
Style FSNOMC4012



THERE'S MORE
ONLINE



Visit academy.com/cca to shop our entire selection.

139⁹⁹
EVERYDAY! Abu Garcia
C3-5500 CCA
Baitcast Reel

Style C3-5500 CCA

- Gear ratio: 5.3:1
- Four ball bearings



shop academy.com | stay connected     

Capt Scott Sommerlate is up next at **Abel's on the Lake** in November and will talk fly fishing from Texas to Florida and beyond. We'll have a full report next issue. Come out to Austin's Anglers' Night Out events! They're FREE and FUN, you'll get a great meal compliments of **Smokey Denmark's**, and we give away tons of great prizes. Watch the website www.ccaaustin.org for what we'll have in store for the January ANO, and to keep up with all the Austin Chapter news.

We get calls all year wondering when we'll get our banquet boat and how to get tickets. Well, this is hot off the press, she has landed in Austin and tickets are on sale now! **Shallow Sport** did it again with a beautiful 21 Sport with countless options including a T-Top this year! **Coastline Trailers** again made sure she travels safely atop an eye-popping Coastline Custom trailer. Go to www.ccaaustin.org for info about tickets or contact **Blake Masters** at blakeatc@gmail.com But don't wait! These sell out early every year.

If you want to keep up with our fun and active chapter, but aren't getting Austin communications, call the CCA Texas office at 713-626-4222 and ask them to put you on the Austin mailing list. **Save the Date- May 7th, 2015-and join us for Austin's 34th Annual Banquet.** Watch www.ccaaustin.org for tickets and all the information you need on the absolute best event in Austin.

Be sure to Friend us on Facebook by searching Coastal Conservation Association Austin Chapter. It's a great way to keep up with everything going on in the Austin Chapter and make sure you don't miss a thing. Best wishes for the happiest of holidays from the CCA Austin Chapter! —**Scott Sanderson** 512-637-1750 scott@mbsquoteline.com

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

We had a great time at our Fall Club fishing trip to Matagorda. It was a perfectly timed event with the weather and fish cooperating well. We would like to thank the Fish Jump Inn for the great accommodations again. Their house will sleep 10 people and have two big tv's for the fishermen to watch football when they can't catch fish.

It is not too early to start making plans for the Brazos Valley CCA Banquet on March 12. The 10 item raffle tickets are printed for the January 13th meeting. We will be having a general meeting at C.J. Barbeque and will have a speaker. All the people in the Brazos Valley that are CCA members and receive this Currents need to be at this meeting.

As always there will be food, beverages, and plenty of fish stories. Give me a call, text, or email if you need more information. Have a wonderful Christmas and a Great New Year. Hope to see ya there. —**jb**

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

The Brenham Chapter held their last general meeting on October 23rd. **Michael Bosse** gave a very enlightening presentation on catching flounder in the Galveston Bay area. The next general meeting for the Brenham Chapter will be January 22, 2015. We hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday season. Tight lines to all.

For more information about the Brenham Chapter, contact **Dennis Crowson** at dennis.crowson@hotmail.com or (979) 451-2472. Thanks—**Dennis**

Brush Country
Hank Henry 361-215-6803

Centex
Brad Hensel 254-776-3411

Wayne Webb – 254-405-1300 sheyhunt@aol.com

Central Houston
Todd Buster
Mobil, 713-545-1897

As noted in the Oct/Nov *Currents*, Central Houston had a fine year and an outstanding banquet. We're looking forward to 2015. Best wishes for many big fishes, —**Todd Buster**

Colorado Valley
James Loehr 979-250-3958

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our donors, sponsors, table buyers and our general membership for contributing to what was a record year for our chapter.

Colorado Valley Chapter is gearing up for 2015. We have started planning for what promises to be a great event. **We are scheduled for Thursday March 26th at the KC Hall in La Grange.** We will have a fantastic raffle package and some new and exciting auction items. If you are interested in helping with our event please contact any one of our board members. Our chapter wishes you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you on the water! —**James Loehr**

Corpus Christi
Jay Gardner 361-658-7159
jaygardner@scientist.com

—Poco Rojo pix
Greetings from Corpus Christi! We have just finished our Fall events, the Guides Cup, Poco Rojo Kidfish event, and of course the Babes on Baffin Ladies fishing tournament. All events went well and had large turnouts. **We are now taking a short breather before we get ramped up for our 2015 banquet, which will be held early this year on February 26th at the American Bank Center.**

We will have a kick-off meeting in December to get the ball rolling. We welcome Nyati Services back as our hat sponsor again this year, thanks.

Banquet Chairman Cody Roesener has been filling positions and getting the ball rolling, however we could always use more help. Contact him at cbroutfitters@yahoo.com or myself to learn how to become a sponsor for the banquet or to get involved. In addition, Boat Chairman Joseph Briones and crew are already selling tickets for our Bull Red Raffle, a Majek Illusion Boat in front of Academy most weekends. Please drop by and purchase a ticket and say hello. As you know, funds that we raise go to great projects such as the recent opening of Cedar Bayou, which has already shown an increase in redfish larvae into the bay system.

Awesome! Please help us support these projects. We at the CCA-CC Chapter wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry

Christmas! —**Jay Gardner** Environmental Scientist / Naismith Engineering, Inc. jgardner@naismith-engineering.com

Dallas / North Texas
Welcome new president, Hal Thomas
972-612-1684

The Dallas Chapter welcomed **John Blaha** to a gathering at Tail Waters on McKinney Avenue in October. John presented a fantastic information update regarding CCA projects including the great news about Opening Cedar Bayou. The photos are great and clearly show the current flow and circulation in Cedar Bayou.

John and Drew explained to the audience how local dollars from Dallas and other Chapters are impacting our fisheries and communities. We enjoyed bratwurst and refreshments, fellowship with friends and with your donations raised over \$600 for CCA. Thank you to all who attended.

Our next event is being hosted by **Marine Max located at Pier 121 in Lewisville.** By the time this is published, the event will have concluded. With anticipation I am sure we will have had a great time. Frank invited manufacturers known to be supportive of CCA to attend and share tips regarding product developments, techniques for getting the most from the equipment we use while fishing and teased us with shiny new boats and gear. The Dallas team has also invited all of our prior banquet sponsors to attend, invite friends and bring products to demonstrate as well. Based on the planning thus far, the food, refreshments and fellowship with fellow anglers should be great.

This event is our last event for 2014 and we plan to make it our annual Fall Membership Drive event. The purpose is to present sponsorships, table sales and individual ticket sales for our April Banquet. We also plan to use this event to introduce our friends and associates to the benefits of becoming a CCA member.

We plan to presale our April Banquet which will be held at the Frontiers of Flight Museum on April 16, 2015. Additional Chapter meetings are planned for January, February and March. Sponsorships, enhanced table sales reservations, and individual tickets are now available from any of the Dallas team or by contacting CCA or by attending any of the remaining Chapter meetings.

As the holidays approach, our wish is for everyone to experience a joyous season, family health and happiness and of course Tight Lines. —**Hal Thomas 972-768-3521**

East Texas
Dr. Jim Norman 936-554-3165

jnorman7@suddenlink.net

Fort Bend
Robb Gaston 281-239-9755

Greetings all. The tables are filled with food and the bedrooms are filled with family. It is the time of year for family, fellowship, and like always fishing. Some say winter fishing is slow at times, but I'd rather be on the water than in the office. Our group of guys got a chance to go fish in some



Coastal Conservation Association Corpus Christi Chapter at Twpd Hatchery: Poco Rojo Update... CCA Corpus Christi Chapter would like to recognize Ms. Brooklyn Wall. At the Annual Poco Rojo Kids Fish, we overlooked the fact that Brooklyn caught and landed the largest redfish. This oversight kept Brooklyn from being presented 1st prize in the presence of her fellow competitors, and not given the chance to tell the story behind the fish. Brooklyn, we apologize for the oversight. Here is our first place winner, her fish and her new spinning rod combo. Brooklyn and her sister have fished the event three years now, and she promises to be back again next year. Congratulations Brooklyn, well done young lady, well done.

Cajun water last month, and let me tell you it was a blast. We stayed in Hackberry and fished four hard days in Lake Calcasieu. It was a blast to fish in some new water and see how our neighbors fished.

GOOD NEWS! Our 2015 Fort Bend CCA boat has been built and is now getting a wrap put on it. Contact any member to get a ticket. We are selling 1000 tickets this year. If you don't know a member, feel free to call me or request a ticket at www.facebook.com/fortbendfishermen. Our banquet will be held April 23, 2015 at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds. All information can be found at our Facebook page. Until next time, — Robb

Fort Worth

Welcome new president, Hunter Baird 817-437-8351

Your Fort Worth Chapter held its annual fall General Membership meeting on October 30th at Rahr Brewery with record setting attendance. The weather was perfect as the board prepared a fish fry and the bar backs poured refreshing locally made brew. Thank you to all who were able to make it out. Two lucky guests went home with raffle prizes! **Our annual banquet is set for Joe T Garcias on April 30th.** We are really looking forward to next year's banquet as we are working to revamp things and throw in a few changes.

Recent changes to the board: Hunter Baird elected as the new President, Andrew Seward as treasurer and Bradley Wallace as the new VP. Congratulate Hunter, Andrew and Bradley the next time you see them. Thanks to Fearn Mastin for the many years he served as chapter president. —John Black

Galveston

Dr. Ken Ellis 713-962-7731

The Galveston Chapter hosted our fall membership meeting at M & M Bar and Grill in Galveston on October 29th. We had a great turn out with standing room only. Anja Borski with Galveston Bay Foundation was on hand and gave us an entertaining and informative report of the health of our bay system. We raffled off a rod and reel and gave away a few door prizes.

M & M Provided some fantastic appetizers for our group. A special thanks to those who came out and participated with us. We hope that our members enjoy these programs. We want to keep everyone informed on events, programs and projects happening in the Galveston Bay Complex. We are looking forward to a super 2015 and have already started planning what we hope will be another incredible year for the Galveston chapter.

If you are interested in participating with us, please reach out to any of our board members or call me directly. We wish all of our members a fantastic holiday season. Be Safe and Merry and enjoy some family time on the water. Tight Lines—Dr. Ken Ellis

Golden Triangle

Welcome new president Trey Browne 409-338-0803 tbrowne@ocbm-tx.com

Greater Sugar Land

Weems Turner 713-857-8897 wturner@ducommun.com



Cedar Bayou meets the Gulf of Mexico, with applause for many months of hard work by hundreds of dedicated Texans.

At our October meeting Fred Howard provided pictures and a narrative of the opening of Cedar Bayou and Vinson's Slough. It was very impressive to witness the investment CCA has made in improving this area for all sportsmen.

Sam Caldwell was our October speaker and he presented a video documenting the formation of GCCA and its transformation into CCA. Sam kept us laughing as he presented many of his humorous experiences. Sam also provided two water color art prints that we will give away at future meetings.

We held our Greater Sugar Land CCA President's Cup fishing tournament in October at Sargent, TX. Bradley Kveton won the President's Cup with a stringer of redfish, trout and flounder that had a combined weight of 10.3 lbs. Tanya Dannhaus was second with a stringer weight of 8.3 lbs. Bradley also won first place trout at 1.95 lbs and Guy Sullivan took second place trout with 1.55 lbs. Buford Jurica took first place redfish at 6.2 lbs and Pam Canavan took second place with 5.75 lbs. Chris Hall took first place flounder at 3.0 lbs, and Steve Meyer took second place with 2.7 lbs. Both donated their prizes to our Kid's Fish program, so Tanya was awarded a prize for her 1.5 lb flounder.

All participants and guests enjoyed the good weather and fishing. We owe a big thank you to David and Judy Kveton who provided their home in Sargent as tournament headquarters. The biggest winner from this tournament was our Kid's Fish program which received almost \$600.

Robby Byers will be our speaker at our Thursday, November 6 meeting at Quail Valley City Center, 2880 La Quinta Drive, Missouri City, TX 77459.

Our banquet will be April 9, 2015 at Stafford Centre at 10505 Cash Rd. at the intersection of Murphy Rd. and Cash Rd. in Stafford, TX. Join us and support CCA.

Future meetings will be the 1st Wednesday of each month 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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! This will be the last *Currents* article of the 2014 Year and 1st of the 2015 Year. The CCA TX GWC welcomes new officers for the 2015 year, Thanks for stepping up and taking on new responsibilities. We would like to say Thank You to our 2014 sponsors and look forward to seeing you in 2015. Dyna-Therm Corporation, Royal Purple Synthetic Oil, Texcraft Construction, Anadarko, VCC, Polar Rig Specialties, Total Depth Supply, Praxair, Nautic Group, Kinder Morgan, Gullo Ford, BMW of The Woodlands, Capital Farm Credit, Jeff Burton Insurance, SEC, CDM Resource Management,

Mustang CAT, Kneipp Properties and Russell Polygraph Service.

We had great providers & suppliers that assisted in the success of our banquet and chapter for 2014. We also would like to acknowledge and Thank them as well.

Academy, Silver Eagle Distributor, The Grand Palace, Papa's Ice House of Spring, Clints Kuntry Katfish Catering, Ink Flamingo, Wright's Printing & Marketing and Gone Coastal Jewelry. 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

We held our 12th Annual Heart of the Hills Banquet at the Boerne Community Center on September 11th and everyone had a great evening. Special thanks to our Bull Red Sponsors - **Academy Sports and Outdoors, Jennings Anderson Ford, Boerne Marine** and our Trophy Trout Sponsor - **JN Ranch.**

Cajun Country Cookers did a great job boiling the shrimp and thanks goes out to **Keg 1 O'Neal** for donating Miller Lite, Coors Light and Lone Star! **Pedernales Brewing in Fredericksburg** was actively involved in our success as well - thanks **Hereford family!** Donations also came from **Bear Arms and Full Service Auto Parts.**

We appreciate everyone's involvement in the raffles and auctions and noticed **Boerne Marine's** staff and customers were eager to support conservation efforts. This event would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteers - **Tom Wayland, Rodeana Reynolds and family, Darrell Steubing, Mike Saur and Kathy Simmons** to name a few. See you again next year! —Jim Simmons 210-380-5709

Hill Country

Darlene Cook 800-594-2056 ext 217

Houston Real Estate

Dale Couch 281-953-2510

Our banquet is fast coming upon us. Tuesday Feb. 10 is the day. Once again a great event is anticipated with great food and great folks. Thanks to **Bruce Grover** for his donation this year as well as **Peter Houghton** of Bridgeland's, **Ken Kapelka** of Firemark Insurance, and **Jim MacIntyre** of Central Bank. —Dale Couch

Katy

Clint Hilton 713-515-3991

The Katy Chapter put a wrap on 2014, and what a year it was! The Katy group strung up another banner year; exceeding all other banquets in both dollars raised and attendance, hosting larger meetings than ever, hosting great speakers, having fantastic donors and buyer, and having more involvement from Board members than ever before! Without all those ingredients, our success would be very limited. I personally thank everyone who helped our Chapter and CCA Texas this year. Years like 2014 make me look forward to the next!

We ended our year by hosting **Chickenboy of Chickenboy Lures**. Chickenboy is perhaps the GLOBAL LEADER in flounder catching knowledge, and he was gracious enough to be "open book" to the Katy crew on the hows and wheres. If you aren't familiar with the life story of Chickenboy, you need to check his website www.chickenboylures.com.

Chickenboy was born half boy and half chicken. Obviously, he was confused about who he was and taking his father's advice, he focused on becoming the best at one thing. That one thing is catching flounder, and he amused us (that's putting it lightly) while sharing his knowledge and passion for the flat fish. It's no fluke (see what I did there) that Chickenboy catches the bottom dwellers frequently, and he gave us information, lures, underwear, shorts, stickers, and signs that prove he's the FLOUNDER KING.

Chickenboy was also gracious enough to donate a kayak to our chapter and we raffled it off after he spoke. There's no doubt Chickenboy is passionate about his fish, and he gave CCA huge kudos for our effort in keeping his fishery healthy and happy. It's always fun to host a great speaker, and makes our CCA efforts feel worthwhile when thanks is returned.

The Katy Chapter will come out of hibernation in January, and will host a speaker for our 2015 kickoff meeting. We always meet at **Red River BBQ on Mason road**, and are always looking for ways to improve. If you'd like to get involved, we hope to see you in January.

Until then - may your lures run true, guns shoot straight, Turkey brown nicely, and may your Christmas wishes come true. Have a safe holiday season. We'll see ya in January!—**Clint Hilton**

Laredo

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

Lee County

Jason Seale 979-412-0270
jason@basslerenergyservices.com

Live Oak

Brad Kotrla 979-732-1669

Lower Colorado

Tim Munos 979 332-2876

The Lower Colorado Chapter held its 6th Annual Fundraiser/Banquet Friday evening, August 15th, at the Bay City Civic Center. We had a wonderful turnout and want to say Thank You to the people of Bay City and surrounding Matagorda County for coming out and supporting our event. This was our best fundraiser yet. We are gearing up and planning for next year's banquet. We will most likely be offering a boat package again next year because of the great response and feedback we received from supporters this year.

This is a slack time of the year for us, with the Thanksgiving Season just behind us, and the Christmas Season coming up soon. It is a good time to take in some cold weather fishing, either locally, or make plans to check out some great areas to the south like Baffin Bay, or maybe, head for Louisiana. Whatever you do, have fun and stay safe doing it. So, from our chapter to you, tight lines, and enjoy the holidays. Welcome new secretary, **Clint Hewitt**. —**John Kubecka**, Past Secretary

Lower Laguna Madre

Oscar Garcia III 956-491-8148



The Mid-Coast boats. Our 18' Express boat will be at the Tackle Box: \$20.00 ticket. The big boat is \$100.00 a ticket.

Mainland

Eric Minor
281-534-6242

Matagorda Bays

Chad Hensley 979-543-2734

The Matagorda Bays Chapter has had a few changes in the executive board since the last report. A big thank you to our outgoing officers on a job well done. Past President **Linc Lutrick**, Vice President **Troy Prasek** and Treasure **Heath Radley** left the bar set high, just as the past officers of our chapter have done on their way out. I would like to welcome **Tyler Williams** as the new Vice President, and **Blake Barger** as the new Treasurer, and myself as Chapter President.

The Chapter had a great 2014 and we are looking forward to an even better 2015. I would also like to thank all our chapter members, and our continued support from our sponsors. For any information about the chapter feel free to contact me. —**Chad Hensley**



This fly-hungry speck, released by Joseph Sanderson, is headed your way.

MidCoast

David Jenkins 361-578-5580

All is good along the coast of Port O Connor Texas. Cedar Bayou and Vincent Slough are now open and it already seems that redfish have spawned in the area.

We had a successful **Speedy Stop Guides Cup Tournament** in October. Thanks goes out to all of the guides and fishermen/women for competing in our annual tournament. We had 21 guides and teams compete for our coveted trophy this year. **Captain Clint Anderson**, Team SPSB was the winning team with 15 lbs, 1 red fish, 3 trout. Team members were **Clifford Smith**, **Dusty Putnam**, **Jesse Smally**, and **Matt Barnhart**. They also won biggest red fish and trout.

Captain Clint Anderson was presented a beautiful men's watch from **Eichorn, Gonzales and Miller Fine Jewelers**. 2nd place Team Academy, Captain **Brad Graham**, 3rd place Team Whiskey Business, Captain **Ken Griffin**.

We now have our CCA Boats and are selling tickets for each one. Our main boat is a fully loaded **Majek Extreme** powered by a 250 Yamaha 4 Stroke. Thank you **Krestas Boats and Motors**!

Our second boat is an 18' Express, with a trolling motor and powered by a Yamaha 70 4 stroke. Thank you **Bernies Boats and Motors**! **These are two beautiful boats and tickets will be drawn for the lucky winners at our 2015 May 9th Banquet**. Tickets for the Majek are \$100 each, and only 1200 will be sold. Tickets for the Express are \$20 each.

Tickets are available at **The Tackle Box of Victoria and Victoria All Sports Center**, both in Victoria. I want to thank **Cliff Thomas**, **Speedy Stop Stores**, **Jimmie Burns**, **Waterloo Rods USA**, **Krestas Boats and Motors**, **Bernies Boats and Motors**, **Compadres Ink**, **Sign Crafters** and **Flatrock Compression** for their support of the CCA and our Mid Coast Chapter. —**David Jenkins** 361-578-5580 / 361-648-9185

Northeast Houston
Jason Law 713-898-8594

Northwest Houston
Alan Massey 281-414-6341

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

Port O'Connor
Bill Moore 361-983-4690

The 15th Annual POC CCA Banquet was held on October 18, and was a complete sellout before the doors opened. We apologize to those who showed up at the door to purchase tickets, but the facility will only accommodate so many.

The banquet was another success, with everyone enjoying the great weather, good food,

Port O'Connor, "Where It All Began," as Chapter President Bill Moore says, was another sellout. Fred Carr, a previous POC president, holds the event puppy, which apparently didn't like Carr's pink and blue ensemble. Below, San Antonio artist and Crab Trap Champion Liz Hewitt holds her stained glass art.



and good time enjoyed by all in attendance. It could not have been a success without the diligence and dedication of all board members, chapter members, volunteers, and donors. Special thanks to banquet chairman **Carl Ray** and **Jim Busby**, VP's **Mike Sharp** and **Dain Whitworth**, Treasurer **Ann Brownlee**, Secretary **Debbie Busby**, and Sergeant at Arms **Sonny Cook**.

Also, our outstanding board members **Ann Brownlee**, **Barbara Skalak**, **Candice Stryker**, **Carl and Pam Ray**, **Chris Smisek**, **Dain and Judy Whitworth**, **Donnie and Julia Klesel**, **Fred Carr**, **Jerry and Virginia Lichac**, **Jim and Debbie Busby**, **Jimmy and Barbara Crouch**, **Linnie and Steve Mashman**, **Lefty and Joanne Ward**, **Mike and Maxine Sharp**, **Monique Morlan**, **Pam Johnson**, **Patti Elkins** and **Suzie Onishi**.

Thanks to **Pam Johnson** for an outstanding job on the program and to **Liz Hewitt** for the program cover. To our Asst. CCA AD **Ellen Ohmstede** for her assistance and to **Sam Caldwell**, for again making another visit to assist.

Again our appreciation to a special group who help make our banquet a success, the donors that make possible all of the items, gifts and trips, you will be notified individually to say thank you. To all the table sponsors who will be listed in the next issue. To all of those folks that attended and helped make this banquet a success. We thank the local businesses who helped sell the tables and tickets: **Sonny's Marine**, **Coastal Boat Services**, **Coastal Bend Marine**, **Tigrett Real Estate**, and **Port O'Connor Rod and Gun**. So, come spend some of your holidays with us- visit some of these businesses and donors or just kickback- enter your boat in the boat parade in POC, "where it all began." —**Bill Moore**

Prairie
Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103

In the last issue of the Currents (October, November) part of the article was left out. On August 9, we had our annual Kids Fish at the **Wietstruck Farm**, the winners in the four age categories 1st 2nd and 3rd place were mentioned, but the awards were not mentioned. 1st place in all age groups got a handmade **Wahoo game board** made by **John and Norma Thompson**. 2nd and 3rd place winners in all age groups got a CCA logo rod.

In our April Banquet live auction we had the **Rockport Madness** trip up for bid. Winners of the trip this year were **Gerald Harwell**, **Michael Berry**, **Michael Hollman**, **Larry Hollman**, **Stanley Kollatschny**, **Kenneth Nelson** and **Don Domny**. On September 26th and 27th the Board members hosted the weekend with food, beverages and good fellowship. Friday night we served fajitas prepared by **Brian Wietstruck** and Saturday was a day of fishing thanks to **Scott Stastny** and **James Henderson** for being the guides. The weather was not the best (it rained all day) but they had a great time on the water. That night we served ribeye steak and boiled shrimp with all the trimmings. We all had an outstanding weekend. If interested in the **Rockport Madness** trip it will be on the **2015 Banquet in the April live auction**. We are working on a Christmas party between the holidays. Date will be mentioned at our November meeting. Thanks—**Ron Chess Sr. 979-992-3295**

Redfish Bay
Norman Oates 361-758-0266

Thanks to our donors, sponsors, Board, and volunteers, Redfish Bay Chapter has had a great year! Your Redfish Bay Chapter stays active in



the community and in conservation efforts. We had our annual Banquet, Beeville Fish Fry, and Take a Kid Fishing event.

We also participated in the Big Shell Beach Cleanup on the Padre Island National Seashore. We had a General Membership meeting on October 29 – thank you to **Jake Herring**, Director of Land Conservation for Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, and **John Blaha** of CCA Texas for speaking about joint conservation efforts and the opening of Cedar Bayou.

The Wetlands Field Trip for fifth graders in Rockport, as usual, was a success. **Martha McCloud** does a great job of organizing the week, and two classes attended each day. In every class, there are kids who have never caught a fish, but they are successful fisher-persons now. TPWD Game Wardens and CCA members, Redfish Bay Chapter and Aransas Bay Chapter, help the kid's fish. Like in our Take a Kid Fishing event in Port Aransas, it is a blast helping the kid's fish.

We are looking forward to 2015! Our annual Banquet is scheduled for April 18, 2015. Join us for this fun family event.

We always need volunteers who are interested in conservation, if you would like to join the Board, please call me on 361-758-0266.

—**Norman C Oates 361-758-0266 H / 361-790-2748 C**

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

Sabine-Neches
Darin Johnson 409-790-9855

Greetings everyone! Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas! **We are in the early stages of prep work for our March 5th banquet.** This is going to be great! Right now is the calm before the storm at the Sabine Neches HQ.

Keep checking our Facebook page for important meeting dates, we are going to crank things up again in January and be at it 110% to bring you another top notch banquet served w/ the best crawfish and coldest drinks in SE Texas!

In the meantime we are going to chase ducks, deer and big Sabine trout with family and friends! Have a safe holiday season and we'll see you outdoors! —**Darin M Johnson**

Sam Houston
Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908

Season's Greetings from the Sam Houston Chapter. Hope everyone has had a great year. The cold weather is here and the fish are still biting, with warm weather and spring fishing right around the corner. I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thanks again for all the support in closing another successful year for our chapter. Tight lines,—**Brandon Kolaja**

Left, smiles were in style at the Redfish Bay Take A Kid Fishing event. Right, Don helps bring in fish for youngsters.



San Antonio

Jimmy Gibson 210-287-4378

Your San Antonio Chapter hosted a CCA Night Out October 30th with special guest speaker, Captain Jay Watkins [see Jay's ForeCast on page 10], who gave us an update on what is going on in the Aransas Bay System, Cedar Bayou and his prediction of what the next few years will bring.

Jay excited the crowd with his brand of how to "FISH SMART" along with tactics, tackle recommendations with a goal of producing better catches. John Blaha gave an update on the opening of Cedar Bayou and the effects it will have on fishing from San Antonio Bay to Port Aransas. His slide presentation included some great photos of the work that has been completed. Lots of notes were taken by our membership/guess and as always we thank THE CAPTAIN for taking the time to address our group. If you weren't there YOU MISSED IT!

Another big project that Beth Vacek and the San Antonio Chapter hosted was the Dellview Elementary School 5th graders which took their 3rd Annual CRUISE TO CORPUS FOR COASTAL CONSERVATION field trip where they toured the Texas State Aquarium, caught fish and toured the hatchery at the CCA Marine Development Center, and dipped our toes in Corpus Christi Bay.

Students left Dellview at 7:00 am on Regent Buses and headed to the Texas State Aquarium. The students toured the Aquarium and saw amazing sea animals. They petted sting rays, sharks, hermit crabs, and sea urchins. Then on to watch the amazing Dolphin Show and three of our students were chosen to be judges as we watched Shadow and Ki do Dolphin tricks. All of our students sat in the Wet Zone and all our students got REALLY WET! They loved it.

We had lunch at the Shoreline Grill, then headed across town to the Marine Development Center. Then we split into two groups – one group did a tour of the Marine Development Center hatchery and one group went fishing in the brood ponds. CCA volunteers assisted with baiting hooks, taking fish off, and modeling catch and release.

After an hour, the groups flipped so that everyone learned about the cool things Texas Parks and Wildlife are doing at the Center and everyone got to fish! Our fifth graders caught over 40 fish, many of them oversized redfish. What a great day of fishing!

At 3:00 we boarded our buses again and headed to McGee Beach in downtown Corpus Christi. We took our shoes off and ran to the water's edge to take pictures and enjoy the beach. Too soon it was time to head for home. On the way, we stopped in Mathis and picked up dinner, then settled in for the ride home. It was wonderful to listen to the excited conversations about this magical day.

Beth Vacek, CCA San Antonio VP Youth said, "We are so lucky to have amazing friends of CCA San Antonio pay for this trip! A huge thanks to our San Antonio Banquet Live Auction buyers who

Many fish and a lot of grins at San Antonio's 3rd Annual CRUISE TO CORPUS FOR COASTAL CONSERVATION field trip.

make this trip possible every year!" Angel, one of our fifth graders, said, "I had an amazing time in Corpus Christi and thank you CCA for letting us go!" Natalia said, "THANK YOU CCA! This was the best day of my life." Another 5th grader, Jacqueline said, "This was my best field trip ever! Thank you for letting the 5th graders of Dellview Elementary go to fabulous Corpus Christi!"

In closing, we wish you and your family a wonderful Holiday Season, be safe, smile, enjoy your family and Ho, Ho, Ho, Merry Christmas. Contact me for any information, or e-mail me: jimmy.gibson@CSTBrands.com. Vaya Con Dios Mi Amigos—Jimmy Gibson

San Bernard

Jayson Zahradnik 281-202-8438

Hello, all. Just a friendly reminder that our annual banquet is coming up in a few months. **It will be Thursday, February 26, at Riverside Hall in East Bernard, Texas.** If you are looking for a great gift idea for the upcoming holiday season, consider a presale raffle ticket for our banquet. This year's prizes are a little different: Grand Prize: **Polaris Ranger 570 Crew Cab!**

Also on the ticket will be a **Bushmaster AR Optic ready .223, Beretta A300 Outlander 12 Ga., Weatherby VGD2 Bolt 7mm Mag, 65 quart Yeti cooler, and a Sony GoPro Camera.** Six great prizes this year! Tickets are \$100 each and there will only be 300 tickets sold. For tickets you can call **Jayson Zahradnik** at 281-202-8438 or **Kenneth Schatz** at 979-533-4385. Corporate tables will also be available with details to follow.

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and hope Santa brings everyone the trophy trout we all wish for. Fish on! —JZ

San Gabriel

John Melnar 512-497-8284

San Jacinto

Jim Wilson 713-828-7639

As we rapidly move towards the holiday season, I wanted to thank everyone who made our year a great one. It takes a lot of time and effort to make such events like these possible and more importantly, fun. We had both our **Sunshine Kids Fishing Derby** and **Kidfish** events at **Sylvan Beach park**, and want to thank the **City of LaPorte** and all our volunteers with and without boats for everything.

The highlight of our year was the banquet. The bidding was back up to old levels and we ap-



TEXAS SPORTING Journal
TexasSportingJournal.com

FOR EVERY MOMENT YOU CAN'T BE OUT ON THE WATER WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!

TexasSportingJournal.com

preciate all the new members and new companies that attended as well as the ones that have come every year. We will be posting upcoming events and want to invite new members to come aboard.

On behalf of the San Jacinto Chapter, I want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and may 2015 see all of us on the water more. —Jim Wilson

Southwestern

Robert Hart 830-879-5541

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

The days are getting shorter and the weather is changing, giving us folks on the Upper Gulf Coast a much needed break from the heat and humidity. Coats and waders are being removed from storage to protect us from the elements as we take a wade on the flats, tromp through the marsh or sit in a deer stand. It is the time of year that it is difficult to choose between a fishing pole or firearm. Nevertheless, it's a great time to get outside and enjoy wildlife.

Chapter News...The numbers from our 2014 banquet are now final. The 2014 event was by far our best ever as we topped the 100K mark for

the first time. **Based on the good news, members have already secured August 21, 2015 at the same facility in Baytown, Texas.** In addition, we are tossing around an array of ideas for next year, to include reformatting our raffle into a multi-item package.

Trinity Bay Members are looking forward to the upcoming year as we have several Barbecues, Shrimp and Crawfish Boils to host as we prepare for our next banquet.

As always we want to sincerely thank our dedicated sponsors that repeatedly support and take part in our mission towards conservation. —Gerald "Get er Done" Payne

Trinity Valley

John Hebert Jr 936-334-2528

We held our 2nd annual Trinity Valley CCA Banquet on September 11. It was a huge success and grossed over \$60,000. We would like to thank all of our board members for their hard work and dedication. We would also like to thank everyone who attended the banquet and supported Trinity Valley CCA.

We have a general meeting every other month on the third Tuesday. Our next scheduled meeting is on January 20, 2015 at Navrozsky's in Liberty. We invite anyone who is interested in CCA to attend. For more information please call Jennifer Creel at 936-334-2314 or email at jenncreel936@aol.com. —Jennifer Creel
www.youuniquebyjenncreel.com

West Houston

Welcome new president, Mike Ayers
832-248-9352

Busy... that has been the key word for the West Houston Chapter the past couple of months! We started off October with a bang by lending a hand to the 3rd annual CCA Texas/CastAway Cup fishing tournament held at Harborwalk. The turnout was fantastic as we had 232 entries com-

peting for big prizes and a Rolex watch donated by the **Houston Gold Exchange**.

Special thanks to all of the participants, donors and volunteers for making this a great event! This is a live weigh in tournament and we were able to return 68 of the 104 weighed fish back to the water to fight another day!

We had a great November General Membership featuring **Anja Borski** with the Galveston Bay Foundation who provided some great insight to the health of our bay system. Thanks to all of those that came out to participate. Our next General Membership meeting will be held in February 2015. Please check our page on the CCA Texas website or our Facebook page for further details in the near future as we are lining up our guest speakers now.

As 2014 draws to a close, we would like to thank all of our members that helped support the West Houston Chapter this year at our Annual Banquet, the CCA Texas/CastAway Cup and the General Membership Meetings. We had a very successful year and are all very proud of what our Chapter was able to return to CCA Texas. Without the support of our members, it would never have been possible.

Our sights are now set on 2015 and we are looking forward to increasing our activity. If you would like to get more involved with our Board or CCA Texas, please let us know. **We have set the date for the 29th Annual Crawfish Boil and Banquet for Thursday, May 14th, 2015.** Please mark your calendar's to join us for what always is a great event.

On behalf of the West Houston Board, we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! —Mike Ayers

West Texas

Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499



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





Special Gift for New LIFE MEMBERS

brought to you by **igloo**
CORPORATION



**CCA Texas and Igloo have
teamed up for a very special
offer to CCA Life members.**

For a limited time, anyone who becomes a CCA
Texas Life Member will receive a custom CCA Life
Member 50qt Igloo Yukon . (Retail value of \$379)

Existing Life Members, please contact CCA Texas or email Kim at kogonosky@ccatexas.org for your special CCA Igloo cooler offer!

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 LifeMember APPLICATION

Name _____

CCA Member ID# _____ 

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Method of Payment


☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover

Credit Card Number

Exp. Date

Signature

Or print this form and send to:

 **CCATexas** | 6919 Portwest Dr, Ste. 100 | Houston, Texas 77024
Phone 713.626.4222 | Fax 713.961.3801 | www.CCATexas.org



*The Great
American Lager*

 Columbia

**FISH ON!
AND ON.
AND ON.**



Academy Sports + Outdoors and Columbia are proud to offer apparel and hats featuring the CCA logo. A portion of the proceeds of each sale goes to the CCA. Visit your local Academy Sports + Outdoors or academy.com/columbia to shop the collection.

AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY AT:

 **Academy**
SPORTS+OUTDOORS



The Last Laugh

Ardea alba, this particular great egret, just looks funny. Great Wildlife/humor photo by Pauline Osborn. Apologies to Pauline for the wrong attribution last issue of her superb green heron photo.

Want to share even more of your Great photos?

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

Enter Great Photos 2012

Categories:

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

Important: for jpegs, be sure you include name of subject, title, your name and address. On back of prints, write your name and address, as well as the names of anyone in the photo. email jpegs to: sam@samcaldwell.com

Color prints to: CCA Great Photos Editor / 6919 Portwest Dr., Suite 100 Houston, Texas 77024

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

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



Road to Marathon

A small study for a large oil, available at the upcoming Houston Real Estate banquet, Feb. 10.

Drop by my Web Cave for recent and ancient paintings, and a visit to the D-Day beaches of Normandy.



samcaldwell.com

Texas State Artist 2004
DU State Artist 2010-2011
281-455-9390

BEN KOCIAN

Fine Art, Fishing Lure Art Cases, Humorous illustrations, Collectables



(Port-O'Connor) Boat Ramp Parody
18"x 10.75" \$ 100

BenKocian.com

Wildly stronger! Keep ice longer!

Show your support! Get your own special edition CCA - YETI Cooler at www.yeticoolers.com/cca. A portion of the proceeds from each cooler purchased helps fund CCA's mission.



YETI®

COOLERS

TEXAS WILDLIFE ART

"JACK" by Herb Booth

A Tribute to John "Jack" Cowan (20 x 30" Giclee')



- > John Cowan
- > John Dearman
- > Sam Caldwell
- > Herb Booth
- > David Drinkard
- > Al Barnes



Charlie's Gallery

281-370-6945

www.charliesgallery.com



Love thy neighbor.

For over 75 years, Tilson has called Texas home. Like you, we know the importance of conserving our resources for future generations. We would like to thank all Texas CCA members for your efforts by offering \$1,000 off any upgrade when you purchase a Tilson home. Tilson offers over 100 floor plans and all can be personalized. Stop by a Tilson Model Home Center nearest you today to find out more.



\$1,000 in free upgrades

Free upgrades like ceramic tile, hardwood flooring, kitchen cabinetry and more!

TILSON
HOME CORPORATION
Family Owned Since 1932

Gulf Coast—Angleton, Houston, Spring, Katy, Bryan
Central Texas—Boerne, San Marcos, Georgetown
North Texas—McKinney, Midlothian, Weatherford

1-888-540-6705 | www.Tilson-CCA.com

Offer available for new contracts only. Not retroactive. Cannot be combined with any other offers. To qualify for discount, you must present the original ad and bring in your current CCA membership card.

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

TEXAS MARINE YOUR BAY BOAT HEADQUARTERS SINCE 1981

LARGEST REBATES AND DISCOUNTS OF THE YEAR

Introducing
Shoalwater



STARTING AT **\$17,995***

*PLUS TITL AND FREIGHT & MAKE READY

MOST COMPLETE LINE OF CAT HULLS 14-23 FEET

NauticStar
BOATS



STARTING AT **\$26,995***

*PLUS TITL AND FREIGHT & MAKE READY

2110 SPORT W/ 115HP 4-STROKE YAMAHA & TRAILER

NauticStar
BOATS



INTRODUCTORY SPECIAL

NAUTICSTAR SHALLOW BAY 224 XTS
SEE THE ALL NEW XTS HULL DESIGN



TEXAS MARINE
www.TexasMarine.com

1140 IH-10 North
BEAUMONT, TX
866-315-7971

1107 I - 45 South
CONROE, TX
877-302-8082

2700 NASA Road 1
SEABROOK, TX
877-820-6468



Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Suite 100 / Houston, TX 77024

CURRENTS NEWSLETTER
December 2014 / January 2015

Thanks for the art,
Kim Ogonosky
and Ben Kocian



*Season's Greetings from CCA
& Cedar Bayou!*

U.S. Coast Guard Air & Sea Rescue

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

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



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

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



COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (including STAR Entry)



Name _____ Phone _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Method of payment

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

MEMBER:	\$25	Membership card, decal, bumper sticker, Texas CURRENTS newsletter & TIDE magazine.
ASSOCIATE:	\$15	Per each family member. All membership privileges except TIDE and CURRENTS.
PRINT MEMBER:	\$100	All of the above plus CCA Texas print of your choice.
LIFE MEMBER:	\$1000	CCA Life Membership piece, print, plus member gifts. Payable in four \$250 installments.
STAR ENTRY FEE:	\$20	Tournament entry fee. Must be a current CCA member.
NEW TIDE:	\$10	Tide newsletter, decal.
NEW TIDE / Star:	\$10	Members 17 and under only Same as above, plus "FREE" STAR Tournament entry.

Age: _____ Date of birth: _____
Age: _____ Date of birth: _____

Credit card number _____ Signature _____

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