

Two seagulls with white bodies and black heads are captured in mid-flight over a body of water. Their wings are spread wide, showing the underside of the primary feathers. The water below is dark blue with small, choppy waves. The lighting is warm, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

CURRENTS

April / May 2015



FLOUNDER!

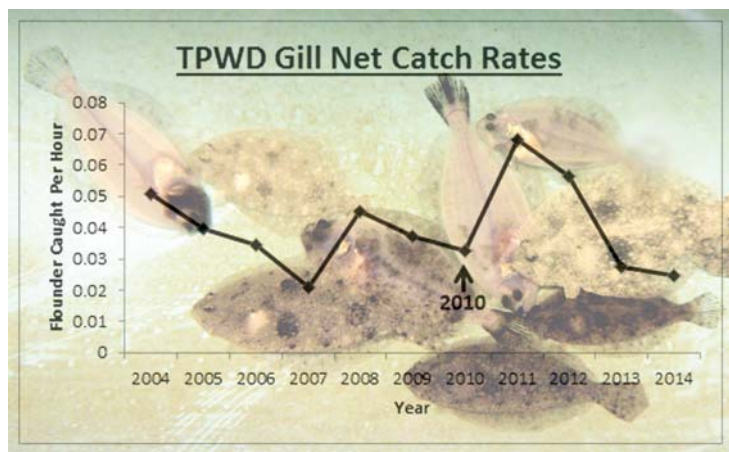
A look at flounder over the last 10 years

By Michael Stahl and Nicole Carrillo

On September 1, 2009, Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) reduced the recreational daily bag limit for flounder from 10 fish to 5 fish for recreational anglers for most of the year. During the month of November, two flounder can be harvested by hook and line only. In 2014, the November reduction to two fish was extended into the first two weeks of December, but flounder can be harvested by any legal means during the

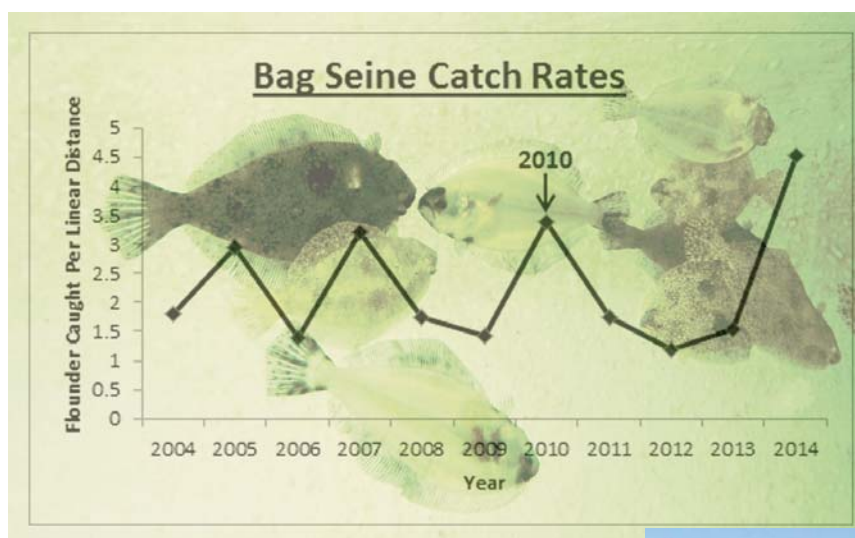
lar pattern with an approximated doubling in harvest for 2011 to 2013, but a significant decrease thereafter. TPWD attributes the increase to the new regulations and higher average winter water temperatures for these years. Conversely, the decline is associated with less recruitment and increases in fishing pressure by anglers reacting to increased flounder availability. Lower temperatures increase juvenile flounder recruitment and warmer temperatures decrease juvenile recruitment. The decline in abundance after the initial benefits of the regulation prompted TPWD to extend the reduced bag limit into December to increase the number of spawning flounder migrating into the Gulf of Mexico.

Annual TPWD bag seine catch rates, which are used as an indicator for juvenile recruitment on the coast, show good recruitment in 2014, the highest rate in the last ten years. This is a positive sign for the fishery and suggests that more individuals will reach adulthood in next two to three years, thus increasing harvest opportunities. Additionally, TPWD hatcheries have



two week extension.

Since the implementation of these regulation changes, annual flounder catch rates in TPWD resource sampling increased by almost two fold for 2011 and 2012, but after those two years the rates fell again. Statewide recreational landings followed a simi-



stocked over 180,000 juvenile flounder along the Texas coast since 2006 and production increases each year. This also bodes well for the flounder fishery of Texas. 🐟



Starring flounder in a different realm: Educational opportunities

More than a plate full of fine dining, the southern flounder has been a mainstay of the CCA's StarKid and StarTeen Scholarship programs since their inception 20 years ago. To date, flounder—along with sheepshead, trout and gafftop catfish—have provided more than \$5,235,000 in scholarship funds for dozens of young Texas anglers.

Above, Davis Townes, 2010 StarKids with his \$50,000 flounder, and below, Briley Eason, 2012 StarKids with her dad Mike and a \$50,000 scholarship-winning flounder.

For a heart-warming success story, see Zifa Guerrero's account on page 4. —Sam Caldwell

On front cover: Will Drost caught this little flounder just before the gulls did. Or did they? Drost's website has some great outdoor shots. Drop by www.willdrost.com



Louisiana joins Texas in abandoned crab trap cleanup on Sabine Lake

The State of Louisiana joined Texas in the crab trap clean up on Sabine Lake. The success was measurable and volunteers were in action. CCA Texas chapters from the Sabine-Neches, Orange County, Trinity Valley and Golden Triangle Chapters were on hand, as well as members of the CCA Texas staff, to help remove traps and it was a great success despite the weather the volunteers faced.

Sabine Lake, Galveston Bay System and San Antonio Bay System were once again hot spots for derelict traps. CCA Texas has sponsored this event since its inception and is proud to continue the support in the ongoing effort to remove abandoned traps from local bays. —John Blaha



Photos from the Louisiana side of Sabine Lake and Deep Bayou site, and photos from the Texas Sabine Lake side; Mesquite Point Boat Ramp adjacent to Walter Umphrey State Park. —Art Morris



Above, Chester the crabtrap sniffing lab waits for action. A report from Port O'Connor: "We ended up with 41 abandoned traps, and unfortunately, saw four dead leatherback turtles." —Chris Smisek

Left, Weslene and Ted Gaetjen coming in with traps in Port O'Connor.



Report from TP&W Game Wardens Caught Redhanded!

During Memorial Day Weekend 2014, a vessel was contacted for a water safety inspection. When finished with the inspection, Game Wardens asked the occupants if they had been fishing and they responded no. At this time the Game Wardens inspected the coolers on the boat and noticed that 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 Game 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. Four individuals were on board the vessel in possession of 33 red drum, ranging in sizes from 19.5 in to 27 in. Citations were

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

Aransas County Game Warden Richard "Marty" Martin apprehended a subject with seventeen undersize speckled trout. The subject was fishing from a private pier on Copano Bay. Criminal cases and civil restitution were filed.



On Wednesday, October 22, Galveston County Game Warden Jennifer Provaznik received a call from a Galveston Police Department K-9 unit stating that he had pulled a vehicle over for speeding and noticed that there were two coolers and fishing poles in

the bed of the truck. The K-9 officer asked the driver what kind of fish where in there, and the driver stated that they were red snapper. Game Warden Provaznik arrived on scene and inspected the coolers. Indeed, they contained red snapper. While interviewing the driver, he stated that he was working 60 miles offshore

when he caught the fish. A total of 48 Red Snapper were found in the vehicle. Multiple citations were issued and civil restitution was filed for each fish.



Galveston County Game Wardens Travis Fountain, Mack Chambers, and Jennifer Provaznik were out checking boats late Saturday night November 29, 2014 and caught two fishermen with 42 undersize red snapper. Charges and civil restitution were filed.





26th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo

26th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo 20th Anniversary for STAR Scholarships!

Get ready to ride, Saltwater Anglers! We're about two months away from the big day! The 26th Annual CCA State of Texas Angler's Rodeo kicks-off sunrise Saturday, May 23rd. With another amazing prize line-up and a better than ever fishing season, what more reason do you need to get registered! Plus, there's still time to get in on the Early Bird Drawings... see details below.

More exciting news to share! CCA Texas STAR is celebrating 20 years of providing scholarships to Texas youth! Hard to believe twenty years ago, three \$50,000 scholarships were offered for the first time in the 1995 prize line-up! The three lucky recipients to make history as the first to receive a scholarship through the STAR Tournament were **Zifa Guerrero** (StarKid Flounder Sheepshead Winner), **Hampton White** (StarKid Sheepshead Winner) and **Kandace Barrow** (StarKid Gafftop Winner).

Since then, the scholarships offered have grown to ten for a total of \$290,000 awarded each year! To date, CCA Texas STAR has awarded a total \$5,235,000 in scholarships to 165 scholarship recipients! We've seen many wonderful fish stories that not only resulted in huge wins, but also changed life paths for many of these lucky kids. As we reflect back on twenty years and the first STAR Scholarship recipients, we thought it would be interesting to see "where are they now?"

YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN TO WIN! ATTENTION ALL ANGLERS PLANNING TO FISH THE TEXAS COAST THIS SUMMER! In order to win one of a \$1,000,000 in prizes being offered in Texas' largest, richest, summer-long saltwater fishing event, an angler must be a **CURRENT** member of CCA, in addition to being registered as a **2015 TEXAS STAR entrant**. Effective January 1st, the CCA membership fee is \$30 annually and the 2015 STAR Tournament fee is still \$20 for a total of \$50. In order to win at STAR, an angler must be registered and be a current member of CCA.

YOUNG ANGLERS FISH FOR FREE! Young anglers ages 6-17, the "New Tide" membership fee remains \$10 annually and the STAR entry fee is **FREE!!!** Of course, we want all kids on the water.



2015 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT SuperCab with Haynie 23 Bigfoot, the Redfish Division prize.

Zifa Guerrero's Story: 1995 StarKid Flounder \$50,000 Scholarship Winner

July 14, 1995, I woke up extra early to go fishing with my dad and grandfather. I had fished all morning with little luck until the Big One finally hit. Labor Day finally came, but I don't think I was able to fathom how lucky I really was.



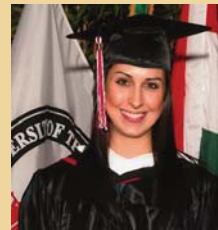
I visited several colleges and decided on University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio. In December 2008 I earned my Bachelor's in psychology with a minor in sociology. Because of my STAR scholarship, I never used a student loan and I was free from debt! I knew I wanted to go onto graduate school, but decided to start by gaining experience working in the field of mental health. In March 2009, I was hired at the UT Health Science Center in San Antonio as a research assistant in the Department of Psychiatry, Division of Schizophrenia and related Disorders. I worked with the same research team until 2011 when I decided I wanted to pursue a Master's degree.

In January 2012, I was accepted into the Clinical Psychology Master's program at University of Texas-Pan American (Edinburg, Texas). I graduated in December 2013 and was hired in the psychology department at the Rio Grande State Center, an inpatient psychiatric hospital in Harlingen, Texas. I work developing treatment plans and providing psychotherapy for individuals who suffer from mental illness. I am also working towards becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and expect to be fully licensed by January 2016.

I am grateful to have been blessed with a family of fishermen; the payoff has not only propelled me through my education, but has also provided me with life-long memories.

Thank you CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament for all you do to keep fishing in Texas thriving and making scholarships available to kids who otherwise may not have had a chance for a scholarship!

We look forward to another twenty years of offering these wonderful scholarships!



CCA "New Tide" members will continue to have the opportunity to win giant scholarships to fund their college education for just the price of a \$10 CCA "New Tide" Membership. We thank our generous sponsors for making it possible for us to offer young anglers this great opportunity. **To be eligible to fish STAR, "New Tide" Members MUST BE at least 6 years of age in 2015 and under age 18 to enter for FREE. It is the "New Tide" Member's responsibility to make sure their CCA membership is current and that they are registered for the current year STAR tournament.**

As you start making plans, be on the lookout in your mailbox. Our great partner, Academy Sports + Outdoors, will be sending all current CCA Texas members a special bonus as a reminder and to help with some of your fishing expenses. We also want to remind you to take advantage of all the other great Early Bird and Member incentives available to CCA Texas STAR participants. Be sure and register now to get into the Early Bird Drawings. Several prizes



BEST IN TEXAS

will be given away and they're sure to be a reel catch! Be sure and get everyone signed up for the **2015 STAR!** Please see below for more details:

2015 EARLY BIRD DRAWINGS! Don't forget, by signing up now you could win one of the many great prize offerings just for registering early! Check out the special "Early Bird" prizes below available **ONLY** for those entrants who sign up before the tournament kicks off. The Coors Light "Early Bird" Promotion will again offer another awesome "grand prize" boat package! The awesome Dargel 210 Skout with a Mercury 150 motor and McClain trailer - a prize package valued at around \$35,000! Everyone ages 21 and over that signs up **now through May 22nd** will automatically be entered into this special drawing, along with the 20 other great prizes being offered. Everyone age 20 and under that signs up **now through May 22nd** will automatically be entered



for the 20 other great "Early Bird" prizes.

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

You know you'll go so might as well do it now! Remember, everyone entered in the STAR Tournament, who will be 6 years old in 2015 and older, is eligible to win the prizes being offered **even the TAGGED REDFISH DIVISION!** You can sign up NOW online at www.startournament.org!!! Don't miss "the boat" or "the truck and boat"... register today!

2015 STAR Early Bird Drawing

Deadline to enter is May 22nd

GRAND PRIZE

Dargel 210 Skout, Mercury 150 Pro XS Motor and McClain Trailer (must be at 21 years old to win boat prize package)

20 MORE GREAT PRIZES

9.9 hp Mercury Kicker Motor

Three (3) American Rodsmith Rod & Mettle H2O Express Reel Combos

Thermo-Electric Travel Cooler & Warmer

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

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

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

SIGN-UP EARLY AND RECEIVE A SPECIAL BONUS FROM ACADEMY SPORTS & OUTDOORS - One more great reason to sign up! Academy Sports + Outdoors will mail a \$10 gift coupon in May just in time for fishing season! This is a limited time offer, so do it before it's too late!!! Special thanks to Academy Sports + Outdoors for continuing to make your CCA membership and STAR entry such an awesome value!

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 desktops. Now STAR anglers have the chance to embrace the latest in technology, plus conserve our natural resources. We are grateful to *Texas Fish & Game* for providing this STAR-only benefit, while saving some trees and giving you more options. Be sure and include your email address when you register for this year's tournament to automatically receive your **FREE** digital subscription. If you still wish to receive *Texas Fish & Game* in print magazine form, no problem... a special STAR angler price of \$8 a year (vs. \$17.99/year) is still available, including your access to the digital version at no extra cost! If you wish to take advantage of this special STAR angler discounted print subscription price, be on the lookout in your email or mailbox for details on how to activate this special offer. If you have questions regarding your past or current subscription, please call (800) 725-1134 or email subscriptions@fishgame.com.



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

!!! ATTENTION !!!

*** **2015 STAR Platinum Print Membership** ***
NOW AVAILABLE

We are pleased to offer the new 2015 CCA Texas STAR Platinum package, **Split Screen!** Renowned artist David Drinkard has created another fine print exclusively for CCA Texas members! Only 1,750 will be available through this special membership level, which includes your CCA membership (new or renewal) + STAR Tournament Entry... all for less than the value of this premium print alone! This 16" x 24" print is on acid-proof paper stock to ensure many years of enjoyment. Package includes your CCA membership (new or renewal), your 2015 CCA Texas STAR entry, plus this special signed, limited-edition print created exclusively for STAR, all for \$125!

Split Screen is a one-of-a-kind print worth this price alone. If you would like to consider one, or several, of these limited-edition packages, go to: <http://www.star-tournament.org> more details or to place your order with the STAR Dept., call (713) 626-4222. Be one of the **FIRST** to own this collectors' piece! **GET YOURS TODAY!!!**



Split Screen! By renowned artist David Drinkard

CCA Texas STAR Platinum Print Membership Package, Series V - We're pleased to announce the new print being offered for the 2015 CCA Texas STAR Platinum package is **Split Screen**. Renowned artist David Drinkard has created yet another fine print to honor CCA Texas members. Top half of print is a scene of anglers in a boat working the birds, while the bottom half reveals underwater action of trout and reds chasing bait... the shrimp look like they're about to jump right out of the print! 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! **Split Screen** is a one-of-a-kind print worth this price alone. If you would like to consider one, or several, of these limited-edition packages, go to: <http://www.startournament.org> more details or to place your order with the STAR Dept., call (713) 626-4222.

STILL AVAILABLE... CCA Texas STAR Platinum Prints Series I-IV: STAR Reds (Series I), STAR Sightings (Series II), School Is In Session (Series III) & Working the Spoils (Series IV) 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.**

2015 PRIZE LINE-UP - One of our goals has always been to keep the tournament fee as rea-

sonable as possible and thanks to our wonderful sponsors, we have been able to do so for the last 25 years. In 2002, we were able to begin offering New Tide members (ages 6 - 17) the opportunity to fish the tournament **FREE** of charge. Over the last two and a half decades, CCA Texas STAR has been extremely fortunate to provide members of all ages with some really outstanding prize packages and college scholarships and 2015 will continue to offer the same amazing prize line-up this year! Contestants have a chance at winning over 100 prizes including trucks, boats, motors, trailers and college scholarships in the following categories:

Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division - Texas Ford Dealers continue to make this division the "Best in Texas"! They will again give each of the first five registered STAR participants who catch tagged redfish their brand new all aluminum body truck to get to their fishing destination in a tough, dependable and stylish ride. The first five registered anglers to weigh in a tagged red will receive a 2015 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" truck. Haynie Boats returns with the awesome Haynie 23 Bigfoot rigged with a motor and Coastline Trailer completing this amazing package. The next five weighed in will receive the same boat, motor and trailer packages.

For young anglers not of legal driving age and who reel in the famous tagged red, he or she will receive the boat package plus a \$20,000 college scholarship, in lieu of the truck.

Trout Division - **ATTENTION TROUT ANGLERS!** After years of requesting a more versatile boat prize in this division, we hear you! This year

winners in upper, middle, and lower coast regions will each take home the awesome Shoalwater 21' Cat boat with a Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax motor and McClain trailer. The 21' Shoalwater Cat hull design provides an excellent ride with an 8" draft allowing you to get really shallow, plus runs well in the heavy chop due to the tunnel hull design. **FRIENDLY REMINDER...** If you're unsure a trout is large enough to qualify, consider this "easy rule-of-thumb" - if length is **less than 27 inches**, chances are it won't meet the eight pound minimum weight requirement for the Trout Division. Unless you intend to mount your fish as a personal best, why not think about releasing anything that might not make the cut so she can re-seed the bays.



Trout Division -
Shoalwater 21' Cat
with a Mercury 150
Pro XS OptiMax .

Offshore Division -
ATTENTION BLUE WATER ANGLERS! Hoffpauir Auto & Outdoor Store continues to partner with us to provide the offshore angler something that will come in very handy after a long trip on the high seas. Anglers who land the heaviest kingfish, dorado and ling will each receive an awesome Polaris Ranger® Crew 570 EPS UVs in Polaris Pursuit Camo each with a Big Tex 35sa Trailer! Offshore Division Prize - Polaris Ranger® Crew 570 EPS.



Inshore Division - Each winner that reels in the largest flounder, gafftop and sheepshead will be handsomely rewarded with Blue Wave's 180 SV Southern Skiff boat, Mercury 115 OptiMax motor and McClain trailer.



STAR has awarded \$5,235,000 in college scholarships to 165 fisher-kids across the state, ranging from 6-17 years of age and 2015 continues to offer plenty of reason for everyone to round up their kid(s), a rod and reel and head for the water.

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

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

Houston Community Newspapers StarKid Sheepshead Division - This division gives entrants age

6-10 a chance to win a \$50,000 college scholarship for the largest sheepshead caught throughout the summer.

Academy Sports & Outdoors

StarTeens Trout Division

This youth scholarship division is open to all New Tide members ages 11-17 and awards a \$20,000 college scholarship for each fisher-teen with the largest trout in the upper, middle and lower coasts. **FRIENDLY REMINDER...** The minimum weight requirement for the trout is six pounds. For all fish weighing less than six pounds, if no intentions of mounting young angler's prize catch, please take a quick picture and immediately release back into the water.

StarTeens Inshore Division

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

But Wait, There's More...

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

"New Tide" Member Drawing

The "New Tide" Scholarship Drawing will be offered again in 2015. "New Tide" STAR participants at least, 6 - 17 years old in 2015, are eligible for a bonus drawing that will net one lucky youth a \$20,000 college scholarship even if the participant never wets a line or enters a single fish during the entire tournament.

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

Major sponsors for the 26th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament include: **Texas Ford Dealers,**

STAR Redfish Release Team Captains and STAR Director Bill Kinney, going

back to 1990: Butch Long, Don Perkins and Bob Brumby have been non-responsive to queries about stocked redfish locations for some 25 years. Comments were overheard by the Currents editor at the recent CCA Texas board meeting regarding Butch Long's speed-boat approach to tagged redfish placements.

TILSON HOMES - Celebrating 10 Years of Sponsorship

CCA Texas STAR is very proud to have Tilson Homes as one of our title sponsors for the 10th year in a row. We are delighted by and very grateful for their support. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with this stellar company.

Tilson has been a family owned and operated Built On Your Lot builder in Texas for over 80 years. Building on your land means you choose your perfect piece of land and Tilson will build a beautiful home on it. Many people who love the outdoors choose Tilson because they like the freedom to build where they want. Plus, with Tilson, homeowners can choose from a large library of plans to create a forever home that suits their needs, lifestyle, and personality.

With Tilson, they get the home they want, the way they want it - built on their land from the ground up. Tilson chooses only the best materials and contractors to build homes of lasting value that can be used for generations.

As the largest, oldest, and most trusted Built On Your Lot builder in Texas, Tilson also makes financing easy. While interest rates remain low, there's no better time to get more house for your money with Tilson's *EasyBuy*SM program. Chances are, most homeowners will qualify for Tilson's *EasyBuy*SM program, which means no construction loan closing costs, no monthly construction loan payments, and no added construction loan interest costs, even if construction is delayed. This means customers won't need any interim financing while their home is being built.

Ask just about anyone who's built with Tilson, and you'll hear why they've become the Built On Your Lot builder more Texans know they can trust. Everyone at Tilson welcomes the opportunity to work with you, and we encourage you to visit their website or stop by one of their eleven model home centers to find out more.

At Tilson, we applaud the hard work of CCA Texas and their dedication to conserving marine life. We also believe that teaching children proper conservation through education is the only way to ensure that our marine resources continue to thrive for years to come. Thank you, CCA Texas STAR for giving families another reason to get out on the water.



Tilson Home Corporation, Capital Farm Credit, Mercury Marine, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, Ozarka, Rio Ammunition, KTRK-abc13, Houston Community Newspapers, Fox Sports Southwest, 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, go to <http://www.startournament.org> Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament!



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.



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Editor, Sam Caldwell / sam@samcaldwell.com
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Welcome to the CCA Texas Online Auction

Sponsored by Costa Del Mar

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

*Available online 11 am,
Apr. 13 till 11 am, Apr. 17*

*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*

Handmade Lazy Susan- This is a

handmade
Lazy Susan
by **Buddy
Means**. It
would be a
great addition
to any
home with
the beautiful
inlaid
turquois patterns.



CCA Texas Boat Tote

— This custom CCA Texas Boat Tote would be a great bag to have for any family trip to the beach or on a boat. It can easily fit all the essentials from towels to sunscreen.



*Sponsored by our
friends at Costa.*



Great Foods / Editor Ellen Ohmstede

SHRIMP FLORENTINE OVER CHEESY TOMATO GRITS

Adapted from a Paula Deen Recipe

Shrimp:

4 T butter / 4 cloves minced garlic
24 shrimp peeled, and deveined
Juice of 2 lemons / 1 cup heavy cream /
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese / 4 boxes
frozen spinach, thawed and squeezed of
liquid / ¼ t nutmeg to taste / Salt and pepper
to taste / 1 t Cajun seasoning

Grits:

3 cups chicken broth / 1 cup milk
1 cup quick cooking grits / 2 T butter
1 cup green onions, diced / 1 cup shredded
cheddar / 4 oz of Velveeta / 1 10 oz
can Rotel, drained

For Shrimp Florentine:

Season shrimp with Cajun Seasoning.
Melt butter in pan over medium heat and
sauté shrimp and garlic until shrimp is pink
but not done. Careful not to let garlic
burn. Add lemon juice to the pan and
scrape up the bits. Reduce heat and add
spinach, cream and Parmesan and mix
well. Add ¼ t nutmeg, salt and pepper to
taste. Heat through until shrimp are
cooked. Season to taste.

For the Grits:

Bring chicken broth, milk and green onions
to a boil. Slowly stir in grits and return
to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and
cook according to package, until grits are
thick and creamy. Add butter, Velveeta and
Cheddar and stir until cheese is melted.
Add the Rotel and mix well until heated
through. Season to taste.



CCA Staffers again seize top state awards

Corpus Christi—Texas Outdoor Writers Association (TOWA) presents statewide communication awards. Full details available at the TOWA website: www.towa.org

Ted Venker took two top awards: The prestigious **First Place, Outdoor Publication Over 25,000** for *TIDE Magazine*. And, **Second Place, Original Internet Story Blog** for "Allow Meeting For Bluefin? Brilliant!"

Sam Caldwell won **First Place Illustration**: "Nearshore Reefing In Action," cover of *Currents Newsletter*.

Pat Murray accepted three top awards: **Second Place, Special Projects, Conservation** for his *TIDE* article, "Conservation Partners Dig Deep to Open Cedar Bayou," and in the same category, **Third Place** for "Conservation Finds A New Stage."

Murray also earned an Honorable Mention for his *TIDE* Outdoor Feature, "Don't Take Your Kid Fishing." The judge commented that Murray's piece was full of irony for a man as dedicated to fishing as he is.



Ford Motors was a principal sponsor again for the TOWA's annual event. As promised in 2014, on hand this year for test driving was the production model F150. Ford says the new truck has a high-strength, military grade, aluminum-alloy body and high-strength steel frame.

Less weight, yet greater strength. With its improved power-to-weight ratio, the F-150 includes the highest EPA-estimated fuel economy ratings among gas-powered light-duty pickups.

It was standing room only for TOWA members to test drive the new F150. The *Currents* editor missed out, but looks forward to next year's TOWA Ford test drives. —Sam Caldwell

Photos: Herman Brune, writer, champion bull-rider and EIC Chairman with Ted Venker. Brune and Sam Caldwell. Below, Herman Brune, John Goodspeed, Pat Murray and David Sikes. Sikes, Chairman of the board for TOWA, was recently inducted into the Texas Maritime Museum's Perry R. Bass Memorial Sports Wall of Fame.

Below, the new Ford F150.



Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR TEXAS MARINE HABITAT

Bird Island Marsh Restoration Project Completed

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) recently completed the Bird Island Cove Marsh Restoration Project located along the south shoreline of West Galveston Bay.

CCA Texas funded \$50,000 to this project in May of 2011 and these funds were used in the construction of the project and as matching funds for a Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) grant application in the amount of \$1,000,000. CCA Texas's matching funds are an important part of federally issued grants and are used as local matching dollars.

Texas coastal wetlands are one of the most important parts of the ecosystems up and down the Texas coast. These wetlands serve over 95% of fish species found in the Gulf of Mexico and the intertidal marshes serve as nursery areas for fishery species such as brown and white shrimp, blue crab, sand seatrout, Gulf menhaden, southern flounder, red drum, bay anchovy and many other marine organisms.

Coastal wetland loss in Texas and in the Galveston Bay system in particular is significant and an ongoing concern because of the important and necessary roles that the wetlands perform. TPWD, CCA Texas and other organizations recognize the importance of these wetlands and are working continuously to protect and restore these resources.

TPWD takes the lead in this effort and CCA Texas is there to provide community matching dollars for federal and state grants, outreach about the importance and roles of these resources, and volunteers for marsh grass planting events and other types of habitat events when volunteers are needed.

This project will directly benefit approximately 114 acres of existing

coastal wetlands in the Bird Island Cove area. This project includes approximately 4,000 linear-foot of segmented breakwater that protects existing estuarine marsh. In addition, hydraulic dredging was used to pump sediments from a nearby designated borrow area to restore the site to intertidal marsh elevations.

These materials and elevations are suitable elevation for restoring salt flat marsh/sand flat habitat in addition to intertidal *Spartina alterniflora* marsh and allow for the migration of intertidal marsh to higher elevations in response to sea level rise.

This method of restoration has been successfully used at six other projects (Jumbile Cove, J-Cove, Delehide Cove, Starvation Cove, Carancahua Cove and McAllis Point) in the West Galveston Bay system and CCA Texas looks forward to seeing more success in this project. Since the completion of the construction and as of mid February 2015, 9,700 sprigs of *Spartina alterniflora* have been planted and once completed a minimum of 32,000 sprigs will be planted within the project.

—John Blaha



Photos courtesy of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department



Upper Coast

By Capt. Eddie Hernandez

Spring fling

As if working hand in hand with the mercury of a thermometer, the rod bending action on Texas' upper coast of Galveston Bay and Sabine Lake just keeps getting hotter and hotter as we climb into April and May. More and more shrimp and baitfish are finding their way into our ecosystems and anglers will continue to reap enormous benefits.

The big spring tides will continue to push pretty water into the far reaches of both Galveston and Sabine and will begin to open up fish-catching opportunities throughout. Making long drifts over oyster reefs is never a bad idea as the air and water temperatures continue to rise while we inch closer and closer to summer. The big reefs are like a magnet for baitfish of all kinds. From sand eel to crabs, they offer a safe haven that gives them some comfort as the hungry predator is lurking nearby.

Let the wind and current determine where you start your drift and bounce soft plastics off the shell. Using 1/4 and 1/8 oz. lead heads depending on the speed of the drift will help ensure your lure gets down to the oysters. Longer baits like 8-inch Gillrakers and Culpit Worms work really well, as the trout rely heavily on sand eel as a major part of their diet in the spring. Firetiger, tomato and black are colors with proven track records. Other good bait choices are Norton Bull Minnow, Sand Eel Jr. and H&H Cocahoe Minnow. Keep in mind that potent thunderstorms can pop up quickly in the spring months so keep an eye on the radar if there is inclement weather in the vicinity. Be prepared to leave in a hurry and don't wait until it's too late. No fish is worth it. —Capt. Eddie Hernandez / 409-673-3100

www.goldenhookguide.com
Facebook- Golden Hook Guide Service
Twitter- @eddieghgs

Middle Coast

By Capt. Gordon Taylor

April, on shorelines. May, everywhere

April and May are by far two of the best months to fish the Middle coast. The weather is finally warming up and the Spring tides will be bringing in some hot fishing action.

The higher tides in April will be a great chance to catch that trophy trout using your favorite soft plastics, as well as for some great topwater action. I will be targeting the shorelines and flats of Hog Island, Ransom Island, and Dagger Island using the Saltwater Assassin 4" sea shad with 1/8th oz. lead head. My favorite colors are Morning Glory and Space Guppy. I will also be using the bone-colored Super Spook for my topwater.

In May the redfish will be just about everywhere, aggressively feeding up tight against the islands that I just mentioned. Throw your lightest lures up against the shoreline and quickly retrieve your lure so that you don't get caught in the turtle grass. They will also be hammering any topwater presented to them.

Always, before heading out, make sure that your boat and fishing equipment have the proper maintenance after sitting up during the winter months. Better to discover problems on land than out on the water.

Remember that all the water belongs to all of us. If you see a fellow angler in trouble, give them a hand and you will get a hand back some day.

Remember the limits, and consider sending those bigger specks and near-slot reds back for further duty.

Remember that this is Texas, so stay hatted and hydrated. Be safe, get out on the water and catch some fish! —Capt. Gordon Taylor / 361-319-0099 jtaylor99@cableone.net

Lower Coast

Capt. Sally Black

Baffin Bay Rod & Gun

Trout class of 2007 grown up, lurking

April and May on Baffin Bay is what trophy trout dreams are made of. Mother Nature decided to test us bit more than usual with a wet and chilly winter, but, finally, a spring pattern is emerging. Warmer water tells the big girls to keep on eating as the spawn is near. The heaviest trout caught here have historically been in April. With all of the rain in the late part of winter and early Spring, the bay is energized and full of life. The Trout Class of 2007 has grown up, and lurk in interesting areas. Warmups behind late cold fronts will be super productive with the trout hanging in shin deep to almost waist deep flats over mud.

In April, mullet are super thick on muddy areas in the back of the bay, like Alazan, The Laguna Salada and the Cayo de Grullo. It's definitely a challenge but if you keep in mind that these fish aren't moving around very much and fish the areas slowly and thoroughly, your success ratio on the Big Girls will definitely go up.

On sunny, warm stretches, look for big concentrations of bait and slicks over the sand and along the shorelines on both the north and south sides of Baffin, depending on the wind direction and velocity. Drop-offs near the rocks have historically produced at this time of the year as well, and the straight-tailed Saltwater Assassin SW Shad also rigged on super light jig heads and bounced slowly around the rock formations have produced some absolute monsters over the past few years.

The beauty of the light jig head is that you can work it slower than any other rig and it will stay in the strike zone for a longer period of time. Guides and clients at Baffin Bay Rod and Gun are looking forward to this trophy trout season for good reason. Our records—which coincide with TPWD net surveys and creel surveys—point to more and bigger trout. At the beginning of March, Baffin Bay had already delivered thirty-one trout over the 25" mark, four over 30", one over 31" and one whopper that topped the 32" mark. Hard to believe, but at the rate we are going now, we may very well top our big trout totals from last year which were our best ever.

After surviving the fire that totally destroyed our lodge and home in April of 2014, the biggest bit of excitement is the recent groundbreaking and start of construction of the new Baffin Bay Rod and Gun Lodge. The lodge is going to be super nice and the grand opening should be sometime in late September, 2015. Keep an eye on our Facebook page, Baffin Bay Rod and Gun, for the daily progress. See you on the water! —Capt. Sally Black

Email: sally@captainsally.com,

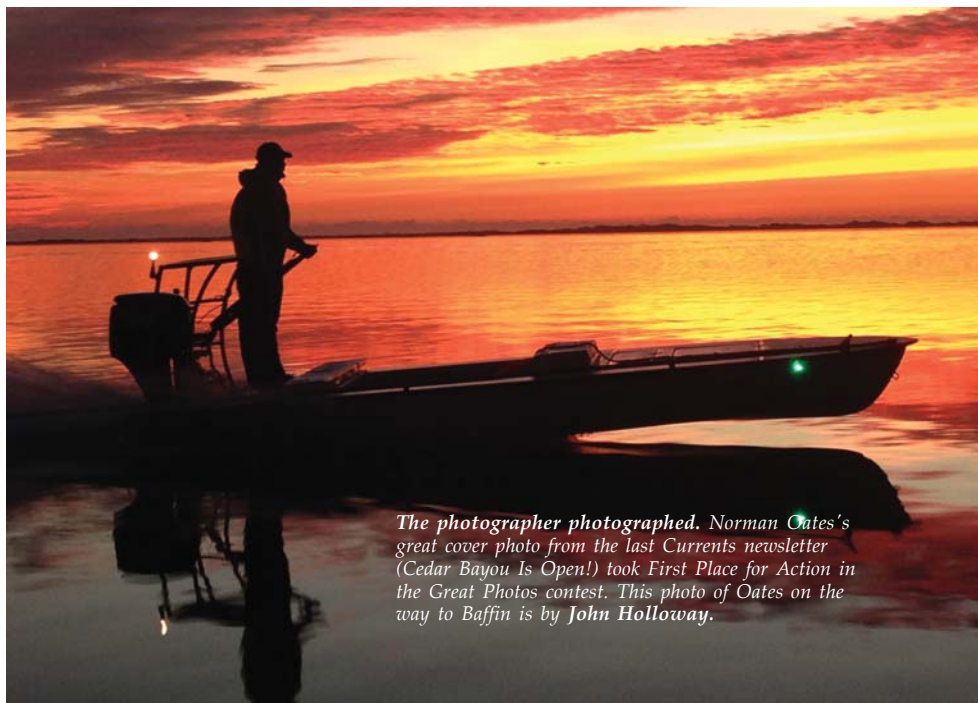
captblack@captblack.com

Website: www.BaffinBayRodandGun.com

Facebook: Baffin Bay Rod and Gun

Twitter: @CaptainSally

LinkedIn: Capt. Sally Black



The photographer photographed. Norman Oates's great cover photo from the last Currents newsletter (Cedar Bayou Is Open!) took First Place for Action in the Great Photos contest. This photo of Oates on the way to Baffin is by John Holloway.

CCA Texas Social Happenings

Banquet Season is in full swing – We hope to see all of you at this year's CCA Texas Chapter Banquets! More exciting videos are in production, so keep checking back on the great projects CCA is involved in along the coast: www.ccatexas.org/project-videos.

Thank you for continuing to follow CCA Texas through our various social media platforms. These outlets make it possible to spread the word about projects, events, and positive impacts CCA Texas is making on the Texas Gulf Coast in real time, and to a broader audience. We are so thankful for the strong support of our amazing members!

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:

This big 'ol drum was sight casted and released last weekend in San Antonio Bay by Michael Laskowski Jr. Nice work!



Twitter:

@fishcontrolhead: 2/21-3/2 Texas bays need your help. Crab trap removal helps our bays and ecosystem @CCA_Texas @TPWDparks @TPWDFish

Instagram:

Take a kid fishing! Tricia Parks Brooks submitted this photo of her husband and daughters fishing the short rigs off of High Island this month. 11-year old Jadyn and 8-year old Kylee landed both of these fish all on their own with Dad! These awesome fisher-gals both compete in STAR and seem to have a thing or two to teach us!



Facebook: www.facebook.com/CCATexas

Twitter: www.twitter.com/CCA_Texas

Instagram: www.instagram.com/cca_texas



Chapter Updates

CCA Texas Banquet Season Kicks into Full Speed

CCA Texas is excited about the early success of the banquets held to date and looks forward to a busy spring. Be sure to check out the CCA Texas calendar and attend the banquets of your choice in your local area and across the state.

- April 2, 2015 – **Prairie Chapter – Cat Springs Hall**
- April 2, 2015 – **West Texas Chapter – Midland Country Club**
- April 3, 2015 – **San Antonio Chapter 2nd Annual Hooked on Clays Shoot – National Shooting Complex in San Antonio.**
- April 9, 2015 – **Greater Sugarland Chapter – Stafford Centre**
- April 10, 2015 – **Texas State University Chapter – Hill Country Events Center**
- April 11, 2015 – **Northeast Houston Chapter – Humble Civic Expo Center**
- April 16, 2015 – **Dallas Chapter – Frontiers of Flight Museum**
- April 17, 2015 – **Bay Area Chapter – Bay Area Community Center**
- April 18, 2015 – **Redfish Bay Chapter – Port Aransas Civic Center**
- April 23, 2015 – **Rio Grande Valley Chapter – Boggus Ford Event Center – Pharr**
- April 23, 2015 – **Fort Bend Chapter – Fort Bend County Fairgrounds**
- April, 23, 2015 – **Brenham Chapter – Silver Wings Ballroom**
- April 24, 2015 – **Tri County Chapter – Atascosa County Show Barn**
- April 30, 2015 – **Central Houston Chapter – Bayou Events Center**
- April 30, 2015 – **Ft. Worth Chapter – Joe T's**

Alvin-Pearland

Emery Sadler 713-501-2778

Monthly General Meetings (Anglers Night Out): 7PM - First Tuesday of the month.

Location: Spring Creek BBQ / 9005 Broadway, Pearland Tx. 77584

Alvin/Pearland CCA Chapter Banquet June 18, 2015. Location: Knights of Columbus Hall, 2320 Hatfield Road, Pearland Tx 77581.

Banquet planning is in full swing. Corporate tables and Sportsman Raffle tickets are now available. **Joe's BBQ** will once again cater the ribeye steak dinner. So far we have commitments from **Common Wealth Financial, Academy, Payne Brothers Firearms, Back Bay rods, and Tran Sport Boats**. Thanks to all our sponsors, we would not be able to do what we do without their support!

Special thanks to our recent speakers in February: **Shimano Pro Staff** and **March-Sarge Custom Rods**.

Chapter Updates have been 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**.*

Aransas Bay

Carter Crigler 435-830-5984

jccrigler@hotmail.com

The Abandoned Crab Trap Project was again supported by members of the Aransas Bay Chapter. Chapter volunteers from the local area, as well as active winter members from Michigan and West Virginia, joined in to support the 20th annual Billy Sandifer Big Shell Beach Cleanup. Strong winds, overcast skies, fog and a scattering of showers came along, but the cleanup proceeded as scheduled. That is, until a rising tide was rapidly covering the last signs of a road and led to a timely retreat to high ground at the **Malaquite Pavilion**. Two great projects that we look forward to supporting in the future.

Babes on the Bay "Sweet Sixteen" registration is in full swing with Karol Scardino, tournament director, and her team of volunteers hard at work to make this year's tournament the best ever. **Reminder**, you will have less than a month to register by the time you read this. **Online registration will be used exclusively to sign up for Babes on the Bay XVI.** Visit the site, www.babesonthebay.com. **The last day for regular registration is 4/15/2015.** All registrations received after this date and prior to the 4/30/2015 cut off date will pay a late registration fee of \$120.00. If you have questions contact Karol Scardino at 361-386-0028. Mark your calendars: **May 15-16, 2015: Babes on the Bay / August 8, 2015: Aransas Bay Chapter Banquet.** Tight lines —Carter

Austin

Scott Sanderson 512-637-1750

scott@mbsquoteline.com

Fellow CCA Members, the wait's almost over—the **2015 Austin banquet, presented by Covert Chevrolet and Independence Title, is just around the corner. Mark it down, May 7th, and buy your table now.** YOU helped us set yet another fundraising record in 2014 and we're shooting for a three-peat. Fine food, drinks, exotic trips, tons of guns, fishing gear, over \$100,000 in raffle items, boats, trucks, Yetis and more—what's not to like at the marquee event of the year in Austin, Texas? Go to www.ccaaustin.org for table and ticket information. We're sure to sell out again.

Special thanks to all of our generous sponsors that help us put together a banquet like none other. We are grateful for your enduring support. Space constraints don't allow us to acknowledge everyone here so go to www.ccaaustin.org and see the local companies

and individuals that support CCA's mission for the benefit of us all. Please do business with them and thank them for supporting CCA. Photo caption... Sincere thanks to Denbow Construction, our boat sponsor, and Shallow Sport Boats and Coastline Trailers, for making this special rig possible.

As of this writing less than half of the raffle tickets for this year's 2015 Shallow Sport raffle remain. This year we have the 21 Sport, with all the upgrades, *plus a T-Top*, and it all sits on a Coastline Custom trailer. You can see a picture and buy a ticket on the website or go see her in person in front of Cabela's in Buda. Tickets always sell out before the banquet so you better hurry. Congratulations to Clifford Mankin, the early bird drawing winner, the proud owner of a Laguna Custom rod and Shimano Curado reel! Thank you Chris Williamson, owner of Laguna Rods!

Be sure to "Like" CCA Austin on Facebook and spread the word! Come join us May 8. — Scott Sanderson 512-637-1750 scott@mbsquoteline.com

Bay Area

Curtis Anderson 832-421-6377

Brazoria County

Wes Dingee 979-299-8245

Great News—the banquet was a GREAT SUCCESS! Big thank you to all of our sponsors and donors who helped make this banquet our best

yet! As always, if anyone is interested in joining our chapter board, we are always looking for extra hands on deck.

A few other updates for our members: Please keep an eye out on our chapter website for details on an upcoming **Brazoria County Chapter Member Fishing Tournament!** Details on location, date and time will be available shortly! Also, friend us on FaceBook – Brazoria County CCA. Send in your best pictures of recent catches – we would love to share them! —Dan Johnson

Brazos Valley

John Ben Strother 979-220-1738

jbsunlimited@yahoo.com

Our 23rd annual banquet: we had another packed house at the Brazos Center. A great live auction, games, raffles, and barbecue dinner. We THANK all of our sponsors and supporters that help make this a special event. Also a big THANK YOU to all the committee members who spent many hours, and to our director Drew Adams.

It is time to plan a spring club fishing trip and start promoting our CCA license plate and lifetime membership campaign, a great way to show support for our conservation effort. We invite everybody to our meetings at the **Brazos Center Pavilion on the 2nd Tuesday every month.** Food, beverages, and lots of fish stories. Give

me a call, text, or email. Hope to see you there —John Ben

Brenham

Dennis Crowson 979-451-2472

Dennis.crowson@hotmail.com

At our February meeting at Mike Hopkins Distributing— Thanks to David, Royce, and Troy Draehn of Draehn Boat Repair for their informative talk on boat, motor and trailer maintenance. Also thanks to Mike Antkowiak for providing the



chili. March 26th, Bob Leonard, the Galveston area Speck-Tackler presented a program. **Everyone is gearing up for this year's annual crawfish banquet on April 23rd.** Tickets and tables are going fast, so make arrangements!

The Brenham Chapter is sponsored by Mike Hopkins Distributing. Contact Chapter President, Dennis Crowson at dennis.crowson@hotmail.com or 979-451-2472.

—Dennis

Boats to go! Here are the banquet event boats yet to be won. Pick one, or all, and see the chapter update for information. Or, go to the chapter website at www.ccatexas.org.



Austin's 2015 Shallow Sport with all the upgrades, *plus a T-Top*, and it all sits on a Coastline Custom trailer.



Golden Triangle's NauticStar 2110 Sport CC Boat sponsored by MobilOil Credit Union.



Fort Bend's 18.5 JH Performance Outlaw with a 115 Yamaha motor and a Coastline Trailer



Matagorda Bays' fully rigged 22' Tran Sport XLR8 powered by a 200 HP Suzuki, with all black powder coated aluminum, and tee top. It sits on a double axle Coastline Trailer.



RGV's 200 Dargel Skooter powered by a 2015 150 HP Evinrude motor, sitting on a custom aluminum trailer.

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. Look for exclusive "Think Red. See Blue." conservation campaign gear at your local Academy store. There are approximately 50 CCA-branded products that include CCA shirts, hats, rods, reels, tackle boxes and bags, coolers and much more. A portion of the sales from these products goes to support CCA's important conservation work, including funding habitat restoration efforts.

Academy
SPORTS+OUTDOORS



Selection and prices vary by store.



59⁹⁹ CCA Deluxe Tackle Bag
• Includes three utility boxes

34⁹⁹ CCA Tackle Bag
• Includes two utility boxes



2⁹⁹
CCA
Medium
Utility Box
Style FSCSFE1013

4⁹⁹ CCA
Large
Utility Box
Style FSCSFE1014



14⁹⁹ CCA Big Game Lip Grabber
Style CCA-15A
• The grabber can be used for freshwater or saltwater fishing and is 11" long



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24⁹⁹ CCA Lip Gripper and Forceps
Tool Kit
Style CCA-K2
• Forceps help you debarb and remove hooks
• Lip gripper to hold your catch



EVERYTHING

for your next fishing trip

Prices good April 1- May 31, 2015.

499⁹⁹

Heritage Red Fish 10' Sit-On Fishing Kayak

Style KFHRRF1001

- 10" round front storage hatch
- 2 vertical rod holders and 1 swiveling rod holder

HERITAGE

119⁹⁹

No • Limits Red Fish Kayak Paddle

Style FSNOMC4012

NO-LIMITS

39⁹⁹

Zebco CCA 6' 6" Inshore Spincast Combo

Styles CCA733C,20,NS3

- 1T EVA handle
- Two-piece design
- 90 yds./20 lbs.

ZEBCO



139⁹⁹

Abu Garcia CCA C3-5500 Baitcast Reel

Style C3-5500 CCA

- Gear ratio: 5.3:1
- Four ball bearings

Abu
Garcia
FOR LIFE



RIGHT STUFF. LOW PRICE. EVERYDAY!

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Hank Henry 361-215-6803

Centex
Welcome new president Wayne Webb
254-405-1300 sheyhunt@aol.com

What a great year, and boy do we have big plans for this year. **The banquet date has been set for this year June 18th 2015 [Thursday] at Waco Convention Center (Chisholm Hall) starting at 6pm.** We are working on new ideas and auction items. I thank everyone who bought a table and all the board members for making last year a great success. Please visit our webpage at [ccatexas.org/centex] for ticket sales and upcoming events.

I welcome two new board members, **Donny Fratis** and **Joe Gonzales**, two young men that have already brought great new ideas to the table. Congratulations to **Joe Hague** who was voted in as the new Vice President. All the Board members would like to thank **Glen Thomas** for his dedication and service for the past 14 years to the Centex Chapter. Table tickets will be available on April 1, 2015. New this year is the ability to buy tickets online at ccatexas.org/centex. —Wayne Webb

Central Houston
Todd Buster Mobil, 713-545-1897

Colorado Valley
Welcome new president Eugene Ulrich
979-249-7425

Greetings! At our general membership meeting on January 29, **Norman Boyd** with the Texas Fisheries Department gave an informative program on the populations of redfish, trout, and flounder in and around the San Antonio Bay area. He also discussed impacts on the populations of fish along with other factors such as climate change, sportfish diets, economics, etc. After the program, we enjoyed delicious BBQ on a bun from **Zimmerhansels in Smithville**, refreshments again donated by **Brown Distributing, Capital Wright Dist. LLC, and Ozarka Aqua Beverage Co.** and a fun raffle.

Board members are busy getting ready for our banquet which will have been held on March 26th. I do want to convey a sincere thank you to all who attended and/or helped make our banquet a success. Last month our chapter board elected new officers. President: **Eugene Ulrich**, Treasurer **Trish Kubena**, Vice-President **Bo Janda**. Wishing you a great spring fishing with tight lines and bent rods for all! —
zeke.ulrich@gmail.com

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

Greetings from the Coastal Bend! We just put our 37th annual banquet to bed at the end of February. Wow, what a turnout! Thanks to all of our attendees and sponsors for this great event. Also thanks to **Environmental Evolution Energy Services**. In addition, I thank **Nyati Services, Inc.** and especially **YT and Virginia** for your support and patience as the hat sponsor. A big thanks goes to **Cody and Lauren Roesener** for taking on the monumental task of serving as Banquet Chair and Co-chairs. Thanks to **Jake Herring**, Food and Beverage Chairman, for getting a great spread together. Silent auction and raffle Chairperson **Judy Arnold** and her team of **Valerie Chilton, Colin, Alex** and the **TAMUCC Island Anglers** put together one of the best tables of items that I have ever seen; they hit a home run. Thanks to **Joseph Briones**, our boat chairman. Thanks to **Cliff Johnstone** for getting the facilities together again. **David Harris, Corey Survant, Barrett Fines**, and **Mike Henry** made sure the

Live Auction and Blackboard events did better than they've ever done. Thanks to **Bruce Laser** (Treasurer) for getting the Guides Cup together. Thanks to our AD **John Blaha**, and my CCA mentor **Randy Poelma** (past President) for making sure that we did it right. Thanks to the CCA-Texas staff **Kim Ogonosky** and **Amber**.

The entire list is long, but thanks to ALL the CCA-CC board members, also **Troy Adler, Rodney Gamez, Dr. Robert Vega, Paul Silva, Margaret Ehman, Jeff Smith, John Arnim, the Hybner brothers, Robbie Robinson** and many others. After the retreat, we'll be hosting a skeet shoot later on, and preparing to host the **Poco Rojo Kidfish event**, and the **Guides Cup**, and the ever popular **Babes on Baffin Ladies fishing tournament**, heading into our 11th year. **Lauren Roesener** will have more updates on the Babes website as time gets closer. Stay tuned, and drop me an email at jaygardner@scientist.com to learn how to participate. —**Jay Gardner** jgardner@naismith-engineering.com

Dallas / North Texas
Hal Thomas 972-612-1684
Spring is packed with exciting opportunities like our Annual Banquet at the Frontiers of Flight Museum, April 16, Catered this year by G Texas.

Chapter meetings at **Marine Max** and the **Flying Fish** and two great events coming up celebrating long standing relationships with **Tailwaters Fly Fishing Company** and **Mariner Sails**. In May, look for additional information about **Tailwater's** anniversary celebration where the CCA Dallas Committee will cook for the crowd as we celebrate many years on continued sponsor support from the great people at **Tailwaters**. Look for a new event this summer celebrating the long standing sponsorship from **Mariner Sails** as we celebrate its anniversary.

Our banquet will be another fine event for CCA and the many wonderful projects the organization pursues. Our theme this year is "**Cedar Bayou Restored**" and we are celebrating the outstanding conservation contributions by **Sam Caldwell** as we recognize him this year as the Dallas Chapter Conservationist of the Year. We love you Sam!

The Dallas committee encourages everyone to look for and follow the announcements and attend these events. We hope you will join us soon and bring every friend you can to a local event near you. We hope to see you soon and often. Tight lines —**Hal Thomas 972-768-3521**

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

On banquet night, March 6th, the turnout this year was exceptional! We are very fortunate to have great sponsors year after year that are very dedicated to coastal conservation. We enjoyed delicious fried catfish and shrimp from **Clear Springs** and beverages provided by **R&K Distributors** and **JEM Distillery**. We had this year's event at a new venue which allowed us to display trucks, boats and mud buggies. We are looking forward to another great year for CCA East Texas! Now let's go fish! —**Brent Rogers**



We had this year's event at a new venue which allowed us to display trucks, boats and mud buggies. We are looking forward to another great year for CCA East Texas! Now let's go fish! —**Brent Rogers**

Fort Bend
Robb Gaston 281-239-9755

Our banquet has almost arrived. Be here, April 23, 2015 at the Fort Bend Fairgrounds. That also means Spring fishing is upon us. No boat? Have an old worn out boat? Have last year's model and want to upgrade? NO PROBLEM! Fort Bend has a boat for you! We want you to win an 18.5' **JH Performance Outlaw** with a **115 Yamaha motor** and a **Coastline Trailer** for \$50 (see page 11 for photo). We are now selling tickets for this boat! You can give me a shout or any Fort Bend member for a boat ticket! Don't want a boat? How about a table? Purchase a **Bull Red** table for \$500 and get \$200 worth of bucket raffle tickets for free!! Contact **Ren Davis** at (281)342-6828 or myself for tables. —**Robb Gaston 281-239-9755**

Fort Worth
Hunter Baird 817-437-8351

In reading the most recent edition of Tide magazine, I realized that the money raised through all of the local and state level activities are vital to allow these groups to support their members. As we change seasons here in North Texas, we turn our attention from General Membership fish fries, to our annual Banquet on April 30th at **Joe T Garcias**.

At the most recent GM meeting, old man winter sent ice and snow to cover our roads. Thanks to all who ventured out and enjoyed our fish and **Rahr's** award winning beer. (www.rahrbrewing.com) Your host committee is earning their stripes with a revamped table sales program this year combined with multiple new sponsorship opportunities. Please reach out to todd.mulford@mhbtc.com, bairdhunter@gmail.com, brad@northtexasmarine.com or jonathan_black@ml.com with questions. Some new trips have been added to the auction as well as some of the old favorites! **Book it. April 30, 2015 at Joe T Garcias.** Fish On! —**Hunter Baird**

Galveston
Dr. Ken Ellis 713-962-7731

A busy spring is planned. General Membership Meeting on **June 11th at M & M Bar and Grill**. The **Shimano Pro-Staff** will be giving us a presentation. **We will be hosting our first annual Kids Fishing Tournament on Saturday April 11th at Harborwalk.** Look for more information via email. The **Shimano Pro-Staff** will be giving us a presentation.

Boat raffle package— a **2015 Blue Wave 2200 Pure Bay** complete with a **Suzuki DF 150 TX 4 Stroke** and a **McLain Trailer**. Only 500 tickets will be sold! Be sure and contact your local board members to get yours! Tickets are \$100 each. **The banquet date is set and will be held on Saturday August 8th at Moody Gardens.**

We are looking forward to a busy and fun year. If you are interested in volunteering in your local chapter please contact me. We welcome the participation! Tight Lines —**Ken Ellis**

Golden Triangle
Welcome new president Joel
Foxworth 409-466-2614

We had well over 100 people join us for our annual general membership meeting February 25th at **Courville's in Beaumont**. **Capt. Dickie Colburn** (<http://www.sabineconnection.com/>) and **Capt. Bill Watkins** (<http://www.fishsabinelake.com/>) gave us updates on Sabine Lake and some best practices for having successful fishing trips. Additionally, we had an acoustic concert from **Blue Broussard**, and **Classic Chevrolet** sponsored a 65qt. cooler with the entry prize.

Our next event will be the 35th Annual Golden Triangle Chapter Banquet at the Beaumont Civic Center on Thursday, May 21st. Main raffle item this year is a NauticStar 2110 Sport CC Boat sponsored by MobilOil Credit Union. Tickets will be \$20 each or six for \$100. To purchase raffle tickets or tickets to the Annual Banquet, please email [Drew Adams](mailto:Drew.Adams@ccatexas.org) at dadams@ccatexas.org or you can call Joel Foxworth at the number listed. —Joel Foxworth

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

Our big event is fast approaching. The 2015 Greater Sugar Land CCA banquet will be held at the Stafford Center on April 9, 2015. Join us at this great venue that provides plenty of room, with boiled crawfish or fried catfish. Great prizes including a Beretta over and under, two other guns, a spa day, Yeti coolers, GoPro camera, Apple iPad, and CCA lifetime membership. For ticket information, table sales, or program sponsorships, please contact Weems Turner at wturner45@comcast.net or Brian Meuth at bmeuth@ccatexas.org.

Jennifer Butler, Hatchery Biologist with Sea Center Texas spoke at our February meeting. She gave an informative update on stocking activities with redfish, spotted sea trout and flounder. She CCA Texas is providing funding for additional rearing tanks for flounder and she is anxious to put them to use. Flounder rearing improvements is very impressive.

We had our crab trap weekend on February 20 through 22. Attendees were David Kveton, Paul Lawson, Bob Nipper, Fred Howard, Chris Hall and Bob Bailey. We managed to get some fishing in and exceeded at eating some very good meals. Thanks to David and Judy Kveton for letting everyone stay at their place in Sargent. Thank you —Weems Turner

Greater Woodlands
James Kay 281-363-4417
www.ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands
Greater Woodlands James Kay 281-363-4417
CCA Texas Greater Woodlands Chapter – 8th Annual Banquet – Thursday - July 9, 2015. The Grand Palace in Spring, TX. Please visit our web page for updated information on the banquet. —James Kay

Guadalupe Valley
Jon Eric Rodriguez 361-243-1017

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

Heart of the Hills
Jim Simmons fishtxsurf@AOL.com

Hill Country
Welcome, new president
Miles Engelke 830-303-1827

A special Thanks to Darlene Cook as our past President, what a great job.

Our chapter tournament is Saturday, June 6, 2015 in Rockport Texas at the Drifters Resort and RV Park. Josh Downey and Sterling Schulz are the tournament chairmen. Contact Josh at 830-708-2986 or Sterling at 830-305-5128.

We will hold three (3) General Membership Meetings, the dates are April 21, July 21 and Oc-



"Now Arriving At Cedar Bayou," Artist Al Barnes depiction of a pair of whooping cranes approaching now-open Cedar Bayou.

tober 20, 2015, locations and programs to be announced.

Our Hill Country Chapter Banquet will be Thursday, August 20, 2015 at the Civic Center in New Braunfels Texas, we have added the Ball Room in addition to the Banquet Hall to enable us to increase attendance, so mark your calendars and tell your friends. Call Todd Thetford to reserve your table, 830-660-8825.

We are selling three hundred (300) raffle tickets for a chance to win an ATV as the Grand Prize, plus a Benelli Nova 12 Gauge, a Yeti Cooler, a Go Pro Camera and an American RodSmith Rod with a Chronarch Reel. Darlene Cook, 830-214-3067, Royce Harboth, 830-832-7430, Bill Daughtery, 830-708-2339. Treasure The Trips —Miles Engelke

Houston Homebuilders
Mack Davis 832 381-6130

We had a banquet follow up meeting recently to review the numbers from our Chapter's first banquet. I'm pleased to report that the banquet last month was a tremendous success not only in terms of dollars raised for CCA Texas, but also a terrific networking opportunity for our Houston builders and their vendors.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to our new founding board members, to our many banquet guests, and to our many friends at CCA Texas. Thanks for all your efforts in getting this new CCA chapter up and running! We are already planning a bigger and better event for next year! —Mack

Houston Real Estate
Dale Couch 281-953-2510

We just had our banquet for 2015. Great financial success. Once again an excellent opportunity to see and visit with friends in the Houston real estate market. Congratulations to the newest chapter and its initial success, **Houston Builders**. Thanks to those who helped with our banquet. It makes putting it together a real reward and very satisfying. —Dale Couch

Katy
Clint Hilton 713-515-3991

Get while the gettin's good! We have been in "executive session", discussing our 2015 banquet. 2014 was our best year, and we outgrew our venue. SO, **WE DECIDED TO CHANGE VENUES FOR THE 2015 BANQUET. This year, our banquet will be held June 11th, at Palacio Maria (near the corner of Mason and Highland Knolls).** Lots

of cold beer and the same great crawfish or catfish as years past. The new venue can hold up to 600 people, plenty of room to mingle, extra space for more prize items, and lots of room to grow.

Individual tickets are only \$65, and reserve tables for 8 are \$1250 or \$750. All tickets include a CCA membership. I recommend the \$1250 tables as they include several premium benefits! We have also ironed out our main raffle item: Katy is becoming known as the "gun" chapter! We are raffling 20 guns, supplied by Payne Brothers Firearms. Tickets are \$20 each, or 7 for \$100. Tickets are printed, and ready for purchase. Raffle tickets are limited, and when they are gone, they're gone!

Meetings will be back in April and May with speakers, so watch your email for the official update. Several Katy Board Members hosted a shrimp and crawdad cook for one of our 2014 banquet buyers. We put smiles on nearly 40 folks' faces, promising return

of the highly coveted **Katy Cookout** for the 2015 banquet auction. Raise your hands high when this opportunity comes up in the auction. If you need banquet or GUN raffle tickets, please holler! —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
Our chapter will be participating in the Matagorda Bay Crab Trap Clean up on Feb 21st. We will be having our Kid fish event April 18th from 7am to 1pm. Matagorda Seafood Fest is March 14th and we will be selling raffle tickets for our CCA chapter's Annual Banquet Boat.

Make time to help someone new out on the water and let them enjoy the lifestyle we enjoy. Thank you and have a nice day, —Clint Hewitt
hewitt.clint@heb.com

Lower Laguna Madre
Oscar Garcia III 956-491-8148

Mainland
Eric Minor 281-534-6242

Matagorda Bays
Chad Hensley 979-543-2734

We are in full swing. This year's boat will be a fully rigged 22' Tran Sport XLR8 powered by a 200 HP Suzuki, with all black powder coated aluminum, and tee top. It sits on a double axle Coast-line Trailer. Donny Tran and the guys at Tran Sport Boats did a great job rigging the boat. Polasek Construction has once again stepped up to be a boat sponsor. Polasek Construction has supported Matagorda Bays Chapter year after year.

If you are not in the area to get a boat ticket give Wesley Smolik a call @ (979) 543-2753. Be sure to mark your calendars for our 2015 banquet it is scheduled for June 25 at the El Campo Civic Center.

The chapters 10th annual Li'l Salties Fishing Blowout is scheduled for May 9th 2015 at the Matagorda Harbor. Entry forms are in the mail. Parents, be sure to get them mailed back ASAP.

Last year we had well over 200 kids come out for a day of fun. Every entry receives a prize bag, trophy, and tee shirt. To donate to this great event or have any questions, contact **Lynn Staff** (ltstaff@yahoo.com) or **Thomas Gold** (tagold@elc.net) Contact me if you have any questions about the chapter.—**Chad Hensley**

MidCoast

David Jenkins
361-578-5580

Northeast Houston

Jason Law 713-898-8594

Northwest Houston

Alan Massey 281-414-6341

Our April 7th General Meeting speaker will be **Sam Caldwell**. A longtime GCCA/CCA member, Sam plans to present a video about the GCCA and early CCA, *The Endangered Crescent*. And of course, we will have our **Annual Member Appreciation Fish Fry** with all the Fixin's so bring your appetites. It will be held as usual at Houston Distributing 7100 High Life Drive off Cutten Road in the Stein Room.

Mark your calendars! Our 2015 Annual Kid Fish Date: **Saturday May 9th Time: 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Sylvan Beach Park – Fishing Pier in La Porte.** Many thanks to **Harris County Precinct 2, The City of La Porte and Linda's Bait & Tackle** for their continued support of this annual event. — **Loretta**

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

As we look back into the rear view mirror we see lots of activities. The Joint effort with surrounding chapters from Sabine Neches, Golden Triangle and Lake Charles, LA. For the annual crab trap clean up. The Orange County Trash off in its 20th year in preparation for the Bassmasters Elite series. Thanks, and also we thank Bassmaster Elite pros **Paul Elias and Shaw Grigsby** for sparing a few hours on the Sabine River to be our guest speakers at our Annual Membership drive. Thanks again to **Roberts Meat Market & Steakhouse** for allowing us to meet there. And to the event sponsors, **Simon Outfitter, Granger Chevrolet, Landmark Staffing and Spanky's Bar & Grill.**

We see the 7th Annual Orange County Banquet. This year's event will be on **August 20, 2015 at the Orange County Convention and Expo Center.**

Watch for your information package for sponsorships to be mailed out soon. If you are interested in being a part of the planning committee please try to attend a meeting and get involved. We meet every 2nd Monday of the month at **Roberts Meat Market & Steakhouse** at 6 pm. I thank everyone who attended or participated in any of the activities mentioned. — **Scott Bandy Davis Dixon – Vice President**
Louis Moore – Treasurer

Port O'Connor
Bill Moore 361-983-4690

The 2015 Crab Trap Removal is now history. The chapter was on hand at the TP&W docks to assist on Saturday, February 21. Several members were on the water, along with other volunteers to pick up traps. **Chris Smisek** of the San Antonio Chapter and his crew, **Lannie Green, Dr. Alan Baribeau**, along with **Chester**, brought in the most traps. **Ted and Weslene Gaetjen** followed; **Carl Ray and Dane Whitworth** came in third. Turnout reflected the beautiful weather.

The chapter provided lunch and it was enjoyed by all. A special thanks to all who participated in the preparation and serving of the meal, including **Pam and Carl Ray, Maxine and Mike Sharp, Debbie and Jim Busby, Monique Morlan, Susie Onishi, Carol Fox, and Judy and Dane Whitworth.** Also, to **Norman Boyd of TPWD** and his crew for the use of their facilities and assistance.

We will be scheduling meetings for the 16th Annual POC CCA Banquet, so be sure to pencil in that date, **Saturday October 17.** As the weather warms and the north wind calms, come see us. POC, "Where it all began." — **Bill Moore**

Prairie

Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103

On February 27, we had our annual Chili Apparition dinner. It was at the **Cat Spring Tin Building.** The famous **Kirk Chili** which was as good as last year! Thanks to **Kirk Hoppe, Randy Goebel, Jason Beaman, Joey Pawlowski, Adam Noviskie, Walter Herbrig and Brian Wietstruck.** Thanks to **Austin County Bank and First National Bank** for all their help.

On Thursday, April 2 we will have our 18th Annual Fundraiser Banquet at the **Cat Spring Hall.** We are expecting a sellout crowd this year. The meal of Prime rib and shrimp will be catered by **Mikeskas BBQ.** Our annual kids fishing tournament date will be announced later in the year. Thanks — **Ron Chess 979-992-3295**

Redfish Bay

Norman Oates 361-758-0266

Our Annual Banquet is scheduled for **April 18 in the Port Aransas Civic Center.** It starts at 6 PM, and, in addition to coconut shrimp in the raffle/auction area (a tradition), we will have a sit down meal with salad, entrée, and desert. Beer, wine, and soft drinks are included. As always, it is a family event. There are raffle, silent auction, and live auction items for everyone. Tickets and tables on-line ahead of time at ccatexas.org – just make sure you go to **Redfish Bay Chapter Banquet.** Board members are selling tickets locally, and you can call me with questions. We hope to see you there!

The Take a Kid Fishing event will be **June 5 & 6 at Woody's Sports Center in Port Aransas.** Always a great event for young fisherpersons. The sign up and meal is Friday evening, and fishing is Saturday morning until noon. Awards ceremony and hot dogs after fishing. Each fisherperson gets a rod, reel and trophy. Bring the kids and enjoy!

Even though it is not a CCA event, I want to remind everyone of the **Vets Fishing with Vets Tournament** scheduled for **May 1 & 2 in Aransas Pass.** The goal, in addition to getting vets on the water, is to benefit military families via the Fisher House. Find more information at www.Vetsfishingwithvets.us.

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

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

The Rio Grande Valley is in full planning mode for its 36th Annual Banquet to be held **Thursday, April 23, 2015 at the Pharr Events Center.** The chapter is working hard to put on another great event that can be enjoyed by everyone with lots of opportunities to buy great artwork, hunting and fishing trips, and those special couple and friend getaways.

This year's banquet will once again have our annual boat giveaway sponsored by **L&F Distributors.** Thank you L&F for your continued support. This year's boat is a **2015 200 Dargel Skooter** powered by a **2015 150 HP Evinrude** mo-

tor and sits on a custom aluminum trailer. Tickets are \$100 each and only 450 tickets will be sold. Don't miss out on this opportunity to win a great boat for the Laguna Madre, provided once again by **L&F Distributors and Dargel Boats.** For more



information about the boat and how to purchase tickets, contact **Louis Zimmerer** at 956-373-0799 or lmz01@yahoo.com.

The RGV Chapter has added another raffle for the 2015 year. The chapter will be selling up to 1,000 2015 calendars for 100 each and this will put you in a drawing for 52 guns with the chance to win as many times as your name is drawn.

The chapter will hold a social event on **May 20, 2015 at the Elk's Lodge in Weslaco.** The doors will open at 5:30 PM and all guns will be drawn that evening. After each drawing the winning ticket will be placed back in the tumbler giving all buyers the chance to win multiple times. Don't miss out on this great opportunity. For more information and how to purchase tickets, contact **Hayden Ellis** at hellis@svokins.com or **John Blaha** at 713-626-4222 or jdblaha@ccatexas.org.

The RGV Chapter board welcomes and encourages new board members. If you are interested in helping the chapter out, please contact Chapter President **George McCaleb** at 956-984-8688 or gmccaleb@hotmail.com or **John Blaha** at 713-626-4222 or jdblaha@ccatexas.org. — **George McCaleb**

Sabine-Neches

Darin Johnson 409-790-9855

THANK YOU SOUTHEAST TEXAS! March 5th was our 17th annual banquet with over 500 people in attendance, our best year ever! So many people to thank; **Anthony Toups w/Classic GMC, Academy, American Airboats, Jameadco, Pete Jorgensen Marine, Kieschnick Industries, Cops Helping Kids, Philpott Motors, ISS, Golden Pass LNG, Clean Harbors, Retirement National, Premiere Yamaha, Del Papa Bud Guys, Giglio Miller Coors, Pure Cajun** kept us going with food and drinks. **Jay Weeks** with **SE Texas Starter**, great looking golf carts. To all the Sabine Neches volunteers, great job. Tight lines to all! — **Darin M Johnson**

Sam Houston
Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908

San Antonio
Jimmy Gibson 210-287-4378

As this Currents hits the mail, we are near our second "HOOKED ON CLAYS" Sporting Clays Shoot to be held at the National Shooting Complex, 5931 Roff Road, San Antonio, Friday April 3th at 1 pm. If you get this Currents in time, check in begins at 11:30am. If you didn't make it last year you missed it. There are great prizes for the top teams, give a ways and live music / dinner served after the shoot. Individual shooters are always welcome and will be assigned a team. Cost is \$125 per shooter. Our web site has all the details and you can sign up by calling **Rick Neitzel** at (210) 771-7807 or e mailing Rick at tasicorneitzel@aol.com

On to our 2015 BANQUET scheduled for **Thursday May 14th, at the Freeman Coliseum Complex, Exhibit Halls A & B, doors open at 5:00 pm.** This is our 36th year Anniversary. We have several new big things planned, new auction



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items and new trips, and thanks to our generous sponsors we will again give you a great chance to win a new boat (**sponsored by Budweiser**), a new **Harley** (**thanks to Coors Light**), a Custom Golf Cart (**donated by Lone Star**), and the list goes on. This year is going to be over the top so make plans now. Full details are on our web site or contact **Joe Eaton** at jeaton@eatondevo.com, jeaton@eatoncontracting.com 210-599-3690 – OFFIC.

We are always looking for individuals to enjoy volunteering their time, resources, and thoughts as to how we can better serve this great organization. Come have some fun working on our banquet committee. Remember our first battle cry " **SAVE THE REDFISH** ." Take family, friends, and kids fishing. —**Jimmy Gibson**
For any information, e-mail me jimmy.gibson@CSTBrands.com

San Bernard

Jayson Zahradnik 281-202-8438

San Gabriel

John Melnar 512-497-8284

Get out your calendar and save August 20th, and then call your fishing buddies and tell them to meet you at the Cedar Park Center for our 13th Annual Banquet. We are excited to move to the spacious CPC but need your help to reach our attendance goal of 500. Join our list of generous sponsors, purchase a reserved table with a group of your fishing buddies, or simply buy a single ticket at the door... the most important thing you can do to support our chapter is attend this event and spread the word.

Moving to the CPC allows us room to grow, but also allows us to provide 10 top tables for our Bull Red and Sponsor tables. For more information on becoming a sponsor or purchasing a reserved table, contact me or any other board member. We are looking for more help and will need it as we grow this year. I hope to see you at the Cedar Park Center on Aug 20th! —**John Melnar** 512-497-8284 jmelnar@piscavore.com

San Jacinto

Jim Wilson 713-828-7639

The board met on March 2 at the **Border Grill in Pasadena** to discuss this year's upcoming events. You're welcome at all meetings: Monday of the first full week of the month.

Upcoming events:

April 6th – General membership meeting. Guest speaker, **Bill Rodney** with Texas Parks Wildlife. Topic: The East Bay Oyster Restoration Project: A TPWD-CCA Texas Partnership. Bill has a slide show and talks about the giant submerged rectangular structure in East Bay, post Hurricane Ike damage and current restocking efforts. Door Prizes will be available!

May 2nd – Sunshine Kids at Sylvan Beach. Emails will soon be going out to the 38 boat captains that volunteered last year. Last years, I had four incorrect emails on my Boat captain list. If you don't get an email from me by 3/20/15 please email me back at the email listed below. We want to thank everyone again that helped last year.

Inter Chapter Challenge – we will have a big group fishing again this year.

Chapter Banquet, June 25th at the Bay Area Community Center on NASA Parkway. Tickets can be ordered from **Brian Mueth** at CCA or email me at steveww52@yahoo.com.

Rod repair party, July the 11th at Steve and Mary Wilson's house. We'll fry fish, the pool will be open and so will the pier.

Youth Tournament, Sept. 12th at the Sylvan Beach Pier in LA Porte Texas. This is and always has been a free event for all kids. We provide most of the rods, door prizes, trophies, bait. **John and Kathy Wood** continue to provide the food and the Cookers. The kids will fish off of the pier from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM. —**Jim Wilson**

Southwestern

Robert Hart 830-879-5541

TAMU

Welcome to new president Ian Kocher
Mays Business School 512-632-9222

ikocher12@gmail.com

Look for some interesting events from the Aggieland CCA chapter. —**Ian Kocher**

Texas State University

Ryan Wishnow 832-444-3598

rw1303@txstate.edu

Here comes our 9th Annual Texas State Chapter Banquet on April 10, 2015 at the Hill Country Event Center in San Marcos, TX. Come out and help us build on the success that this chapter has had in the last 8 years and get involved in making this one of the best chapters in Texas.
—**Blaine Brucks**

Tomball/Magnolia

Matt Maddox 281-770-7858

Tri-County

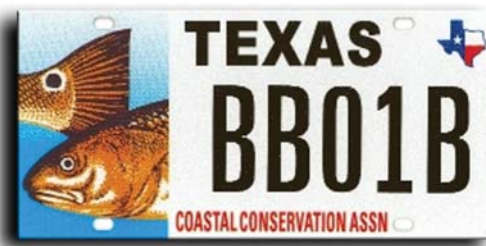
Welcome new president Christian

Hildebrand 830-534-2730

We are off and running preparing for our 18th annual 2015 Banquet. Please mark your calendar for Friday, April 24th, at the Atascosa County Show Barn in Jourdanton, Texas. We have several new sponsors and the auction items and door prizes are going to be bigger and better. We will have plenty of crawfish/catfish with all the fixings and plenty of cold drinks. We have had a gracious sponsor step forward to provide us with a A/C truck to pump in cool air, should it get a little warm.

Last year's banquet was a sellout, so get your tickets fast. For more details, table cost, and individual ticket sales you can call **Brian Mueth** at 713-626-4222 or E-Mail Brian at bmueth@ccatexas.org. As always tickets are available from **Butch Long** at the **Deer Hunter's Toy Store** in Jourdanton, Texas. From all the Tri-

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

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!

County Directors, we hope to see you on April 24th! —Christian Hildebrand

Trinity Bay

Gerald Payne 281-385-2894

We have been laying the groundwork for our August 28th Banquet in Baytown, Texas. We held elections for the Executive Board and cultivated a new member, who immediately exhibited a boost of energy while promoting a couple of fresh ideas to the group. April brings a long weekend in Rockport for a few local members to enjoy, as the result of a 2014 banquet vacation purchase. In addition the chapter is preparing for a family day to enjoy some fellowship and great food together.

May means the beginning of the S.T.A.R. Tournament, tagged redfish and a gamut of potential prizes to fish for. May also means that we in the Trinity Bay Chapter need to be promoting and affording individuals a chance to purchase our **NEW Multi-Item Raffle Tickets** consisting of guns, coolers, rods & reels, along with an assortment of other sought after items. Meanwhile, members will be making contact with our dedicated annual sponsors to finalize the **August 28th Banquet**. Be certain to mark the date as more details will be coming soon. —Gerald "Get er Done" Payne

Trinity Valley

John Hebert Jr 936-334-2528

West Houston

Mike Ayers 832-248-9352

Banquet Time! Please mark your calendars and plan on joining the West Houston Chapter on Thursday, May 14th at the Farm and Ranch Club for the 29th Annual West Houston CCA Crawfish Boil and Banquet! A lot of new and exciting trips, artwork, tackle and other gear at the banquet this year and, as always, we will have plenty of crawfish and adult beverages on hand! We have

a new Sportsman Raffle this year, and this is a "need not be present to win" raffle. 20 items will be up for grabs and each ticket purchased is live for all drawings. Items available to win include **Yeti coolers**, rod/reel combos, firearms, a **Go Pro** and an **iPad**. Tickets for the Sportsman Raffle are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. Contact a Board Member if interested in purchasing tickets as we expect these to be sold out before the night of the event.

There are three levels of table sponsorships this year. Reserve Sponsor Table: \$650 Includes - Table for 10, Table Signage, CCA Memberships & Program Mention. Silver Sponsor Table: \$1,000 Includes - Table for 10 with preferred seating, Table Signage, CCA Memberships, Program Mention, Auctioneer Recognition & Table Gifts. Gold Sponsor Table: \$2,000 Includes - Table for 10 front & center, Table Signage, CCA Memberships, Full Page Program Ad, Auctioneer Recognition & Special Table Gifts for All. Individual Tickets: \$55 in advance, \$65 at the door. Please contact a Board Member to purchase your raffle tickets and/or reserved tables. Order forms and contact information can be found on our West Houston Chapter webpage at www.ccatexas.org or our Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/WestHoustonCCA. Until next time, best of luck while on the water and stay safe out there! —Mike Ayers

West Texas

Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499



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You MUST return this form to the CCA office completely filled out to receive your gift (This offer is NOT available online).

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Phone _____ Email _____

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Signature _____

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(This form must be completely filled out or your gun will NOT be shipped)

Academy Sports + Outdoors has agreed to accept the CCA Texas High Standard Life Member gun at all of their Texas stores, with no handling fee charge. For more information please contact Mylinda Jones at mylinda.jones@academy.com or (281) 646-5908.

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2) Pauline Osbourn 3) Chase Stanzel

SCENIC: 1) Jack Mouring 2) Sally Black 3) Pauline Osbourn

HUMOR: 1) Pauline Osbourn 2) Pauline Osbourn 3) Pauline Osbourn

KIDS: Dozens!

WILDLIFE: 1) Archie Stacy Brown 2) Mary Clare Ganuchean
3) Terry Parisi

CPR: 1) Capt. Rene Hinajosa 2) Joseph Sanderson 2) Chase Stanzel

HONORABLE MENTION: Marsha Landers Spence Collins
James Dinel Steve Hillman Neal Nichols Cat Bani-Yassin Chris
Smisek John Blaha

Lisa Laskowski

Fred Howard

James Kay

Joseph Sanderson

Scott Sanderson

Phillip Fitzgerald

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Matula Jim

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Texas State Artist 2004

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Everyone's rushing to get this deal.

Tilson supports CCA Texas.
With FREE upgrades worth \$1,000 toward anything in our design center for members!

Like you, Tilson is committed to preserving our world for future generations. That's why we'd like to thank all CCA Texas members for your efforts with a special offer. Visit our website, call, or stop by one of our model home centers and speak with a sales consultant to see what Tilson can build for you.



1.888.540.6705 | www.Tilson-CCA.com

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

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 CCA Texas and the STAR Fishing Tournament.



Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Suite 100 / Houston, TX 77024

CURRENTS NEWSLETTER

April / May 2015

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HOUSTON, TEXAS
PERMIT 2532



Paralichthys lethostigma:

*The delectable southern
flounder is on
dinner menus and
CCA's STAR
educational programs*

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](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us) To focus on fishing and
boating, visit [http://www.tpwd.-
state.tx.us/fishboat/](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:	\$30	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