

CURRENTS

The newsletter for CCA members in Texas

April / May 2012



*Cedar Bayou: CCA charts a new
beginning between the Gulf and the bay*

CCA Texas takes bold step in opening Cedar Bayou

\$500,000 pledge kicks off multi-million dollar fundraising campaign

The Coastal Conservation Association of Texas has announced a \$500,000 matching grant that will initiate a new push in generating the funding to open Aransas County's Cedar Bayou and Vincent Slough.

After decades of negative impacts from siltation and low water flows, an estimated \$6.5M effort will be required to open the vital connection from Mesquite and Aransas Bays to the Gulf of Mexico.

"It is not often that there is an opportunity to reopen a vital and iconic pass," said Robby Byers, CCA Texas executive director. "There is still a lot of money to be raised and a lot of work to do, but CCA Texas has kicked off a critical next step with this financial support."

Cedar Bayou is a natural pass that separates St. Joseph's Island from Matagorda Island. Dredging efforts date back to the 1930s, but partial efforts, siltation and misplacement of spoil materials have eventually led to the pass and adjacent Vincent Slough being sealed.

Along with the kick-off funding, CCA Texas will partner with Aransas County in providing funds to secure a professional fundraiser to pursue the needed dollars to complete the dredging project. To date, Aransas County has already earmarked \$500,000 in Coastal Impact Assistance Program funds for the project.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for the economic and environmental future of Aransas County and the State of Texas," said Judge C.H. Mills. "Our partnership with CCA in this important effort is a much-needed boost to push this initiative forward."

After a protracted application and approval process, Judge Mills signed the dredging permit for Cedar Bayou and Vincent Slough on August 3 of 2010. Although the pass has been dredged numerous times through history, this is the largest and most comprehensive effort slated to date.

"Anytime you can open a pass between the Gulf and bay, you are creating a tremendous benefit for the bay and the anglers who enjoy it," said Mark Ray, CCA Texas Chairman. "CCA Texas has supported this important effort for decades and this new support will hopefully reopen this vital pass for generations to come."

Why a flowing Cedar Bayou?

A personal answer from Jay Gardner, Environmental Scientist

I first visited Cedar Bayou many moons ago when I was doing a short stint with USFWS, sampling the National Wildlife Refuges (NWR's) up and down the Texas Coast.

Matagorda Island NWR was on that list. We loaded our sampling gear at Goose Island and headed there for a few days. Our job was to complete fisheries sampling on the NWR and associated pass (Cedar Bayou). This was back in 1995 just after the most recent dredging episode, and the first thing I noticed as we pulled into the boat house at

HQ was the amount of tripletails hanging around! There were at least two dozen palm-sized 'tails loafing around the pilings (potentially another species that benefits from open passes).

We spent several days surveying the area, marking grids, pulling seines and nets, and running the sampling protocol. The last couple of days we were there, it was time for tagging redfish, via "hook and line sampling." We borrowed a truck from "Doc" McAllister (thanks for the hospitality and stories!) and began running the roads along the levies and Brundrette Lakes towards Panther Point.

Previous "fisheries experience" had taught me that redfish are suckers for water moving through the culverts that joined all the lakes, and we started tagging redfish. I think I tagged the most, around 25, although you might get conflicting stories from my co-workers.

Now, this was in September, and you could feel fall coming on; convention told us that it was about time for those tagged reds to be moving on. Texas experienced its first cold front of the season that next weekend, and fall really got kicked off. Sure enough, two weeks later, we got a call from a fisher-

"Anytime you can open a pass between the Gulf and bay, you are creating a tremendous benefit for the bay and the anglers who enjoy it."—Mark Ray, CCA Texas Chairman

man on Bob Hall pier; they had caught two redfish down the coast that I had tagged at Cedar Bayou! Two! Obviously, those redfish had made it out of the recently dredged pass,

Dr. Richard L. Watson's aerial from October 8, 2006, shows the Cedar Bayou pass at low tide, but open to the Gulf. At bottom of the image are regions that show the "estuarine ocean coupling" effect mentioned by Jay Gardner.



On front cover: the Cedar Bayou region as it is now. The pass is closed to tidal interchanges and the migration of fish, crabs, shrimp, and other organisms from the bays to the Gulf.

*Photos from the collection of Dr. Richard L. Watson, Ph.D., PG
www.texascoastgeology.com*

spawned, and were headed south to do more of the same.

The point: I have directly seen the benefits to Cedar Bayou being open. I wish I would have gotten the chance to thank the recreational fisherman who called in the re-captures myself, but c'est la vie.

Now, we all have heard that passes serve as migration corridors for fish, crabs, shrimp, and other organisms from the bays to the Gulf. And we've all heard that passes serve as "highways" for these organisms to complete their critical migration routes to and from the stable salinities of the Gulf and the estuarine conditions of the bay systems. Ecologically speaking, this is known as "Estuarine-Ocean Coupling" whereas organisms are able to use the conditions found in the bay and Gulf systems to the best of their advantage for "spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity." (That's the tail-end of the definition of Essential Fish Habitat, or EFH).

Tarpon are a great practical example of this; common convention says they spawn just outside passes, and the larvae enter the bays and estuaries during flood (high) tides. After they transform from a leptocephalus larvae (eel-like stage, but that's the topic of another article) into small tarpon they find their way back up into brackish water estuaries. This is due to two factors; one is that they prefer to eat mosquito larvae when they are very small, which require freshwater conditions, and another benefit is that these areas are typically very shallow and do not support an array of large predators that would eat the little tarpon.



A chart from 1884 shows the same facets of the vast estuarial region that would benefit from Cedar Bayou's flow into and out of the Gulf of Mexico. Image from the collection of Dr. Thomas Watson.

This 'coupling' between protected habitats of the bay and the salinities of the Gulf is no more obvious than at Cedar Bayou. Many Texas tarpon fishermen know that Cedar Bayou was historically a hot-spot for Silver Kings.

The pass being open is the key component to the longevity and reproduction of tarpon on the Texas Coast. This lesson was driven home to me in a strong way this past spring; I was doing some work mid-coast around the Guadalupe delta. We were about to board an airboat and do some habitat characterization on adjacent marshes, and right before we did, I began noticing some small splashes. As I looked closer, I began to suspect that these were little tarpon; could it be? My suspicions were confirmed with a quick cast net throw, and it literally took my breath away; a tarpon nursery on the Texas Coast!

My mind raced, and I couldn't help my excitement. I quickly received gracious permission from the landowner to get TPWD access to the site, and long story short, due to Art Morris and the Sea Center Staff, there are six juvenile tarpon swimming around in a tank at Sea Center Texas. Stop by and say

"hi" to them sometime, and as a side note, don't forget to log onto the Tarpon Observation Network and log your catches and sightings.

The lesson regarding access to essential fish habitat, and ocean-estuarine coupling has never been more clear in my mind since that day.

The current environmental conditions can be enhanced, and exacerbating factors alleviated, by the opening of Cedar Bayou (and Vinson's Slough, a critical component of the project). Whooping cranes may

benefit from the connection with the Gulf due to their primary food source, blue crabs. Blue crabs are another estuarine dependent species that need a pass proximal to both the estuaries and the Gulf. This benefits whooping cranes on their wintering habitat due to the proximity of the pass to the Aransas NWR.

At the end of the day, that's one of the cruxes of the importance of opening Cedar Bayou; it's the PROXIMITY of this pass to the estuaries of the Mesquite, Carlos, Ayers, St. Charles, Aransas, Mission/Copano, San Antonio, Guadalupe, and Hynes Bays, and the freshwater inflows into them. Ah, but the freshwater is a story for another day, and another piece of the puzzle that CCA is working on with the Habitat Today, Fish for Tomorrow initiative. For now, dig Cedar Bayou and stay tuned! 🐟

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



**Feb. 21: First 2012 meeting
for CCA Board Members**
**Rainbow Lodge provides
hands on seafood sauces
for CCA board**

Overseeing (and learning) was a packed house of board members, and CCA's food editor, Ellen Ohmstede. *Chef de Cuisine* Mario Valdez began with a flamboyant demonstration of the Rainbow Lodge Bourbon Bacon Batter, then provided taste tests for all. Here are the Valdez recipes.

Arugula Herbed Pesto

1 cup Arugula – (tightly packed) / 1 bunch Basil / 1 bunch Parsley / 3 Tbs chopped Garlic / ½ cup Shredded Parmesan / Reggiano Cheese / ½ cup Extra Virgin Olive Oil / 2 tsp Salt / 2 tsp Black Pepper

Combine all the ingredients except for the oil in a food processor or blender, and blend for 30 seconds (you should have a thick paste of greens). Slowly add in the oil until you reach a loose consistency - taste and add salt or pepper as needed. Yields Approximately 2 cups.

Bourbon Bacon Butter

1 tsp olive oil / 1 lemon – cut in half / 1 shallot- sliced / 1 bay leaf / ¼ cup Bourbon (whiskey) / 1/2 cup Heavy Whipping Cream / ½ lb of butter / ¼ cup cooked bacon – chopped / 1 stalk of green onion- chopped

To start: in a hot pot heat the olive oil and add in the lemon shallot and bay leaf, and cook gently for 2 minutes. Away from the flame, carefully add in the bourbon and cook until the flames die down, using extreme caution. Once the bourbon has cooked, add in the cream and cook over a medium heat until it comes to a boil. Once the cream boils, slowly whisk in the butter, a couple of cubes at a time, over a medium heat. Pick out the bay leaf and add in the bacon and green onion. Season with salt and pepper to your taste. Yields Approximately 2 cups. Enjoy with CCA friends.

**Abandoned Crab
Trap Removal, 2012**

**Art Morris/ Coastal
Fisheries Division**

Unfortunately, weather played a big role in our abilities to get out and remove traps this year, but as always we did have a few rugged individuals that managed to find and remove 499 traps. Although that is the least we have ever removed in the 11 years of the program, it does reflect the continuing public support for the program and the fact that traps are harder to find due to the past efforts. Which, of course, has been the goal of the program.

Thanks to the support of sponsors such as CCA Texas, Galveston Bay Foundation, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program and many others over the years, volunteers have removed 29,552 traps since the program began back in 2002. This is a telling indication of the high conservation ethics Texans have toward their marine waters. —**Art Morris** / Fishery Outreach Specialist / Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. / Coastal Fisheries Division



The Chris Smisek Crab Trap Grabbers braved bad weather.



Ronnie Luster Sr. and Ronnie Jr. have been champions of the Abandoned Crab Trap program from the beginning.



**Sam Caldwell,
longtime
CCA staffer
receives top
TOWA award**

*New Braunfels, TX—*The Texas Outdoor Writers Association (TOWA) presented a special achievement award at this year's annual meeting. Sam Caldwell, CCA Currents editor, was accorded the TOWA's highest honor, the L.A. Wilke Award. The award is a shadowbox containing a hand-crafted knife with Caldwell's name engraved on the blade.

Caldwell said, "There's been a mistake. Others here tonight deserve this award more than me. But, I'm going to keep it."



Congratulating Caldwell is David Sikes of the Corpus Christi Caller Times, incoming TOWA president. Photo by David Redwine.

Why a clean beach?

A personal answer from the San Antonio chapter president

Johnny Rayburg decided to share a messy, uncomfortable and very satisfying experience with two young ladies

Capt. Billy Sandifer's Big Shell Beach Cleanup, 2012

Some of you know that I regularly attend the Big Shell Beach Clean-Up. This year it was held on Feb. 25. I took my daughter Madelyn and her friend, Kaitlyn Kreipe. I usually take both my kids, but Collin had a basketball game and baseball tryouts already scheduled. The girls are both 12 and the epitome of middle school girls (dirty things gross them out). Nevertheless, they were excited in the weeks leading up to our trip. The weather forecast looked great, all



Kaitlyn Kreipe, Madelyn and Johnny Rayburg triumph over the weather to help clean a vital region of Texas, the Padre Island National Seashore.

tantly hopped out, and told the girls to sit tight and listen to their ipods till the rain let up.

We huddled up around our section leader for a quick safety briefing. We were all handed gloves and orange trash bags. As our group worked south, picking up plastic bottles, glass, shoes, pieces of plastic bags, a DVD of *The Last Samurai* still in the box, and numerous other junk, I stopped to take a look behind us. Wow, what a difference. The beach behind us was devoid of trash for as far as I could see.

The rain let up. The girls jumped out and got their gloves on and tag-teamed a trash bag. You only have to walk about 30-40 feet to get enough trash to fill a bag. Between the girls and I, we went through a roll of 35 bags. By 12 noon, we met up with the group that had stopped south of us and had been working north. The odometer on my Jeep showed our group had cleaned 1.4 miles. Not bad, considering the conditions.

Back at the staging area, there were piles of pizza boxes, frito pie, and chili dogs waiting for us—thanks to the Corpus Christi Chapter.

Every year I meet some great people on the clean up. This year I got to visit with someone that you may know. David West, formerly the host of *Americana Outdoors*, was there with his wife. I passed on some of my extensive marine debris knowledge to them. I showed them evidence of turtle bites in plastic. The turtles aren't real smart. They confuse floating plastic with jelly fish, one of their staples.

You might be inclined to think that all that trash is from shrimp boats or other commercial boats. Actually, studies show that a good portion of the trash on our beaches is from land

sources. Creeks and rivers that empty into the bays transport a lot of urban trash into the oceans. Then, the Gulf Stream circles that trash around the gulf and deposits it on our South Texas beaches.

I've been a part of clean-up projects since about 1992. I was part of the inaugural team that put together the Basura Bash on the San Antonio River and I've been doing various beach cleanups since then. It's a job that isn't glorious, with little fanfare. But, once you see that the effort you put in actually makes a difference, you might be sold on the idea.

This year 300 volunteers picked up 20 tons of trash off of 7.5 miles of the

seashore.

Conservation efforts certainly include taking care of our environment. You don't have to be a tree hugger to help out with a beach clean-up. And, I challenge each of you to meet Billy Sandifer and I down there next year. Hopefully, the weather will be better. —Johnny Rayburg

Fourth Annual Port Mansfield East Cut & Beach Cleanup

Saturday, Feb. 17:—Thanks to all the CCA members who cleaned a huge area of the East Cut and PINS beachfront. We started at 7 am at the Port Mansfield CC Pavilion, where breakfast was served. Afterwards, we enjoyed drinks and chili at PELICAN'S PUB. Thanks to the many sponsors, and the boat captains who provided ferry service.

This was another record-setting year. We had some 150 volunteers, who were transported to the cut by many boat captains. Many tons of trash were bagged and hauled all the way back down the island. It's heart-warming to see so many people donate so much time, energy and money to the Texas coast. BSA troop 106 helped again, and a large contingent of Lee County CCA chapter members. Special thanks to the Lee County chapter volunteers who drove many hours in 4WD vehicles in order to ferry workers and haul trash. —Miller and Kathy Bassler / For photos from the 2011 event, go to the YouTube site below. Texas music included! Type this url into your browser: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TX1321HA8vI>

Kathy Bassler is the champion of Port Mansfield Cut & Beach Cleanups



the way up to the day prior to the event. Then, of course, the weather became morning downpours and chilly temps.

Knowing that Billy Sandifer will not submit to the forces of nature, we started the drive from Rockport to Padre Island National Seashore.

As we drove down Mustang Island the clouds opened up. The girls weren't the least bit excited now. As we pulled into Malaquite Beach, the headquarters and staging point for the clean-up, I was suprised to see so many vehicles already in line.

Capt. Billy Sandifer's PINS Cleanup works like this: Park Rangers and other volunteers line the 4WD vehicles up in small groups of about 10. A section leader has specific instructions on where to start picking up trash. As you pass the final check point, volunteers hand you a goody bag, and a shirt commemorating the event. I heard Billy Sandifer say, "No sense waiting here. Let's get down the beach and then we can wait out the rain."

Now, a 4-wheel drive vehicle is absolutely necessary, after a certain point. I picked up a gentleman who had driven in from San Antonio the night before. In the pouring rain, we 4-wheeled carefully down the beach. Our group stopped at about the 21-mile marker. The temperature on my Jeep's thermometer read 48. I could hardly see the dunes or more than a few vehicles behind me. The wind was coming out of the north at 15-20. I began to see the other volunteers getting out of their vehicles. I reluc-

State of Texas Angler's Rodeo



23rd Annual State of Texas Angler's Rodeo set to kick off at sunrise, Sat. May 26

Less than two months to go and soon it will be time! Anglers from all across the great Lone Star State will be vying for over \$1,000,000 in prizes in the 23rd Annual CCA Texas/STAR Tournament! Mark your calendars! Starting sunrise Saturday, May 26 through 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 3 (**Labor Day**), anglers can begin the summer-long challenge to try and win one of the many fabulous prizes offered in the 2012 CCA Texas/STAR Tournament, including truck/boat packages, boat packages and scholarships. To help with your fishing expenses, Academy Sports + Outdoors will again generously provide all current CCA Texas members with a \$10 coupon. And, of course, don't forget to take advantage of all the other great Early Bird and Member incentives available to CCA Texas/STAR participants. Please see below for more details.

CCA Texas/STAR Platinum Print Membership Package, Series II – STAR Sighting by renowned artist David Drinkard is the new print being offered for the 2012 CCA Texas/STAR Platinum package. This special offer includes your CCA membership (new or renewal), your 2012 CCA Texas STAR entry, **plus a signed, limited-edition print** created exclusively for STAR, all for \$125! **STAR Sighting** is a one-of-a-kind special painting, worth this price alone. If you would like to consider one, or several, of these limited-edition packages, **go to:** www.startournament.org for more details or place your order the STAR Dept. by calling (713) 626-4222. The proceeds from the sale of all Platinum Packages will help us continue to fund the STAR scholarships. Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament!



STAR Collector series art prints: STAR Sighting, 2012 Platinum Series II is shown above. A few STAR Reds, 2011 series I art prints, on right, are still available.

STILL AVAILABLE... CCA Texas/STAR Platinum Print, Series I – Some STAR Reds are still available. If you haven't purchased STAR Reds yet and would like to begin your CCA Texas/STAR Platinum Collectible Series, please contact the STAR Dept. and we can get you fixed up. To own this first-ever commemorative piece, purchase yours today before they're all gone!

YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN TO WIN! Time to get spooled up and ready for another great season of fishing fun! A friendly reminder to all anglers who plan to fish the Texas Gulf Coast during this time... in order to win one of a \$1,000,000 in prizes being offered in Texas' largest, richest, summer-long saltwater fishing event, an angler must be a **CURRENT** member of CCA, in addition to being registered as a **2012 TEXAS STAR entrant**. The **STAR tournament entry fee** is still an awesome bargain at **only \$20** for ages 18 and up! Membership fee is \$25 annually, plus \$20 STAR Tournament for a total of \$45. In order to win at STAR, an angler must be registered and be a current member of CCA. You know you'll go so might as well do it now! Remember, everyone entered in the STAR Tournament, who will be 6 years old in 2012 and older, is eligible to win the prizes being offered (even the TAGGED REDFISH DIVISION)! Get everyone signed up for the **2012 STAR**. Be sure and enter now to take advantage of some great early bird incentives... see details below.

YOUNG ANGLERS FISH FOR FREE! Speaking of bargains, for young anglers ages 6–17, the "New Tide" membership fee remains **\$10** annually and the STAR entry fee is **FREE!** Of course, we want **all** kids on the water. CCA "New Tide" members will continue to have the opportunity to win giant scholarships to fund their college education for just the price of a \$10 CCA "New Tide" Membership. We thank our generous sponsors for making it possible for us to offer young anglers this great opportunity. **Keep in mind, signing up as a "New Tide" membership DOES NOT**

automatically register member in STAR. "New Tide" Members **MUST BE at least 6 years of age in 2012 to be eligible to fish STAR and under age 18 to enter for FREE.** It is the "New Tide" Member's responsibility to register each year for STAR.

2012 EARLY BIRD DRAWINGS – We will again offer some great incentives for anglers to sign up before the tournament starts. Don't forget to sign up ahead of time and get your shot at landing one of the many great prize offerings just for registering early. Your early registration into the 2012 CCA Texas/STAR Fishing Tournament qualifies you to win the perfect rig to get you to your favorite fishing spot in style. The Coors Light "Early Bird" Promotion will again offer another awesome "grand prize" boat package! Your early registration into the 2012 CCA Texas/STAR qualifies you to win the awesome 21' Shoalwater Catamaran with a Mercury 150 OptiMax and McClain trailer – a prize package valued at around \$35,000! Everyone ages 21 and over that signs up **now through May 25** 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 25** will automatically be entered for the 20 other great prizes.

2012 STAR Early Bird Drawing Prizes

Deadline to enter is May 25th

***** GRAND PRIZE *****

21' Shoalwater Cat, Mercury 150 L OptiMax and McClain Trailer
(must be at 21 years old to win boat prize package)

20 MORE GREAT PRIZES

9.9 hp Mercury Motor
Three (3) Rod & Reel Combos
Thermo-Electric Travel Cooler & Warmer
Fifteen (15) CCA Special Edition Posters
Don't miss "the boat" or "the truck and boat"... register today! You can sign up NOW online at www.ccatexas.org or www.startournament.org!

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 + Outdoors (see details below)

Texas Fish & Game Magazine subscription (see details below)
\$1000 worth of free up-

ides with your purchase of a new Tilson home (see details below)

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



BEST IN TEXAS

2012 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT SuperCab with Haynie 23 Bigfoot, the Redfish Division prize.

tude with the dealers for helping to make this great offer possible for CCA Texas members.

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 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!



TEXAS FISH & GAME "BONUS" SUBSCRIPTION

Texas Fish & Game will again honor this year's STAR entrants with a **ONE -YEAR** (12 issues) subscription to *Texas Fish & Game* Magazine. Please be advised your subscription **WILL NOT be sent automatically**. If you wish to take advantage of this special bonus you must declare on your application form. If you have already signed up for the 2012 STAR, but did not declare that you would like this special offer and/or have questions regarding your past or current subscription, please call (800) 725-1134 or email jennifer@actionfullment.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.

2012 PRIZE LINE-UP - This year's contestants have a chance at winning over 100 prizes including trucks, boats, motors, trailers and college scholarships in the following categories:

Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division - Texas Ford Dealers continue to make this division the "Best in Texas"! They will again give each of the first five registered STAR participants who catch tagged redfish a brand new truck to get to their fishing destination in a tough, dependable and stylish ride. The first five registered anglers to weigh-in a tagged red will receive a 2012 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" truck. Haynie Boats returns with the awesome Haynie 23 Bigfoot rigged with a Mercury 150 L OptiMax! A Coastline Trailer completes this amazing package. The next five weighed in will receive the same boat, motor and trailer packages.

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

Trout Division - With winners in the upper, middle and lower coast regions, each winning angler will take home the **Shoalwater 22' Legend**, "Truly a Texas Legend", powered with a Mercury 150 L OptiMax and McClain trailer.

SPECIAL NOTE: If you're unsure a trout is large enough to qualify, consider this "easy rule-of-thumb" - if length is **less than 27 inches**, chances are it won't meet the eight pound minimum weight requirement for the Trout Division. Unless you intend to mount your fish as a personal best, why not think about releasing anything that might not make the cut so she can re-seed the bays.

Offshore Division - Blue water anglers who land the heaviest kingfish, dorado and ling (cobia) will each win the awesome Explorer by Dargel 216 Blue Water Series boat prize to cruise the big waters along with a Mercury 200 XL OptiMax outboard and McClain trailer.

Inshore Division - Each winner that reels in the largest flounder, gafftop and sheepshead will be handsomely rewarded with Blue Wave's 180 V Bay boat completely rigged with a Mercury 115 ELPT OptiMax outboard and McClain trailer. In the past fifteen years, **\$4,345,000** in college scholarships has been awarded to fisher-kids across the state. And 2012 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.

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

Houston Community Newspapers StarKid 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. **SPECIAL NOTE:** The minimum weight requirement for the trout is six pounds. Trout measuring **25 inches or less** probably won't meet the six pound minimum weight requirement for the StarTeens Trout Division. For all fish weighing less than six pounds, if no intentions of mounting young angler's prize catch, please take a quick picture and immediately release back into the water.

Time Warner Cable StarTeens Inshore Division - This youth scholarship division is open to all New Tide members ages 11-17 and awards a **\$20,000** college scholarship for each fisher-teen with the largest flounder, gafftop and 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 2012. "NewTide"/STAR participants at least, 6 - 17 years old in 2012, are eligible for a bonus drawing that will net one lucky youth a \$20,000 college scholar-



Explorer by Dargel 216 Blue Water Series, Offshore Division Prize



The Shoalwater 22' Legend, Trout Division prize.



Blue Wave 180 V-Bay, Inshore Division Prize

ship 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 Shoalwater 22' Legend model with a Mercury 150 L OptiMax outboard and McClain trailer. Please don't forget to thank our wonderful sponsors for their loyal support... return the favor by remembering them when making your purchasing decisions. They make this wonderful family event possible. Major sponsors for the 23rd Annual CCA Texas/STAR Tournament include: **Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Home Corporation, Mercury Marine, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, Shipley Do-Nuts, Ozarka, Coors Light, Houston Community Newspapers, Fox Sports Houston, Fox Sports Southwest, Time Warner Cable, Haynie Boats, Shoalwater Boats, Explorer by Dargel Boats, Blue Wave Boats, Texas Fish & Game Magazine, Costa Sunglasses, Texas Oilman's Charity Fishing Tournament, Houston Astros, Coastline Trailers, McClain Trailers, Chris's Marine, Mt. Houston Marine and Coastal Backwater Marine.**

STAR has reached \$4,345,000 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.

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

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This is the issue of April / May 2012 Vol. 30, Issue 3

Mercury breaks out of the pack, one salty engine

For over 20 years, Mercury has invested in the work of CCA, and now they have built the engine of the future. This is the engine we have been waiting for.

The new Mercury 150HP Fourstroke is the Holy Grail for saltwater. Affordable, rugged, durable, easy to maintain, and especially adaptable for those looking to re-power...this is the ONE! Consider these reasons:


AFFORDABLE - 20% less expensive than the comparable Yamaha F150, this is the first four-stroke 150HP to come in under \$13 grand. You save \$3,000 cash (translate: family vacation, new guns, more boat gear, etc.)

RUGGED - Four-stroke lifespan is legendary and many fishermen don't want two-strokes... more maintenance issues and noise. At idle, this motor is super-quiet; water lapping the hull makes more noise!

DURABLE - All other 150 four-strokes have a double overhead cam. Merc's single cam is lighter, more

compact, and less complex. Yet its 3.0 liter displacement is 12% more than the 2.7-liter Yamaha and larger than any in the class, and at 455 pounds it's the lightest four-stroke 150 ever made. Improved hull maneuverability (33 pounds lighter than Yamaha), the larger displacement delivers greater performance. This set up actually delivers 164HP, rather than 150HP. The compact size is nice (on the water, it looks smaller than a 115HP), and wadefishermen appreciate having to work around less motor on the transom. **MAINTENANCE** - Since this writer does not read the Owner's Manual enough, you've got to see this at the dealer. Check it out! A large label plastered right on the power head with a QR symbol that connects to a smartphone and how-to videos... takes 10 minutes and you're done for normal maintenance!

Even at planing speeds, I could talk in a normal voice with the motor humming just a few feet away. The hole shot is strong, and in my test, pulled a 16-pitch Eternia prop to 5800 rpm. Wowzer! Fuel efficiency looks to rival the OptiMax and the engine has 18% fewer parts than Yamaha. In saltwater, that's even less to go wrong.

NOW is the time to re-power, and this engine is the state-of-the-art. Mercury has designed this engine with CCA anglers in mind... show your appreciation to the company that has put more money back into marine conservation than any other manufacturer, ever! Check out these YouTube Videos. Outboard guru Charles Pleuddeman, Mercury 150 4 Stroke Running / Look at the comparisons, and you make the call. 

Welcome to the CCA Texas Online Auction

Sponsored By Costa Del Mar

Spring is finally here so I hope everyone is having good luck on the water! We have some great merchandise up for grabs this month, including a pair of **Simms Headwaters waders** with the CCA logo and the classic **CCA stamp shot glass collection**.

These items will be featured online for bidding purposes through **eBay**. We encourage everyone to take advantage of the art and merchandise that is up for sale. These items are coming directly from the CCA Texas inventory. There will be a variety of unique art packages, as well as new merchandise never seen before! To bid on the featured items below, follow the link to **CCA Texas Online Auction**.

Simms Headwaters Waders
(Available in L or XL)

CCA Stamp Shot Glass Collection - Includes a display case and 27 shot glasses with CCA stamps from 1983-2009.

Auction runs April 10 through April 17. To bid and win, go to ccatexas.org and click on the link (left hand side) **online auction**. Good luck!
—Drew Adams



Latebreaking news; it's now official—the CCA concert is ON TRACK!

Sam Houston Race Track

Saturday, June 30

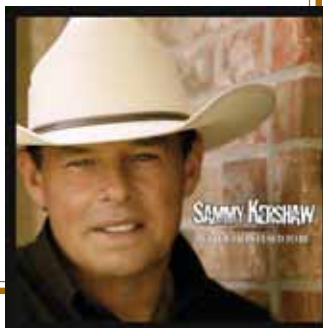
Pat Green, Jerry Jeff Walker, Sam Kershaw and a performer to be announced. Stay tuned to CCA's website for full details and ticket opportunities: ccatexas.org

Pat Green

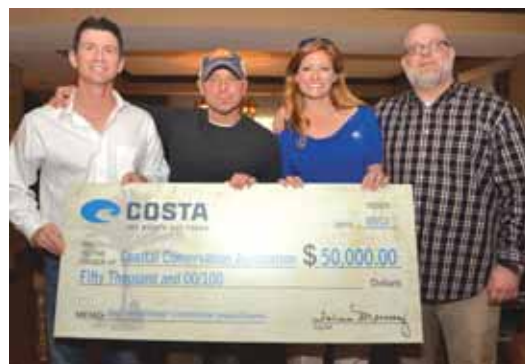


Jerry Jeff Walker

Sam Kershaw



Sponsored by our friends at Costa.



Costa Del Mar and Kenny Chesney aid CCA conservation projects

Music superstar Kenny Chesney and Amanda Perryman from Costa Sunglasses present a check for \$50,000 to Pat Murray to benefit the Coastal Conservation Association. These funds were raised through sales of the Kenny Chesney Limited Edition Costa Sunglasses throughout his "Goin' Coastal" concert tour last year.

Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR
TEXAS MARINE HABITAT



CCA Texas expands commitment to nearshore artificial reefing along Texas coast in Corpus Christi Latest HTFT commitment brings artificial reef funding total to \$400,000 in Texas

CCA Texas recently expanded the organization's commitment to nearshore reefing along the Texas coast with a \$100,000 commitment to the new 160 acre nearshore reefing site located between Packery Channel (Corpus Christi) and Port Aransas. This new Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) reefing site, MU-775, is located in Texas state waters in 70 feet of water and once reefed, will offer easily accessible nearshore reefing for anglers out of Corpus Christi and Port Aransas.

"Due to the 'Idle Iron' Program, 3 out of 10 near shore rigs out of Packery Channel have been removed in the past 9 months. These rigs represent essential fish habitat that has been needlessly removed, which has drastically affected fishery habitat for this area," commented Jay Gardner, CCA Texas Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow committee chairman. Gardner commented further, "CCA Texas is proud to partner with TPWD and others on this project to replace this critical habitat, and provide fishing opportunities within State waters for this section of the Texas Coast. The Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow Program is dedicated to exactly these types of causes that benefit current and future Texas anglers all along the coast."

"This project emphasizes CCA Texas' ongoing commitment to our member anglers, coastal fishery habitat and in fact all Texas anglers," commented Mark Ray, CCA Texas Chairman. "While CCA Texas has long been the premier advocate for coastal Texas resources, thru Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT), CCA Texas members are putting their money where their mouth is."

CCA Texas HTFT program has now committed \$400,000 to nearshore reefing in Texas to date. This commitment will continue as new sites become available or old sites are added to. TPWD is currently in the bidding process to begin reefing the new Matagorda nearshore site and hopes to begin the bidding process for this new Corpus Christi site mid year this year and begin reefing late this year or early 2013. With nearshore sites already reefed out of Freeport and Port Mansfield, the Corpus Christi and Matagorda sites will offer much needed structure along the Texas coast and easily accessible fishing grounds for the everyday fisherman in these areas. —**John Blaha**

Company Volunteer Recognition: another avenue to aid coastal conservation

Funds provided to Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT).

By Scott Bandy, Orange County
CCA President

I have been an active member of CCA Texas for 5 years, and have been the President of the Orange County Chapter for four years. I have been employed by E.I. DuPont in Orange, Texas at Sabine River Works for 14 years. In late 2008 I learned that DuPont has a volunteer recognition program that recognizes employees who contribute to the community. After talking to several other employees who had been recognized in the past, I felt that the work that I was doing through our local CCA chapter would qualify for this recognition. After consulting my Associate Director at CCA, we decided it would be good for CCA and the chapter. I filled out the required paper work, which detailed what the chapter had done in the community.

Our activities included the Orange Community Trash-off, TPWD Crab Trap Clean-up, Bridge City - Orangefield Ministerial Alliance

Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow program could benefit from the Community Fund. With help from John Blaha, the paper work was filed. Several months later I was informed that CCA would receive \$5,000 for the HTFT. This money was used in the J.D. Murphree WMA Shoreline Stabilization project that CCA and Texas Ducks Unlimited teamed up for. This project is happening in my local area, so I feel that through my efforts, I have directly impacted my marine resources. —**Scott Bandy**

Employer Funding provides lifetime achievement award for CCA causes

By Ray Mungia, Austin CCA member

I have been involved in CCA for the past 8 years or so. I'm not certain of the exact time, but what I am certain of is that I enjoy it and am proud of what CCA Austin does for Gulf coast conservation and conservation education in Texas and the US.

The camaraderie with other board members, our membership community and the programs that we help fund by having our annual CCA Austin banquet, are all reasons I have stayed involved. It's important to me that my

kids—and many other outdoor enthusiasts— have a clean and beautiful place to fish, and enjoy the coast.

It also makes me proud to work for a company that shares those same values. Motorola Solutions approached its employees, and asked how they were involved in the community. When I told them my story, Motorola Solutions responded with a CEO Lifetime Achievement Award for me, and more importantly, \$5,000 for

the CCA cause. This could be a great opportunity for you to approach your company, and see how they can either donate or participate for your cause.

Whether it be CCA, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, or Autism Speaks, please ask your employer what programs they have in place that join the community in volunteerism. 🍀

—**Ray Mungia**



Scott & Anna Bandy, 2012 Sabine Lake Crab Trap Clean-up

Christmas Toy Drive, and Texas Adopt a Beach Clean-up. After several months of waiting, the results were announced and our chapter received \$1000 for the community volunteer work we had done.

Then, in 2010, my supervisor informed me about the DuPont Community Fund. This grant program provides funds to non-profit organizations that are supported by DuPont employees. After researching the advantages for CCA, and talking to Robby Byers, we decided that the

Upper Coast

By Capt. James W. Trimble Jr.

As the bait schools up...fish school up

As the water temperature continues to rise, bait fish are on the rise as we enter into the month of April. Galveston Bay will still offer some shallow water big fish opportunities, both on conventional tackle and on fly.

Shorelines, coves and flats connected to bayous and marsh drains are good places to target speckled trout and redfish. Remember, the glass minnow will be responsible for that voracious sundown bite.

May will bring in the transition to more open water and middle bay reef action. Be on the lookout for birds working in open water; pay attention to slicks over reefs; and do not neglect mud or off-color water. All are important signs of feeding fish.

Flyfishing and sight fishing will become more consistent on shorelines and flats as redfish get together in greater numbers. Grass shrimp will help balled up reds moving along grass shorelines, making them easy prey for an imitation shrimp fly.

Stay sharp as you pole down grass flats, always looking at the potholes for that shot at a lone trophy trout. —**Capt. James Trimble Jr.**

Trimble's Guide Service / 409-771-7716
captaintrim@me.com

Middle Coast

By Capt. Levi Price

Brief winter, so spring into action NOW

Due to the short winter and a springtime pattern that came early, conditions are going into fast forward as you read this. A warm Texas winter has already pushed trout fishing into high gear. Whether wading the shell reefs in upper San Antonio bay, fishing the edges of the grass line on St. Joe Island, or drifting the Upper Laguna Madre, there has been excellent trout fishing action. Plus, so many trout in the 14" range show we have a good crop of fish in the works for next year as well.

Redfish: warmer water temperatures have kick-started the *schooling redfish* season all over the coastal Bend. In areas where I normally don't see large schools roaming until June, there were already large numbers of fish in February.

In April, look for mud boils in the flats and stay mobile. I can not stress enough, keep your eyes and ears open and do not get tunnel vision. Never fish *spots*, fish the *conditions*, and when in doubt, find baitfish activity and fish hard.

When you do locate redfish, it's hard to beat the good ol' copper spoon, and plastics in the 4" paddle tail variety. Of course, whether trout or reds, chunk darker colors in deeper/darker water, and more natural and lighter colors in clear water. Until next time, *Tight Lines*

— **Captain Levi Price** / 830-613-1865
www.thefishtx.com captlevi@tstar.net

Lower Coast

By Capt. Jack Klostermann

Anglers from the upper coast should come sample our fishing and then make up their minds as to whether they are for the five trout limit.

Once again the spring season is upon us. For those of us who weathered the big blows of March, the catching months of April and May should be outstanding.

Last April and May Port Mansfield experienced perhaps the finest speck fishing most of us had seen in years, and all signs point to this year being at least as good, if not better.

The bay from Mansfield to Port Isabel has benefited from huge inflows of fresh water coming down the Arroyo Colorado and the North Floodway System the last few years. This has resulted in a substantial increase in the amount of forage available for our game fish. Blue crab and mullet are more abundant than they have been in years. The mullet will soon be rafting up all over the Laguna. Find them, and you will find the fish.

The five fish limit on specks has also been a major factor in improving our fishery. Anglers from the upper coast should come sample our fishing and then make up their minds as to whether they are for it or against it.

There will still be plenty of reds for those who want to go hunt them, but specks will be the main focus in the coming months.

Be courteous on the water. Remember that you can take home all the memories you want, but only the fish that you and yours can consume. —**Capt. Jack Klostermann**
956-245-5008 / www.captainjackscharters.com

Fort Bend: This year's banquet boat, along with some of our beautiful support staff who encourage us to get out of the house and do what we love to do.



Just two of the heroes of the Port Mansfield Cleanup. Jason Seale and Ben Matcek 4-wheeled more than 300 miles of the beach, ferrying people and trailers.



When traveling down the newly cleaned South Padre Island beach, keep an eye out for vulnerable little friends. Great Wildlife Photo of a Kemp's Ridley seaturtle headed out by Patty Scanlan.

Chapter Updates

Alvin-Pearland

Rex Richards 281-923-3050

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

Thanks to our February speaker, **Rueben Garza** "SnookDude Charters" for his insightful tactics discussion.

March 6th General Meeting- speaker: Flounder Pounder -**Phil Ortiz** / April 3rd General Meeting - speaker BAAD Marine Supply - **PRO STAFF** May 1st General Meeting -speaker Shimano, **Pro Staff** / June 5th General Meeting -speaker Capt. **Bill Pustojovsky**

Alvin-Pearland CCA Annual Fundraising Banquet / June 21 at 6PM, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2320 Hatfield Road, Pearland, Tx. 77581

—**Emery Sadler** 713-501-2778

Aransas Bay

Carter Crigler jccrigler@hotmail.com

435-830-5984

This is a very busy and exciting time for the Aransas Bay Chapter. Preparations are well underway for the **13th annual Babes on the Bay all women fishing tournament to be held May 18 and 19th**. Last year we had 1168

women fish our tournament. (We say "wow" every year!) This tournament would not be possible without the numerous volunteers that help year after year.

For information, please contact **Karol Scardino**, tournament director, at 361-386-0028 or email karol.scardino@gmail.com or go to the website www.babesonthebay.com for more details including tournament rules and registration package. Deadline for registration is April 29, 2012.

Our annual banquet will be on **August 11, 2012 at the Paws and Taws Convention Center in Fulton, Texas**. Look for additional information on this event in the upcoming Currents. Stay safe and tight lines,
—**Carter Crigler** 435-830-5984

Austin

Scott Sanderson 512-637-1750
scott@mbsquoteline.com

It is Banquet Season in Austin! **So mark your calendars NOW to join us at the Palmer Events Center, May 10 at 6 pm for CCA Austin's annual banquet.** Our 2012 event will amaze once again with cuisine provided by some of Austin's finest restaurants, our legendary live auction with fine guns, trips from around the world and more, our **2012 Shallow Sport banquet boat**, the biggest and best raffle yet, plus an exciting new twist to the ever popular **Yeti cooler game**.

And that's just for starters. Of course, the puppies will be back again! This is our biggest fundraising event of the year and the Austin board is hard at work now putting together what will be a fantastic and fun evening for everyone. We will award our Shallow Sport to a lucky winner, have a **customized 4WD** to win, many, many games to play and countless door prizes to give away. There are so many ways to win something, you'll be treated to superb food and beverage, and it's all to raise money for a great cause that is near and dear to us all.

*Chapter Updates are edited for brevity to allow everyone's voice to be heard. For the full version, go to your chapter's area in the CCA website. Drop by www.ccatexas.org, click on **Local Chapters**.*

Thanks to our many sponsors and ever-loyal table buyers, this year's banquet is already shaping up to be Austin's biggest and most successful ever. Secure your table soon as we again expect to sell out of the popular Bull Red tables. If you haven't been before, grab some friends and treat yourself to what we promise will be a night you'll never forget. Our banquet is a showcase event in Austin and something you don't want to miss. As always, ladies are welcome. To purchase a table contact **Scott McGuire**, scott.mcguire

@stephens.com or 512-468-6490. You can also go to www.ccatexas.org/austin and download a table order form. We hope to see you there!

We announced last issue that our **2012 Banquet Boat is a 21' Shallow Sport Bahia** and the raffle tickets have become a hot commodity. This dream boat is **LOADED** with options including an **Evinrude 150 E-Tec**, a **raised console**, **premium rigging with iCommand**



Austin's 2012 Banquet Boat-a 21' Shallow Sport Bahia.



RGV's 21ft Explorer Attacka Flats boat with motor and trailer.



Galveston's 18' Shallow Sport with Evinrude 115, sitting on a McClain Trailer. And, includes a special plus—great aluminum work by Coastal Marine!

gauges, a Bob's Jack Plate, a 120 quart Yet Cooler, a Coastline double axle trailer, just to name a few. We're only selling 500 tickets and over half were gone as of the end of February. These are sure to sell out before the banquet so act quickly to get yours now. Tickets are \$100 and the drawing will be held at our banquet May 10. You don't have to

be present to win. This Shallow Sport has a retail value of nearly **\$50,000!**

Once again you can see it in front of **Cabela's in Buda** until our banquet in May. To purchase tickets just go to www.ccatexas.org/austin for an order form or contact our **Boat Wrangler, Michael Curlee**, at curleemd@hotmail.com or 512-470-9934. Or, pick up a ticket order form in the **Cabela's fishing department** next time you're down that way. Sincere thanks to our boat sponsors, **Firestone** and **Burt Watts**.

In January we had our bi-monthly Anglers' Night Out (general membership

meeting) and about all you can say is **WOW!** **Jay Watkins** entertained +/- 300 attendees with his insightful tips for more success on the water and the food was great, compliments of **Smokey Denmark** and **Abel's**. Lots of prizes were given away and we added **LOTS** of new members to the CCA family! Thank you for coming out.

By the time you read, this we'll have had our March meeting with **Kevin Townsend of KT Diaries** fame as guest speaker. Remember these are **FREE**, you get a free meal, we have many prizes and giveaways, and it's all at a beautiful Lake Austin waterfront venue —**Abel's on the Lake**. They are a whole lot of fun and we encourage you to **BRING A FRIEND**—the more the merrier! Ladies and children are welcome and non-CCA members too. Bring them and ask them to join CCA. And come join us for a land-locked Anglers' Night Out! We get together the third Wednesday of January, March, July, September and November.

You've probably heard by now that CCA Texas committed \$500,000 in funding to the long overdue reopening of Cedar Bayou. Taking a leadership role in a project this significant makes me proud to be a part of CCA and it is only possible due to the support from all of our great members. So to each and every CCA member out there — **THANK YOU**. You can learn more about this historic event at www.ccatexas.org. Be sure to Friend us on Facebook by searching Coastal Conservation Association Austin Chapter. It's a great way to keep up with everything going on in the Austin Chapter and make sure you don't miss a thing. See you May 10th at our banquet! Warm regards —**Scott Sanderson** 512-637-1750 scott@mbsquoteline.com

Bay Area

Curtis Anderson 832-421-6377

Hello from the Bay Area Chapter. Spring is here and I am sure everyone is looking forward to a great fishing season. I know I am. **As this newsletter goes into the mail, we are all planning our banquet that will**



The Lower Laguna Madre's 2012 18' Sport boat by Shallow Sport Boats.

be held on **March 29 at the Clear Lake community Center**. Full details next time.

We are doing crawfish this year and are looking forward to a record turnout. We have had some great membership meetings this year with super speakers and lots of useful information. We will soon begin to plan our summer tournaments and membership meetings so if you want to get involved, come to the next meeting. All members are



Mid Coast's 2012 22'6 Majek Illusion, 150 Evinrude ETEC, Talon Shallow Water Anchor, Fusion Stereo System, SAWS aluminum tandem axle trailer, custom rap by Compadres Ink.

CCA and Academy Sports + Outdoors

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.



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349⁹⁹

EVERYDAY!

HERITAGE FEATHERLITE 9.5-FT. ANGLER KAYAK

- Two sea dog flush-mount holders
- One scotty swivel mount rod holder • Outfitter seat
- Adjustable foot pegs • #FTHRLT ANGLER



349⁹⁹

EVERYDAY!

HERITAGE ANGLER 10-FT. KAYAK

- Two sea dog flush-mount holders
- One scotty swivel rod holder • Viking bow hatch
- Adjustable foot pegs • #HRTGE ANGLER 10

SHIMANO



179⁹⁹
EVERYDAY!

SHIMANO STRADIC FJ SPINNING REEL

- Gear ratio: 6.0:1 • Bearings: 6
- Weight: 7.5 oz.
- #ST1000FJ, ST2500FJ, ST3000FJ

SHIMANO



199⁹⁹
EVERYDAY!

SHIMANO CHRONARCH BAITCAST REEL

- Gear ratios: 5.5:1, 6.4:1, or 7.0:1
- Bearings: 7 • Weight: 7.6 oz.
- #CH200E5, CH50E, CH200E7, CH201E7

Abu Garcia
FOR LIFE



349⁹⁹
EVERYDAY!

ABU GARCIA MGX-HS REEL

- 7.9:1 gear ratio
- Bearings: 10
- #REVO MGX-SHS



99⁹⁹
EVERYDAY!

TIF GUNDOG RODS

- IM-8 blank
- Nine Pac Bay 316 stainless steel, one-piece stamped guides, plus tip
- Fuji[®] reel seat



129⁹⁹
EVERYDAY!

CARROT STIX WILD INSHORE RODS

- Multi-modulus graphite blank is made with nano carrot fibers
- Fuji[®] Alconite guides, plus tip
- Pac Bay deep-pressed zirconium running guides



199⁹⁹
EVERYDAY!

CASTAWAY SKELETON RODS

- Graphite blank
- Nine Fuji[®] aluminum-oxide guides, plus tip
- Double exposed reel seat



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Selection and prices vary by store.



◀ **HERITAGE** ▶

449⁹⁹

EVERYDAY!

HERITAGE ANGLER 12-FT. KAYAK

- Two sea dog flush-mount holders
- One scotty swivel rod holder • Viking bow hatch
- Adjustable foot pegs • #HRTG ANGLER 12

499⁹⁹

EVERYDAY!

HERITAGE ANGLER 14-FT. KAYAK

- Two sea dog flush-mount holders
- One scotty swivel rod holder • Viking bow hatch
- Adjustable foot pegs • #HRTG ANGLER 14

DEXTER
THE EDGE • STICK IT



29⁹⁹
EVERYDAY!

DEXTER SOFT-GRIP CCA KNIFE
• #25309



29⁹⁹
EVERYDAY!

CCA TACKLE BAG

- Includes four utility boxes
- Water-resistant 840D poly construction
- Rear sleeve fits over handle on most luggage trollys
- #FSCC6000

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per pack
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each
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SWIM SHADS**

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per pack
EVERYDAY!
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notified by email when there is going to be a meeting so all you have to do is get involved.

We'd like to send out a big thank you to all of the great guest speakers we had this past year. As we push into another year of activities, it seems like a good time to give a big thanks to **Curtis Anderson** for being such a great leader as President of our chapter. He pushes us all to come up with ideas and he contributes so much with his work for the chapter.

As I write this, it is pouring rain and has been for several hours so hopefully our drought situation has mitigated somewhat and the bays will be turned on for fishing. For information on our chapter activities, call **Curtis Anderson**, President at 832-435-0257 or me at 832-632-2045. Till next time, BE SAFE and have fun. —**Kent Lacy**

Brazoria County

Wes Dingee 979-299-8245

Hello fellow members. As you read this Currents newsletter, it is getting down to crunch time for us here in the Brazoria County Chapter. **Our banquet committee is in full swing with our annual banquet taking place March 29 at the Lake Jackson civic center.** This year we will be raffling off chances to win ten **Yeti coolers** ranging from 25 quarts up to 120 quarts, and 10 guns ranging from pistols, shotguns, rifles and an AR. Tickets are \$20 each with one ticket giving you a chance at 20 items.

This year we will have **Talk About Good** catering our dinner for the banquet. We hope we saw you at the big event. Thank you for all your support. —**Wes Dingee** wesdingee@gmail.com

Brazos Valley

Larry Purifoy 979-229-4752

February and March have been busy months for all of our members as we have been busy "fishing" for new members, banquet table sponsors, selling raffle tickets and banquet preparations. All is well and by the time you read this, we hope to have had a banner year with our annual fundraiser.

Many hands have worked hard to make this happen. We especially would like to recognize the officers and committee members who have spent hours making the preparations and meetings, to **"Bubba" Scherer** for providing the CCA support, everyone who attended and supported the cause and all the business and community supporters that donated items for the raffles, sponsored corporate table and donated raffle and auction items. You rock!

As always, we meet the second Tuesday of every month, meeting begins around 6pm with fish tales. Please contact **Scott Sigle** for meeting info 979-820-3101. —**Tammy Aaron** Chapter Secretary

Brenham

Dennis Crowson 979-451-2472

Dennis.crowson@hotmail.com

The Brenham Chapter had a great February general meeting. **Darrell Schmidt from Schmidt Boat Repair** along with his fine group of mechanics presented an entertaining and informative program on engine maintenance and the effects of ethanol in today's gasoline. We had a good crowd and now are looking forward to our March 22nd meeting when **Captain Bill Pustevosky** will be our speaker. Thanks to **Mike Hopkins Distributing** for their continued support of the Brenham Chapter.

We are all gearing up for our annual Crawfish Boil fundraising banquet on April 26th at Silver Wings Ballroom. We would like to thank our major underwriters this year, **Ammo to Go** and **Independence Firearms**. We have plenty of individual tickets and a few corporate tables left, but they are going fast. To reserve a ticket contact me at dennis.crowson@hotmail.com or (979) 451-2472. —**Dennis Crowson**

Brush Country

Hank Henry 361-215-6803

Centex

Brad Hensel 254-776-3411

Central Houston

Todd Buster Mobil, 713-545-1897

We are rapidly approaching our annual banquet, which will be held on April 19, 2012, at the Bayou City Event Center (www.bayoucityeventcenter.com). We will be raffling off a **John Deere Gator** and the number of tickets sold is limited. Tickets are \$100 each. If you are interested in purchasing raffle tickets or buying a table, please contact me. We hope to see everyone there. Also, be sure to check us out on Facebook. If you're interested in becoming involved in the Central Houston Chapter, please contact me. —**Todd Buster** tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com

Colorado Valley

Jonathan Brandt, (aka JK)

979-966-2679 jkjb00@cmaaccess.com

Corpus Christi

Michael Henry 361-816-0300

Greetings from the Texas Riviera. WOW, awesome, fantastic, are just a few words to describe the 2012—34th Annual Dinner Banquet in Corpus Christi...

Thank you to our valued "Gold" sponsors: **Corpus Christi Caller Times, Andrews Distributing, L&F Distributing, Academy Sports and Outdoors, "Silver" sponsors; Champion Dealers and Premier Yamaha/Ronnie's Marine**, and of course all of our Bronze sponsors.

In the next issue we will acknowledge the rest properly, with years involved and the person behind the sponsorship. This year has been one of our very best, and that is thanks to our membership, patrons, sponsors and dedicated board of directors. **John DeJohn** and **Randy Poelma** have exceeded everyone's expectations, as our Chairman and Co-



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nearest Texas
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dealerlocator.deere.com

*Offer ends April 30, 2012. **Subject to approved credit on John Deere Financial Installment Plan. 0% for 60 months. Valid only at participating US dealers. Some restrictions apply, so see your dealer for complete details and other financing options. The engine horsepower information is provided by the engine manufacturer to be used for comparison purposes only. Actual operating horsepower will be less.

JW14N001AANE179-02/05/12

Chairman. We would also like to thank **David Harris**-Live Auction, **Lauren Hollon**-Silent Auction and Raffles, **Cliff Alexander**-ATV, **Cody Roesener**-Guides Cup, **Cliff Johnstone**-Facilities, **Blake Laird**-Table Sales, **Jake Herring**-Black Board, **Jay Gardner**-Advertising/Banquet Program.

A very "Special" thank you to our Boat Chairman **Joseph Briones**. Joseph goes above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to CCA and his duties! Thank you, **Desiree' Tullos** for catering the event, a long standing supporter and friend of CCA!

All that CCA Corpus Christi and CCA Texas does to improve our resources, fishing, ecosystem, habitat, fish stocking, and children's scholarships cannot be done without you, our membership, and our sponsors.

We live in a special place, the Texas Gulf Coast. CCA strives to improve the resource, so please continue to help us to keep it that way!

As mentioned above, we are going to list all sponsors with years and the person behind the sponsorship in the next issue. As always, take a kid fishing, you will be glad you did! —**Michael Henry**

Dallas / North Texas

John Hansen 214-243-9435

Hard to believe that another year has passed so quickly. **Our 31st Annual Dallas Chapter Banquet is scheduled for Thursday April 26, 2012 at the Frontiers of Flight Museum near Love Field.** Your chapter executive committee has worked at a fervent pace in planning a great evening for your enjoyment. This year our chapter has elected to honor a very deserving and conservation minded individual for what will become an annual award by our chapter. This year's recipient has graciously accepted our award, **Gary Loomis**, founder of **G. Loomis Rod Company** will be on hand to accept the **Dallas CCA Chapter's Sportsman - Conservationist of the Year Award for 2012.**

Our auction will provide plenty of entertainment this year with our silent auction, live auction and numerous "raffle games" to make certain everyone walks home a winner. Our board has worked very enthusiastically to keep the auction moving forward.

To highlight a few of the offerings: we have an original **Sam Caldwell** (Texas State Artist) oil painting, **African Safari for 2** provided by **White Lion Safari's**, **Alaskan fishing trip** provided by **Baranof Wilderness Lodge**, **Sports tickets to Mavericks', Stars and Ranger games**, **Several bay fishing packages** in Texas and Louisiana, **Helicopter Hog Hunt** provided by **Helihunter** on your ranch or his...one of our board members took this excursion flying his own ranch and said it was indescribable!

We will again be selling raffle tickets for a **Polaris Ranger 400** provided by **Brinson Power Sports in Athens**. We'll only sell 200 Polaris tickets to increase your odds! We will also be raffling our usual **Roxex Submariner**. We have a great evening planned!

Make your plans now to attend, this is going to be the best ever! Our ticket/table pricing has remained the same as last year. Sponsor tables seating 8 guests are \$1,000 and individual seats are priced at \$125 which includes Dinner, Open Bar, and CCA Membership. For more information please contact **John Hansen**, Dallas Chapter President at 214-243-9435 or president@dallascca.org For banquet tickets please call **Sandra or Cullen** at 972-272-9502 or cullen@unitymfg.com We look forward to seeing you this year at the Chapter Banquet.

In addition, we are planning a cookout/general membership meeting at **Tailwaters Fly Fishing Company** Wednesday, April 4, giving you a great opportunity to preview all our live auction items in advance of the Auction. Tailwaters is located at 2416 McKinney Avenue, Dallas, TX 75201. Please R.S.V.P. to **John Hansen** at 214-243-9435 or

president@dallascca.org. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook at "DallasCCA" or our chapter website at www.ccatexas.org/dallas. —**John Hansen**

East Texas

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

Fort Bend

Troy Burditt 281-239-8507

My apologies to Ft. Bend for missing their February/March update. Editor Sam Caldwell

Hello All. Our Ft. Bend committee members have been on the ball this year making plans and coming up with some great ideas for our 26th annual banquet.

To accommodate everyone in these hard times we are mixing things up a bit this year. For this year's Grand Prize we are putting a cap on the tickets at 600. You will have a chance for a **19' JH w/ 115 HP E-TEC from Sport Marine in Richmond, Texas, custom aluminum work and trailer from SAW** or five chances to receive gift cards valued at \$100, and 15 chances to receive gift cards valued at \$50.

Besides our Grand Prize Raffle and other great items, we have some real surprises in store for everyone this year. As usual, our gracious donors are coming out in droves to help make this year's banquet a huge success. **It is scheduled for April 26th at the Fort Bend Co. Fair Grounds Bldg. C, in Rosenberg, Tx.** Doors open at 6 p.m. to preview auction items and begin silent auction bids, and supper is served around 7 p.m. Contact either myself or **Cris Meyer** 979-793-7656, Banquet Chairman, for details. For table reservations Contact **Ren Davis** 281-342-6828 or **George Guest** 281-384-7582. Hope to see you all there!

I'd like to thank **Sport Marine in Richmond** for all they did for us on this year's boat, what a great group to do business with. I'd also like to thank **Terri Bumpers** with **Sign Designs in Rosenberg** for all that she



A couple of pictures from Fort Bend's 2011 Jimmy Guest Memorial Kid's Fishing Tournament in



Fort Bend's 19' JH w/115 HP E-TEC from Sport Marine in Richmond, Tx., custom aluminum work and trailer from SAW.

has done for us for several years now and a special thanks to **Steve Onstad** and **The Swinging Door in Richmond** for allowing us to hold our monthly meetings there all these years.

Mark your calendars: **The "Ladies Only" fishing tournament, The Lingerie On The Bay** is scheduled for June 16 in Matagorda. Entry forms will be posted at www.matagordabay.com and www.wadefishing.com. **The Jimmy Guest Memorial Kid's Fishing Tournament will be in Matagorda on July 14, 2012.** Information for this event can be found at www.matagordabay.com Till next time —**Troy Burditt**

Fort Worth

Fearn Mastin 817-291-1302

We had a very successful membership meeting with 70 people in attendance. As always, we thank the **Rahr Brewery** for being such wonderful hosts. They allowed us to share some smoked pork butts and some of their award-winning beer while we listened to **Scott Sommerlatte** give a presentation about coastal fishing throughout the different seasons. He also greeted us with an excellent slideshow of the many pictures he has taken over the years. Thank you to Rahr and to Scott for being our partners in Conservation.

We are now in full banquet mode preparing for our annual banquet at Joe T's Mexican Restaurant on May 3rd. We are already hearing news of numerous great trips and hunts being donated for the auction. Make sure you carve out the time to make the banquet. We are looking forward to another great year with your help! In the mean time, remember, "A trout is a moment of beauty known only to those who seek it." —**Arnold Gingrich**. See you on May 3! Sincerely, —**John Black**

Galveston

Shane Justus 409-908-0275

Our 20th Annual Banquet is set for August 4, 2012 at Moody Gardens Convention Center. We have secured our raffle boat, **an 18' Shallow Sport w/ Envinrude 115, sitting on a McClain Trailer. And, a special plus- great aluminum work by Coastal Marine!** There are only 300 tickets, and tickets are \$100.00. If you want to get on the early list to buy your tickets please Email your info to Sj@coopwood.com Remember take a kid fishing or hunting they will remember it forever and so will you. Thanks —**Shane Justus** Office: 713-692-5406 Mobile: 713-818-6940

Golden Triangle

Joseph Ramey 409-338-1095

I attended the Sabine-Neches Chapter Banquet and it was my first of the year foray into the new batch of crawfish. I think this is the first CCA Banquet that I have ever seen that was a "SELL OUT." They had a great crowd, and the boys at **Pure Cajun** did a great job of filling everyone up. Thanks to **Del Papa** and **Giglio** for the brews.

The Golden Triangle Banquet is May 10, so mark that one down as well—at the Beaumont Civic Center.

All eyes will be on the springtime, and what the fishing will be like, as we have actually had a bit of rain early, which should help to wash out the bays and estuaries. The oyster season opened back up in Galveston Bay, and I can personally attest to the **Oysters Jubilee** at **Stingaree Restaurant on Bolivar**. **Jimmy Fontenot, Mike Petit** and I sat there and watched the oystering being done right in the mouth of Stingaree Cut! It doesn't get any fresher than that. Could be a new-found reef to GO FISH! —**Rocky Chase**

STAR accomplishments provide some "incredible" scholarship numbers.

Thanks to Rocky Chase of the Golden Triangle chapter for report-

ing these impressive STAR accomplishments.

The CCA Texas Annual Board of Directors meeting was held in Houston at the CCA offices on February 21, and it was a great meeting (apart from the flaming sauces provided by Rainbow Lodge).

One of the things that always amazes and impresses me is the amount of money generated by The S.T.A.R. Tourney. **Bill Kinney**, and his team. **Barry Young**, tournament committee chairman, along with **Bill and John Carlson**, head of the scholarship committee, reported some incredible numbers: Since 1995, bonds have been purchased to fund scholarships for tuition. 100 total scholarships are in the pipeline with a future payout of \$2.6 million dollars through 2026. 26 active recipients received funding in 2011.

In 2011, there was \$178,750 paid out in tuition. 25 possible freshman to start college in 2012. 66 of the scholarships will start in the future. In 2011, there were 10 scholarship winners. 3 received \$50,000 and 7 received \$20,000 scholarships for a total of \$290,000.

Over the past 17 years (1995-2011), 134 recipients have been awarded a grand total of \$4,345,000 in college scholarships! And that is AFTER giving away the boats, motors, trailers, and Ford F-150s! So everyone who is a member of CCA should feel proud of what they are doing when they attend the banquets and join the S.T.A.R. Tourney. —**Rocky Chase**

Greater Sugar Land

David Kveton 281-808-4870

The Greater Sugar Land Chapter's Annual Banquet will be held April 12th at the Missouri City Community Center located at 1522 TEXAS PARKWAY FM 2234. Doors open at 5 pm. We will serve Crawfish and Catfish with all the trimmings. I want to thank the board and Banquet Committee for their dedication in making this event a success. For ticket information call **David Kveton 281-808-4870** or **Kathryn Cavender 713-818-9013**.

We welcome you to visit our monthly chapter meetings, held the first Wednesday of each month at SPRING CREEK BAR-B-Q ON HWY 6 IN MISSOURI CITY AT 7 PM. Check out our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/ccasugarland>. Keep Conserving—Take a child Fishing. —**David Kveton**

Greater Woodlands

Jimmy Pape / 832-326-6723

www.ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands

Guadalupe Valley

Cliff Weber 361-275-6506

Hays County

Steve Schiber 512-524-2989

Heart of the Hills

Randy Plummer 830-377-0737

Hill Country

Darlene Cook 800-594-2056 ext 217
darlenec@knbt.fm

Houston Real Estate

Dale Couch 281-953-2510

Katy

Jason Smith 281-924-7040

I would first like to thank all of you who attended our 2012 kickoff meeting this

past January. Your support is appreciated. A big special Katy thanks to **Brian Slaven** of "Texas Gourmet" for his lessons on preparing all types of the game we harvest from fish to deer. I think everyone came away with at least one new recipe. Also want to thank the guys at **Igloo** for the great cooler that we raffled away, it was a big surprise.

For you that have not attended one of our meetings all I can say is you are missing out on some good times and interesting guest speakers. I really want to encourage you to attend, as being a member you will receive Email notices of our meetings, which are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

BANQUET TIME for Katy CCA is coming up real soon. Mark this date down — JUNE 14, and it will again be held at AGAVE ROAD in Katy. We will begin selling Banquet and Raffle tickets on April 1. Remember there is limited seating so get yours early by calling one of us. These tickets are still only \$50. What a bargain! You get a CCA membership, dinner, drinks, entertainment and a world class Auction, all of this for a lot less than a tank of gas.

The Raffle this year will again be for 15 Rifles with 15 winners, remember we only print a small number of raffle tickets so your odds are real good. If you have not been receiving Emails or want tickets, call one of us and we can get you hooked up. **Jason Smith**—Pres (281)924-7040 / **Gary Mancini**—VP (281)850-2212 / **Matt Still**—CCA (713)626-4222.

Remember, if you are reading this article, you are probably a Katy CCA Chapter Member. So I encourage you to get more out of your membership than just a bumper sticker, come and participate in our meetings, if you are looking for more join our Board, and come to the Banquet. CCA helps keep us fishing by putting back and conserving. Thanks for your membership. —**Jason Smith**

Laredo

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

Lee County

Clarence Wolfshohl
979-412-0916

Cwolfshohl@claytonwilliams.com

The Lee County chapter was out in force for the Port Mansfield Beach and Cut Cleanup on March 17. They not only cleaned a large region, they provided many hours of 4WD hauling trailers and people down the PINS beach. A great effort by a brand new chapter.—**Currents Editor**.

Live Oak

Brad Kotrla 979-732-1669

Lower Colorado

J.L. West 979-318-9007

The East Matagorda Bay Foundation members and Lower Colorado Chapter members from the Sargent area met Friday, February 17 for the annual Statewide **Crab Trap Cleanup Event**. They traveled into East Matagorda Bay and its tributaries along the Intracoastal Canal Waterway and were able to remove a total of 30 crab traps. Thank you to those who volunteered to come out and congratulations for a successful effort.

Chapter members from Bay City and surrounding areas, met at Matagorda Harbor on Saturday morning, February 18. After a discussion assessing the stormy weather and pending high winds, the event was cancelled for safety reasons. Exploring the bays and putting yourself and your craft in jeopardy during bad weather was not a good idea. Safety was our foremost concern. But, the 15 volunteers who showed up enjoyed a delicious gumbo meal provided by our President, **Jerry West**. Thank you to all the volunteers who made the effort to come.

On Saturday, April 14, the chapter will be on site to support the Third Annual Rally on the River at Riverside Park. This event is sponsored by the **Matagorda County Birding and Nature Center**. This will be a seven mile round trip excursion on the Colorado River for canoes, kayaks, and other paddle craft to pay tribute to the irreplaceable economic, social, and environmental contributions the state's rivers tirelessly provide to its citizens in the form of clean water flow for recreation and irrigation in our county, and also abundant marine life growth in the Matagorda Bay System. See you there.

Our Second Annual Kid's Fish Weekend is in planning stages for now. This year's event will be May 19 at the Nature Center in Bay City. We had 70 kids for last year's event, ready to fish. Over 200 fish were caught from ponds at the Nature Center. Afterwards, hot dogs and sodas were enjoyed by everyone, and prizes and trophies were given for the largest fish in different age categories. Many parents expressed their appreciation to the chapter for hosting this event. Thank you to **HEB** and **Pepsi Corporation** for donating the hot dogs, bottled water, and sodas last year. We are looking forward to a bigger turnout this year. We need volunteers again this year helping the youngsters to bait their lines and helping with the weigh-ins. For information, call **Jerry West** at 979-318-9007.

Our Fourth Annual CCA Banquet will be held at the Bay City Convention Center on Friday, August 17. We had a really large turnout last year and hope to totally fill the convention center this year. We have a lot of planning still to do, and need volunteers to help. For information, call **Jerry West** at 979-318-9007.

The chapter is purchasing a banner that will span one of our major streets in Bay City. This will provide good exposure for events like the Kid's Fish Weekend and our annual banquet. Until next time, keep those lines wet. —**John Kubecka**, Secretary, Lower Colorado Chapter



The Lee County CCA chapter traveled many miles to the Port Mansfield East Cut to clean tons of beach trash.

Lower Laguna Madre

Travis Flanagan

956-207-6391

The Lower Laguna Madre Chapter will be raffling a 2012 18' Sport boat by Shallow Sport Boats. The winner will be announced at our 2012 Banquet which will be held on Thursday, September 13, 2012, at Schlitterbahn Beach Water Park on our beautiful South Padre Island. Doors open at 6pm. For more information about purchasing tickets for the boat raffle and/or purchasing tickets for the banquet please email us at atlowerlagunamadrecca@yahoo.com/ —Travis Flanagan

Mainland

Eric Minor 281-534-6242

We had a successful fourth annual Galveston Bay Seminar on Saturday February 4 at the Nessler Center in Texas City. Speaking this year was Captain Randall Groves, Captain Scott Null, John Brummerhop with Angler Products, Bill Balboa with TPWD, and Phil Ortiz of Flounder Pounder.

We had a great turnout and learned a lot about fishing, boat electronics, and the work being done by TPWD to make our angling experience better. Thanks to all who made this possible: the speakers, attendees, and the Mainland Chapter board members.

We are preparing for our annual banquet, which will be held in the Wings of Heritage Room of the Nessler Center in Texas City on Friday May 4th. We will be serving crawfish again this year. Individual tickets are \$40, tables range in price from \$800, \$400, and \$200 and does include CCA membership.

Do you want to save on gas when you fish? Our main raffle consists of a Kayak, paddle, PFD, and a rod and reel combo. If you are interested in purchasing banquet, table, or raffle tickets you can contact myself or CCA's main office. You may also go by Serious Tackle located at 14065 Delaney Road in LaMarque in the Gulfway Plaza Outlet Mall. —Eric

Matagorda Bays

Linc Lutrick 979-541-9901

Mark your calendars! The Matagorda Bays Chapter of CCA will be holding its 7th annual Lil' Salty Fishing Tournament at the Matagorda Harbor on May 12. All kids between the ages of 3 through 14 are invited to attend this FREE tournament. This event stresses the importance of conservation and sportsmanship to youngsters. This is also a great way to get families and kids out on the water for a fun day of fishing.

This event is only made possible because of generous sponsors who donate time, merchandise and money. As always, we welcome and encourage our sponsors to attend this event. It is the only way to really see and feel the difference you all make with your generous donations for these kids. To sponsor this event in any way, please call or email Chad Hensley at 979-541-3239, chadwayne73@yahoo.com, or Tom Gold at 979-541-6942, tagold@elc.net. If you wish to make a monetary donation, make your check payable to Matagorda bays CCA and mail to Matagorda Bays CCA, P.O. Box 1524, El Campo, TX 77437. Thanks again! —Linc Lutrick

MidCoast

Danny Hurta 361-648-4914

We hope everyone had a great start to the new year. The Mid Coast Chapter has, and is in the full swing of things. We are preparing for our 2012 annual banquet. This year it will be held on May 4 at the Victoria Community Center. If you are interested in donating, sponsoring or just attending our banquet, please contact me and I will be glad to give you all the info you need.

At this year's banquet, we will be giving away another beautiful boat. We partnered with Kresta's Boats and Motors this year and choose a 2012 22'6 Majek Illusion. The boat is equipped with a 150 Evinrude ETEC, Talon Shallow Water Anchor, Fusion Stereo System and sits on a SAWS aluminum tandem axle trailer. This boat also has an awesome custom rap

by Compadres Ink. Tickets are \$100 each and only 500 tickets are available.

We will also be giving away a Benelli Nova Shotgun, Custom Waterloo Rod with Abu Garcia Revo Premier, 65 quart CCA Yeti Cooler, and a Waterloo Salinity Rod with a Abu Garcia Revo inshore. You can buy tickets in and around the Victoria area. The Tackle Box and Victoria All Sports Center in Victoria, Pateks Liquor in Hallettsville or wherever you see the boat. You are more than welcome to send me a check and I will send you a copy of your entry and stub as well.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our banquet and please let me know if you have any questions. Good luck fishing and God Bless. — Danny Hurta

Northeast Houston

Jason Law 713-898-8594

On February 21, we met at Cedar Landing Restaurant for our General Membership Meeting. Captain John Brummerhop of Angler-Products.com was our guest speaker. He spoke about converting fishing hotspots from fishing maps to files your GPS can import. He provided training and custom written cheat sheets for the most current GPS systems. He also spoke about which GPS system best fits the end user's needs.

We are busy putting the final touches on our 24th Annual Crawfish boil fundraiser. It will be held in the Humble Civic Center Outdoor Pavilion on April 21st at 5pm. Adult tickets are \$40 pre-sale and \$45 at the door; children's tickets (under 12) are \$10. We will have a live auction, silent auction, raffles, and exhibitors.

This year our Sportsman Raffle will consist of 4 incredible prizes! Rod & Reel Package - \$300 value donated by Coastal Fishing Gear LLC, Yeti 65 qt cooler with CCA Logo - \$359 value, Remington 870 Express Shotgun - \$350 value underwritten by Fiesta Azteca Mexican Restaurant, Cast-N-Blast Trip for 3 out of Hackberry, LA to be taken September 2012-special teal season. Duck hunt in the morning, fish in the afternoon, and the trip includes one night's lodging with three meals. Valued at \$1000 and donated by Big Lakes Guide Service and CCA.

Raffle tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. We will only be selling 500 tickets. If you are interested in purchasing tickets please contact Gary Barth: 281-222-7392 or Kim Vollenhine: 713-626-4222. Don't forget to like our Northeast Houston CCA Chapter face book page for upcoming social events, banquet information, general membership meetings, or just to post some great catches! —Jason Law

Northwest Houston

Blayne Eversole 832-444-4579

Our speaker at February's meeting was Phil Ortiz with Flounder Pounder,

flounderpounder1@comcast.net or visit www.flounderpounder1.com. Phil has been fishing since boyhood both commercially and for fun. He invented the Flounder Pounder lure in 1989. While he now only fishes for fun, he enjoys showing what he knows especially to kids. He was an interesting speaker and we kept him talking well into the evening. Lots of great stories making for a full evening and enjoyable experience for all of the audience.

Our next General Members Meeting is April 3rd at Houston Distributing. We have arranged to have Bill Balboa, the Galveston Bay Ecosystem Leader with Texas Parks and Wildlife as our speaker for our next meeting. As you recall, Bill has spoken to us in the past discussing changes in Galveston Bay since Hurricane Ike and the results of the gill net surveys to date. He will also field any of your questions about the status of the Texas fishery and regulations. He always gives a very informative presentation so bring the family and join us for this great meeting.

Don't forget that our April 3rd meeting is also our annual Member appreciation fish fry. We expect a large turnout to renew your membership, sign up for the STAR tournament, enjoy both plenty of fish and a great speaker program.

We are excited to announce that we will again have our Kid Fish. The date is May 12, rain or shine! Many thanks to the City of La Porte, Harris County Precinct 2, and Linda's Bait and Tackle for their support of this program. We do need both your support and participation. We will accept donations of any kind for the kid's event at the General Membership meeting throughout the year to assure the kids have a great time.

We do plan T-shirts with sponsor logos so contact Darrell Sims at 281/221-0515 for sponsorship details. Also, we always need your participation with whatever time you have for any number of duties from planning to helping at the event.

Our sincere thanks to both Houston Distributing and Academy. They are active sponsors of our meetings and many events. We are especially fortunate to have such great support. As a reminder, we are using email for meeting announcements. If we don't have your e-mail address and you would like to receive our announcements, please send your e-mail address to js_declue@yahoo.com.

Orange County

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

With February in the rear view mirror, the Orange County Chapter worked the Crab Trap Clean-up and picked up 31 abandoned traps from Sabine Lake. A huge thanks goes out to Mike Rezsutek, biologist for TPWD, for updating the chapter on the Port Of Orange Dredging Project at our last general membership meeting.

Keep your calendars marked for AUGUST 30th, which is the date for our banquet. If you are interested in getting involved with the banquet, contact the chapter at occ_cca@yahoo.com. Tight Lines & Bent Rods, —Scott Bandy

Piney Woods

Jess Mowery 903-736-3891

Port O'Connor

Bill Moore 361-983-4690

The 2012 Crab Trap Removal is now history and what a difference a year made. Last year the weather was great, but this year was almost a total washout. The 18th was canceled due to the rain and lightning but we came back on the 25th to try again.

Again the rains came, but the POC chapter was at the docks to provide lunch to all that showed. Thanks to those who prepared the lunch, including Carl and Pam Ray, Lefty and Jo Ann Ward, Mike Sharp, and Jim Busby. We appreciate the moral support from members who have been dealing with medical issues and did not need to be out in the weather. Special thanks to Dr. Wally Bublely, with TP& W Fisheries for opening the facilities and helping with everything. Chris Smisek and his crew dodged the weather and managed to bring in seventeen traps. Ronnie Luster Sr., Ronnie Jr. and Sam Caldwell located a single and brought it in.

The chapter continues its preparation for the 13th Annual POC Banquet, so be sure to pencil in that date-Saturday, October 20. So, as the weather warms, come see us. Also, if you want to get involved with the chapter and or banquet, contact us in POC "Where it all began" —Bill Moore

Prairie

Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103

On February 17, the chapter had its annual chili appreciation dinner at the Cat Spring Ten Hall. We had a great turnout in spite of the heavy rain that night. There was a silent auction and dollar raffle. The speaker for the night was John Guidry of "Taxidermy by John" (979-885-6160). He talked about techniques and preservation of taxidermy. Thanks to our cooks — Randy Goebel, Walter and Richard Herbrig, and Joey Pawlowski for preparing the night's meal. Also, thanks go to Bellville Meat Market for supplying the meat for the chili. Also, thanks to S&H Liquor for the beverages.

Don't forget the April 5th for our 15th annual fundraiser banquet. We will have a cap and gun raffle along with a pistol raffle. There will also be a silent and live auction. Thanks to all the board members for their help

in putting together the banquet. Also, thanks to all sponsors and donors for their generous help. We could not have been successful without them! And, many thanks to **Jerry Mikeska Catering** for serving prime rib and quail at the event.

On May 19, we will be having our annual "Kid's Fish" at the Eberly Ranch in Chappell Hill. Fishing starts at 1:30 p.m. and ends at 3 p.m. There will be free hot dogs, snacks, and drinks. Each kid will receive a free T-shirt. After the tournament there will be a silent and live auction with a bucket raffle. Don't forget your fishing pole, and for more details call Mandy Goebel at 979-877-8690. On June 30 we will be having our chapter CCA Fishing Tournament at Matagorda Harbor. For information, contact Travis Herbrig at 979-877-9917. —Ron Chess, Sr.

Redfish Bay

Norman Oates 361-758-0266

The Annual Redfish Bay Chapter Banquet is scheduled for April 28, 2012; it will be in the Port Aransas Civic Center starting at 6 pm. As usual, there will be a sit-down meal with tea, cokes, beer, and wine included in the ticket price. Our banquet is a family event, and we encourage attendance by spouses, young adults, and mature children. We make every effort to have something for everyone who attends, such as art, jewelry, and home decorations in addition to fishing and sports items for raffle, silent auction, and live auction.

The annual "Take a Kid Fishing" event will be held the first weekend of June at Woody's Sports Center in Port Aransas. On Friday night, there will be a shrimp boil and sign up. Each fisherperson is given a free rod and reel (kids that can't make it Friday night can sign up on Saturday morning). The awards cer-

emony will start around noon on Saturday with trophies for all kids. This is a great event! —Norman Oates

Rio Grande Valley

Matt Klosterman 956-642-7965

The RGV Chapter is in full swing organizing our 32nd Annual Banquet. This year's banquet will be held on April 26, 2012 at the Pharr Events Center so mark your calendars now. We are also busy selling raffle tickets for our 21ft Explorer Attacka Flats boat with motor and trailer. The tickets are \$100 and we will limit the ticket sales to 450.

We would like to thank L & F Distributors for their continued sponsorship of the raffle boat. We will also be selling raffle cups at the banquet for a John Deere Gator with trailer. We would also like to thank Weaks Martin for sponsoring the Gator along with Elliff Motors who is sponsoring the trailer.

The chapter is always looking for fresh faces to help so if you are interested in joining the RGV Chapter feel free to give me a call at 956-642-7965 to join. —Matt Klosterman

Sabine-Neches

Darin Johnson 409-790-9855

darin.johnson@delpapabud.com

Greetings! March 1 was the 15th Annual Sabine Neches Banquet, and what a night it was! Words can't describe how proud I am of the chapter and sponsors that helped make this the biggest and best event! I don't have enough space to thank each and every one who helped but here we go: Classic of Southeast Texas, Cops Helping Kids, Specialty Painting, Academy, Huntsman Port Neches, Keishnick Industries, JBS Packing, Del Papa Distributing (The Bud

Guys), Texas Industrial Nut & Bolt, Widgeon Construction, Philpott Motors, Giglio Distributing (The Miller/Coors Guys), APAC, United Rentals, Premier Yamaha Boating Center, Dylan's on 9th Ave, Daley's Hunt and Fish... and the list can keep going! To all of the guides who donated trips, and the businesses who donated prizes, Thank You!! We look forward to your continued support for our 2013 Banquet!

We have one more big event coming up, our 2nd Annual Kid Fish! This year's venue will be held at the Walter Umphrey Pier on Pleasure Island! Keep an eye on the mailbox or the inbox for more information.. We look forward to seeing our young anglers in May! Until then, tight lines to all! —Darin Johnson
Darin.johnson@delpapabud.com

Sam Houston

Mark Robinson 936-662-0841
mark6469@hotmail.com

San Antonio

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

Chapter President Johnny Rayburg took a pair of young ladies on Capt. Billy Sandifer's PINS beach cleanup Feb. 25. Rainy, cold and windy, Sandifer likened the volunteers to the "Spartans at the battle of Thermopylae" as they marched down the beach. For the full story, see page 5.

The San Antonio Chapter Banquet Committee is hard at work putting together another fantastic fund raising banquet. It takes a large number of volunteers to make this event successful and we welcome all newcomers.



Meetings are Tuesday evenings 6:30pm at the Quarry Golf Club through the end of April.

Save the date: **May 3, 2012 at the Freeman Coliseum Exposition Hall.** Tickets are limited. Joe Eaton is our ticket sales chairman again this year. You can reach Joe at jeaton@eatoncontracting.com. Sponsorships are still available! You can find this year's ticket order form at www.ccatexas.org/san-antonio. Fax that order to Joe at (210) 599-3691. We plan on having some exciting new big ticket raffle items this year one of which is a John Deere XUV 550 S4. A four passenger, 4 wheel drive cross over utility vehicle with a dump bed. You are definitely going to want to buy some tickets for it.

Take a kid fishing. It puts a smile on their face, and yours! —**Johnny Rayburg**

San Bernard

Royce Macha 979-472-5211

San Gabriel

John Melnar 512- 497-8284

Well folks, spring has arrived and it's time to start looking forward to warm weather and great fishing. **It's also time to mark your calendar for our Tenth Annual Banquet which will be held on August 9 at the Dell Diamond.** As I think about this time ten years ago when we started the chapter, I can't help but think about all the great people and businesses that have supported our chapter over the years. Two companies that come to mind are **PMB Helin Donovan and Morris Glass.** Each of them has supported us continually since the first banquet. There are many others who have been helping more than five years, including **Key-stone Concrete Placement, Greater Austin Development, and Chasco.**

Without the support of these great companies and

many others, along with the support of many individuals, our chapter success would have been impossible. So I really would like to say "Thank You" to anyone who has helped us in the past and look forward to the future. So don't forget to mark your calendar for August 9. If you have questions or would like to join our fine group of sponsors please feel free to contact me at jmelnar@piscavore.com or (512) 497-8284. —**John Melnar**

San Jacinto

Pete Ruiz 832-496-4903

TAMU

Burr Thornton

Texas State

Robin Benson 830-385-1081

Tomball/Magnolia

**Welcome new president, Matt Maddox
832-590-1828**

Tri-County

Jason Trial 830-570-2988

Trinity Bay

Gerald Payne 281-385-2894

West Houston

Mike Booher 281-772-0132

I hope everyone in West Houston had a safe and enjoyable winter. I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who took the time out of their busy schedules to fill out and return the survey that was sent out. Our board members are working hard to make this the chapter you want and your input is very important to us. If you did not get one and would like one, please call **Gary Brown** at 281-513-8191.

That being said, I would like to personally extend an invitation to any-

one who wants to get involved, give me a call, **Mike Booher** at 281-772-0132. We would love to have your participation on the board and get you involved. There are no requirements or pre-requisites, just a willingness to help and see the West Houston CCA chapter grow and be the best it can be.

Speaking of the board, we have been busy planning our annual fundraiser. **As always, the event will be the first Thursday in May at the Houston Farm and Ranch club. The Crawfish Boil is Thursday, May 3.** Individual tickets are available for \$45 (\$50 at the door) or tables for \$600, \$1,000, or \$2,000. Tickets and tables are now available so beat the rush and call **Ron Luster** at 832-922-9413 or **Kim Vollentine** at 713-626-4222. If you have any other questions regarding the Crawfish Boil, please feel free to contact our banquet chairman, **Joe Perez** at 832-279-4794.

We also have some other great events coming up. On **Tuesday, April 3rd at Molina's Restaurant** we will be having a general membership meeting with special guest speaker, **Dr. Greg Stunz** from the Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi. Dr. Stunz has been doing some fantastic studies on trout in the Gulf Coast and is sure to share some interesting information with us. To find out more about Dr. Stunz please go to <http://www.harterresearchinstitute.org/dr-greg-stunz>.

Be on the lookout for more information on a CCA fishing tournament. The West Houston Chapter is working with other chapters in our area to put together a local tournament just for you. I hope everyone is getting a chance to get on the water and get some fishing in. I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming events. Tight Lines, —**Mike Booher**

West Texas

Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499

**Roger Letz / Communications Director
432-685-6026 RCL301@aol.com**



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COSTA



A Ninja? Coastal fisherman? Doing a cold water CPR (Catch Photo Release). Photo by Neal Nichols.

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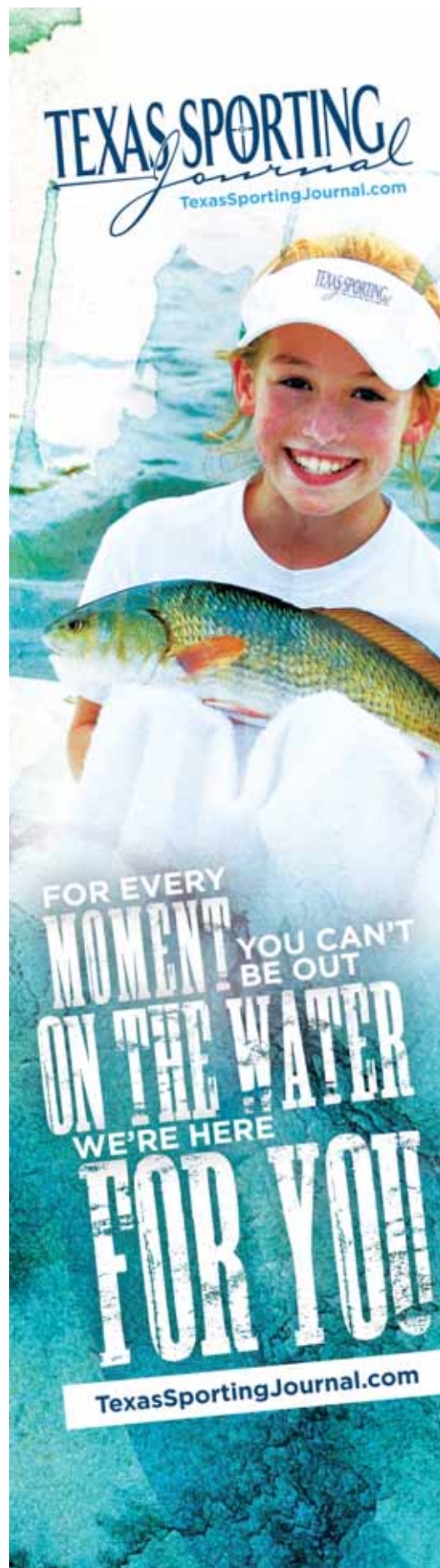
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Redfish sighting, spotted on Hwy 87.





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We rarely use 'stringer pictures,' but Granddad's line was too great: "Here is my granddaughter, Avery McCorkle, with a stringer of trout caught with plastics in Copano Bay. Her expression made the picture worth sending to Great Photos 2012." —Bill Todd

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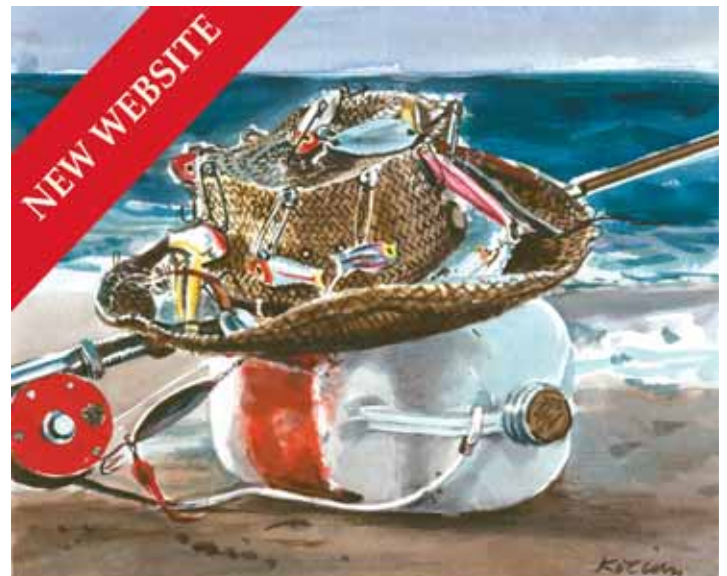


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Coastal Conservation Association



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CURRENTS NEWSLETTER

April / May 2012

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Crab trap grab, PINS beach & Port Mansfield Cut cleanup.

CCA's first-ever concert is on track- literally.

And, a long-awaited Cedar Bayou opening initiative.

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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
Sal... 409-661-1315

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



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

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



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___ DISCOVER

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NEW TIDE: \$10 _____ Tide newsletter, patch, decal, iron-on T-shirt transfer, redfish sticker.
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