

CURRENTS

The newsletter for CCA members in Texas
August / September 2012



*Idle Iron, or
Rigs to Reefs?*

CCA calls for moratorium on rig removals

Conservation community unites to defend marine habitat

In a misguided response to the 2010 Gulf oil spill, the U.S. Department of Interior issued the Idle Iron directive in October of 2010 ordering that all non-producing wells be plugged and any associated structures removed within five years of the issuance of that directive.

Since then, CCA has worked on and supported a number of actions to derail that policy, including the Rigs to Reefs Habitat Protection Act filed by U.S. Sen. David Vitter (R-La.) and Rep. Steven Palazzo (R-Miss.); language implementing strict review and reporting requirements on removals in the Sportsmen's Act of 2012; the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's decision to begin the process of classifying rigs and other vital artificial reefs as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), and letters from both Texas Governor Rick Perry and U.S. Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-Texas) to U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar urging him to reconsider the policy.

In June, a coalition of marine conservation, tackle and boating industry groups also called for a halt to Idle Iron policy in a letter to Secretary Salazar, citing the irreparable damage it stands to inflict on an extensive range of marine fisheries and ecosystems.

Additionally, the Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council, an 18-member committee established to provide input to the Department of Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on recreational boating and fishing issues, and aquatic resource conservation issues, sent a letter to Secretary

Salazar calling for a two-

year moratorium on rig removals. "These towers of metal covered in coral are inactive for years, sometimes decades. They are a far cry from active rigs engaged in drilling operations in thousands of feet of water," said Rep. Palazzo. "Rigs and platforms across the Gulf have come and gone over the years, but the Idle Iron Policy proposes to clear-cut that vast forest of structure. The Idle Iron issue may seem complex, but at the end of the day we would be wise to protect these habitats."

Recently, at a breakfast briefing hosted by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Rep. Palazzo pre-

sented the concerns of the recreational angling community over the Department of Interior's controversial Idle Iron directive and closed by inviting fellow congressmen to sign onto a letter requesting a moratorium on rig removals. "A temporary moratorium on rig removals related to the Idle Iron Policy is needed to evaluate those structures and keep as many as safely possible in the water," he said. "That iron wasn't put there to become habitat, but that's what it has become, and it certainly is not 'idle.' It is an irre-

placeable, living asset that should be protected. And as a sportsman from a Gulf state, I feel an obligation to protect that habitat."

The CCA has worked with Rep. Palazzo on the call for a moratorium on the Idle Iron policy, and engaged CCA membership to encourage their elected officials to add their signatures to the letter.

"Rep. Palazzo and others clearly appreciate the value of those structures as artificial habitat and understand the concerns of the recreational angling community," said Pat Murray, CCA president. "His call for a moratorium is the

latest in a growing chorus of concerns from other elected officials, marine scientists and other state and federal agencies. It is time for the Department of Interior to heed those concerns and take a more precautionary approach to these structures." 🐟

For more information, visit the CCA jccrigler@hotmail.com Rigs to Reefs page to learn more about the issue of these artificial reefs and their impact on the marine environment.

"That iron... certainly is not 'idle.' It is an irreplaceable, living asset that should be protected." —Rep. Palazzo



"Deep Reds," by Sam Caldwell



CCA TEXAS CONCERT FOR CONSERVATION A HUGE SUCCESS

Crowds brave rain for power packed country music line-up

After months of preparation, Coastal Conservation Association Texas held its inaugural Concert for Conservation at Houston's Sam Houston Race Park. Crowds of conservationists, anglers and music enthusiasts were undaunted by threatening skies and came out in droves to enjoy a powerful lineup of performances. Headlined by Pat Green, the event also featured Texas legend Jerry Jeff Walker as well as Sammy Kershaw and Houston favorite Gene Watson.

"This event provided a great opportunity to introduce CCA and all the organization does for marine resources to a whole new group of people," said Robby Byers, CCA Texas Executive Director. "It was a great evening to celebrate the importance of marine conservation and raise the profile of CCA's vital work."

Even with an ongoing threat of summertime showers, people flocked to the race track to hear some of the best of old and new country hits. The event was sponsored by Academy Sports and Outdoors, David Weekley Homes, John Deere, Shoppa Farm Supply, Silver Eagle Distributors, Goode Co., Coastal Angler, Stubbs Harley Davidson, In Tents Party Supply, Hooter's - Sugarland, Coca-Cola, Golf Cars of Houston and Sam's Club.

"There are so many exciting conservation projects and habitat initiatives happening within CCA Texas, and this concert allowed us to bring a whole new group of prospective conservationists into the fold and introduce them to our organization," said Mark Ray, CCA Texas Chairman. "With the combination of timeless music and a timeless conservation message, nothing could be better....maybe other than fishing."

Legacy of a Texas fisherman

Ben Kocian could see that redfish and speckled trout were disappearing from the bays around his Port O'Connor home, and he took it personally. The burly artist-designer-illustrator recruited other artists, and we donated paintings to the first Gulf Coast Conservation Association fund-raising event in Houston. He also produced that 1978 event's program, replete with art and feature stories. The program became the Gulf Tide, which became the award-winning Tide magazine, illustrated and produced by Ben and his wife, Cheri, for more than 30 years. Ben's early contributions were acknowledged in 1980 when he was named GCCA's first Man Of The Year and in 2006, nominated as Texas State Artist.

Along the way, Ben lent his time and talent to many important conservation projects. He designed powerful images that have become icons of coastal conservation, not only in Texas, but across the Gulf coast, East coast and now, West Coast states. Ben Kocian joins CCA leaders like Dusty Rhodes, Jack Cowan, Perry Bass, Bob Brister and Walter Fondren III. Ben Kocian's efforts finally ceased Tuesday, June 12, but he left a legacy of a healthier coast that Texans will enjoy far into the future. -Sam Caldwell



Above: Ben's version of hooking a tarpon at Pass Cavallo. Below, "Sail Away." Kocian's donated art brought many dollars for conservation efforts over the years.

The artist was a dedicated fisherman. He sent many redfish and trout back for further duty. However, any ancient lure he found was considered a keeper.

A number of Ben Kocian's finest paintings are available from Cheri and Dineen as Gclees. Drop by his website or email: www.BenKocian.com / info@BenKocian.com





Registration is continuing for the Corpus Christi Chapter's **Babes on Baffin and Blue Ladies Fishing Tournament** which will be held **Columbus Day Weekend, Saturday, Oct. 6th**, at Roberts Point Park in Port Aransas. Friday Night's Check-in and Social will be at Doc's Restaurant in Corpus Christi.

Registrations must be postmarked by September 21st. To ensure preferred shirt sizes, Registrations should be mailed by September 1st.

The Tournament features a live weigh-in/donation bonus with the fish donated to the Corpus Christi CCA/CPL Marine Development Center.

In addition to the Team Awards, Teams can enter a Best Team Outfit Contest and can participate in optional cash pots. Entry is \$80 per Angler / \$65 per Little Babe and includes Saturday's Dinner, a T-shirt, Visor, Gift Bag, and an Annual CCA Membership.

Be sure to download the Registration Packet from *Babes on Baffin and Blue* and any questions about the Tournament can be submitted through <http://www.babesonbaffin.com/contactme.htm>.



Great Photo, San Antonio banquet. As one of Texas' finest auctioneers, ??? ???? sells a Live Auction trip, the signpost points to great fishing destinations.

Hot & Crunchy Drum

This is an adaptation of Hot and Crunchy Trout from the cookbook, "Cooking Fearlessly," by the folks at Hudson's on the Bend in Austin. They serve it with their Mango Jalapeno Aioli.

6-8 Fish Fillets 8 oz each / ¼ cup almonds toasted
¼ cup sesame seeds toasted / 2 cups cornflakes
¼ ??? granulated sugar / 1 ½ T red chili flakes / 1 T Salt
1 cup milk / 2 eggs / 1 cup all purpose seasoned flour
6 T clarified butter

In food processor, combine almonds, sesame seeds, cornflakes, sugar, red chili flakes and salt until coarse and crunchy but well blended. Place in Pyrex dish for dredging. In another dish, whisk egg and milk to make egg wash. Dredge fish in seasoned flour. Pass filet thru the wet mixture then in cornflake mixture, pressing mixture onto filet. In a large skillet, heat clarified butter until it shimmers. Cook filets for approximately 3 minutes per side. Keep warm on cookie sheet until all are cooked.

Serve with Aioli or your favorite fish sauce.

Mango Jalapeno Aioli

Juice of 2 lemons / 1 bunch cilantro leaves (roughly chopped)
½ cup Hudson's Mango Jalapeno sauce (available at Hudsonsonthebend.com) 1 cup mayonnaise / 2 cloves minced garlic
Combine all ingredients. Season to taste with salt and pepper.



State of Texas Angler's Rodeo



23rd Annual State of Texas Angler's Rodeo (STAR)

Reel stories from Father's Day Past... the ultimate gift!

Father's Day morning; at 5:30am, David Matula accompanied by wife, Lisa and their dogs, Scrappier and Macey headed out of Sargent. Several spots did not pay off, until Lisa suggested the Swing Bridge. Matula immediately got a bite and told Lisa, "Get the net and be ready!" As Lisa netted the redfish, Matula saw the tag and yelled out, "It has a tag!" Off to Caney Creek Marina the Matulas went to register the redfish. Since then Lisa hasn't stopped reminding her husband that if not for her suggestion to go to the swing bridge and keep fishing, he would have missed out on a new truck and boat prize package. "I will never forget this Father's Day fishing trip as long as I live," said Matula.

On the same morning down the coast, Tony Gonzalez invited his two brothers to join him and the trio arrived at Packery Channel about 6:30 am. Gonzalez was fishing near the rocks when his line went tight. When Gonzalez got the fish close, he shouted, "It has a tag!" They took the fish to the official STAR Weigh Station, Roy's Bait & Tackle, just to check. The weigh station confirmed it was 2012 CCA Tag #TA424. Everyone in the store, including Gonzalez, was smiling ear to ear, shaking hands and high fiving. "It was a great feeling and a very Happy Father's Day," said Gonzalez.

Fortunately for David Matula and Tony Gonzalez, they were registered and will be driving home a 2012 loaded Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT SuperCab, pulling a brand new 23' Haynie BigFoot boat rigged with a Mercury 150L OptiMax motor and Coastline trailer the night of the STAR Awards Ceremony in October.

That means there are still 56 tagged redfish out there swimming around. Here we have a real mystery, which of course benefits all STAR anglers. Typically by 4th of July, all five truck and boat prize packages have been claimed leaving only the five boat prizes in the Texas Ford

Dealers Redfish Division. This year, however, only four tagged reds have been caught so far, but only two of the four were certified winners. Puzzling, but who has the answers? Moon phases, consistent high June tides, heavy pressure, excess bait, higher water temps and salinity are the culprits being blamed for the lack of cooperation by the wily redfish. Of course, this leaves three more truck and boat prizes up for grabs, not counting the five boat prizes for the 6th through 10th red captured by current STAR anglers. Please claim your share, and make sure all of your angling friends get their STAR insurance... it could happen on the next cast!

YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN TO WIN! Are you spooled up and ready for this 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,



David Matula, 1st tagged redfish winner



Tony Gonzalez, 2nd tagged redfish winner

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 all the great 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.**

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 with 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!

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! **See page 8 for the two Platinum prints.**

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!!! Don't forget to take advantage of all the great Member incentives available to CCA Texas/STAR participants. Please see below for more details:

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

- 🔥 Ford X-Plan Pricing (see details below)
- 🔥 10 gift card courtesy of Academy Sports + Outdoors (see details below)
- 🔥 Whataburger coupon for a free burger and breakfast on a bun (see details below)
- 🔥 Texas Fish & Game Magazine subscription (see details on page 7)
- 🔥 \$1000 worth of free upgrades with your purchase of a new Tilson home (see ad on page 23).

FORD X-PLAN PRICING - CCA Texas members have been remarkably honored by the Texas Ford Dealers. They approved X-Plan pricing for us; that is, every current member can buy (or lease) any Ford product at the **same price Ford employees must pay**. This means we can save up to \$1,000 or much more, just by having a valid **\$25 CCA membership card!!!** Our Ford Partner Code # is CCA61; go to www.fordpartner.com, if you are considering a purchase. And please share your gratitude with the dealers for helping to make this great offer possible for CCA Texas members.

SPECIAL BONUS FROM ACADEMY SPORTS + OUTDOORS - One more great reason to sign up! For those anglers who got on the ball and signed



BEST IN TEXAS

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

up early, Academy Sports + Outdoors rewarded you with a \$10 gift coupon just in time for fishing season! For those of you who didn't get in on the first \$10 gift coupon, we have good news!!! Academy Sports + Outdoors will be sending another \$10 gift coupon after the tournament ends! Just in time for hunting season! Special thanks to Academy Sports + Outdoors for continuing to make your CCA membership and STAR entry such an awesome value!

COUPONS FOR A FREE WHATABURGER AND BREAKFAST ON A BUN

- In you haven't used your coupon from the June/July issue of CURRENTS, don't forget to use it before it expires 8/31/12. This special coupon, compliments of our great partner, Whataburger, is good for a FREE burger and breakfast on a bun with purchase. YUMMY! Special thanks to Whataburger for making this special offer possible.

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) 626-4222 or email star@startournament.org.

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.

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

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, Capital Farm Credit, Mercury Marine, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, Shipley Donuts, 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.



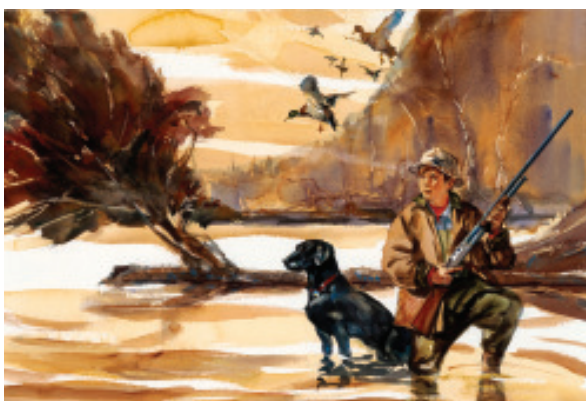
STAR has reached \$4,345,000 in scholarships awarded to children 6-17 years of age. Many thanks to our sponsors for making this happen. Without them, it would not be possible.

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Editor, Sam Caldwell / sam@samcaldwell.com
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Longtime CCA staffer Sam Caldwell takes national art awards from OWAA.

The Outdoor Writer's Association of America (OWAA) awarded its top two illustration prizes to Sam Caldwell, of Houston Texas. The first place prize was for Caldwell's painting, "Thirteen Years Old." Commissioned by Texas Ducks Unlimited for the 2010-2011 state art print, the painting features a 13-year old hunter and his 13-year old retriever. Caldwell took the second-place award for "Copano Bay Redfish Release," a Texas bay fishing scene. Caldwell is the editor of Currents, the newsletter for Texas CCA members.



CCA's Warden of the Year is Clay Shock of Region 4.

Presenting the plaque and a remarked Change of Tides CCA book to Mr. and Mrs. Shock at the sold out Matagorda Bays banquet are Ronnie Luster and Philip Fitzgerald.



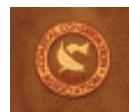
STAR Collector series art prints: STAR Sighting, 2012 Platinum Series II is shown above. A few STAR Reds, 2011 series I art prints, on right, are still available.

Welcome to the CCA Texas Online Auction Sponsored By Costa Del Mar



We have some great merchandise up for grabs this month—a CCA Luggage Package and a CCA Logo Metal Tackler.

These items will be featured online for bidding purposes through eBay. We encourage everyone to take



Handsome CCA logos brand each bag.

advantage of the art and merchandise that is up for sale. These items are coming directly from CCA Texas's inventory. There will be a variety of unique art packages, as well as new merchandise never seen before!

CCA Metal Tackler – This metal tackler would be a great addition to any house!

Luggage Package – 1 CCA Tote Bag and 1 CCA Rolling Duffel. Auction runs August 14 to the 21st. To bid and win, go to ccatexas.org and click on the link (left hand side) **online auction**. Good luck!
—Drew Adams

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



Progress continues on Cedar Bayou project

County approves engineering work, maintenance fund for restoration of pass

Work continues on the restoration of Cedar Bayou as a series of recent significant steps clears the way for sand to fly at the earliest possible moment.

Aransas County has approved funding to complete final engineering and surveys for initial restoration of the pass and has also announced that it will annually allocate at least \$50,000 to a Cedar Bayou Maintenance Fund, a critical component to keeping the pass open in the future.

"The County is clearly committed to doing the project right and making sure that it succeeds over the long term," said Robby Byers, executive director of CCA Texas. "This has not been an easy road, but the pieces are really starting to fall into place. It is a major undertaking, but

we have faith that the partnership between the County, CCA Texas and the recreational angling community will get it done."

Aransas County has pledged \$948,000 towards the cost of opening the pass, while CCA Texas has pledged an additional \$500,000. The County and CCA Texas have partnered to hire a professional fundraiser to secure the remaining

Aransas County has pledged \$948,000 towards the cost of opening the pass, while CCA Texas has pledged an additional \$500,000.

\$5.5 million and applications to several federal grant programs have already been made. Additionally, a website dedicated to the project has been launched to provide up-to-date information about the project as well as an

opportunity for individuals to make contributions online at www.restorecedarbayou.org.

"We have been very pleased with the pace of progress," said Aransas County Judge C.H. "Burt" Mills. "There is a considerable amount of momentum building towards the successful conclusion of this project, and it is good to be able to say that after so many years of frustration with the permit application and approval process. The private/public partnership has worked beautifully so far and it has been the key to moving this project to reality so quickly."

Coastal Harbor Engineering has been tasked with proceeding with final engineering and surveys for the project, which are expected to take four to five months to complete. When those plans are complete and full funding



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Upper Coast

By Larry Bozka

Bronze bulls and silver kings—surf and late summer gold standards

Blue water all the way to the sand—but solar-heated, air-clear saltwater paints a challenging picture for surf waders. Speckled trout and redfish are sensitive to heat, so the dawn's early light window of opportunity is fleeting. Good thing, then, that the sweltering weeks before and after Labor Day herald the start of Big Fish Season in the tide-carved vicinity of bay-to-Gulf passes.

Tending 9-foot-long surf rods, beachfront bullfighters catch and release 30-pound-class redfish with delightful regularity. Heavy mono, long shock leaders, wire-pronged surf spider weights and circle hooks baited with live or dead mullet entice massive bronze bulls that are invariably jaw-hooked ... and, after an unforgettable fight and a few quick photographs, released unharmed. No boat required.

Outside those same passes, it's Tarpon Time. Port O'Connor's Pass Cavallo, the Colorado River at Matagorda, San Luis Pass between Freeport and Galveston... the shallow expanse from the North Galveston Jetty on up to High Island, the Fish of a Lifetime waits. Hundred-pounders are commonplace. Circle hooks are essential to conservation. It's a no-guarantees game of open-water hide-and-seek, played from the consoles of slowly-drifting boats by sunburned fishermen who incessantly scour the horizon with the assist of polarized shades. Their mission? An aquatic Vision Quest, focused on spotting the liquid-silver glint of a surfaced pod of tarpon "rolling" upcurrent in steady synchronicity.

Hookups are common. Landings are not. Granite-hard jaws are adapted to throwing fishhooks, circular or otherwise. But the mercurial silver kings of September are the undisputed gold standard. Be warned—a single, spectacular jump from a trophy-caliber tarpon can hook an unsuspecting angler for life. —Larry Bozka

Larry has been one of the region's top writers and photographers for 25 years. His book, *Saltwater Strategies*, is the definitive tome for all coastal anglers. Visit his website/blog: <http://larrybozka.com/bozblog/>

Middle Coast

By Capt. Tommy Countz

Early morning topwaters, super action in the surf

August may well be the hottest month for fishing. Temperature-wise, yes, but the fishing as well. Calmer winds, and the opportunity to spend time fishing the surf increases. Around Matagorda, 20 miles of beach front is accessible by 4x4 east of the mouth of the Colorado River. West, 25 miles of beach front is accessible only by boat. Any time that the surf is flat and green you can find me there.

I'll start the morning with top waters, then switch to soft plastic or Mirrolures. I key on bait, slicks, and sometimes birds working over shrimp near the beach. The magic of fishing the surf is the wide variety of fish that your next cast might encounter. Spanish mackerel, pompano, trout and redfish roam the rich green waters.

In East Matagorda Bay on calm days, we wade the mid-bay reefs. Top waters at daylight, then Corkys or Norton Sand Shads can result in coolers of fat speckled trout. On the south shore of East Matagorda, fishing grass beds and drains can afford you some super redfish action. There's nothing more exciting than watching a well-placed topwater result in a massive explosion.

In West Matagorda Bay, it's pretty much the same scenerio, with a real plus—tripletail! These fish can be found around almost any structure. An encounter with a 10-20 pound "tail" is pure war on light tackle. Live shrimp fished 4-5 feet under a cork is the ticket for putting a tasty tripletail in your cooler.

September brings the first hints of fall to the middle coast. Throwing topwaters to schools of redfish while teal strafe the shorelines is about as good as it gets. If you are a fly fisherman, look for nervous bait, movement in the water, and of course, an occasional flagging tail. And then, here comes great fall fishing.

—Capt. Tommy Countz

Tommy is an award-winning mid-coast guide. If you want more information about Matagorda fishing call him at 281-450-4037 or check out his website:

www.matagordafishing.com.

Lower Coast

By Capt. Sally Black

Now's the prime time for shallow water fishing on Baffin Bay

The summer is hot in Texas, that's a fact. But, because shallow water cools off the fastest, it's the first place that cools down after a long, hot day and stays cool all night long. Predators range there to find easy food throughout the night and the early part of the next day, making it perfect for the shallow water fisherman.

Because of the lack of tidal movement in the Baffin and Upper Laguna Madre area, the secret to finding these perfect fishing places starts with water levels and wind-driven tide. Keep track of water outflows and influxes and wind blown water by watching real-time reports from stations at

www.tidesonline.nos.noaa.gov. Tracking the wind direction, water level and movement trends along with air pressures will help to determine where to start fishing. When starting early in the summer, go as shallow as possible. Look for tailing redfish and black drum in grass mats and along the edges of grass and sand. As the sun gets up, stalk silently on the sand looking for the big shapes of redfish, black drum and even giant trout. Toss small soft plastics, like a Saltwater Assassin paddle tail in natural colors on very light jig heads (1/16th or 1/32nd oz). A 1/8th oz gold or copper weedless spoon is also deadly when sightcasting in a foot of water or less. The best lure presentation is quiet and natural. No prey ever swam up from behind a predator; neither does it swim right into a predator. Fly fishermen do all of the above, but toss small and large flies in natural colors you can see, such as seaducers, clousers and deceivers. Fly fishing is really the best presentation in shallow water, but whatever you throw, be quiet and deliberate.

—Capt. Sally Black / Baffin Bay Rod and Gun

www.BaffinBayRodandGun.com

Sally@CaptainSally.com

Facebook: Baffin Bay Rod and Gun

Twitter: @CaptainSally

Cap'n Sal says: I like this picture because 1) my husband is in it, 2) my new boat looks sweet perched above that calm water, and 3) the wind's not blowing for a change!



Chapter Updates

Alvin-Pearland

Rex Richards 281-923-3050

The Alvin Pearland Chapter just finished up our 2012 Fundraising Banquet and preliminary numbers indicate that we will be setting another record year! This does not happen without a tremendous amount of support. Special Thanks go out to all of our Sponsors and Donors.

Our Title Sponsors this year were **The Oak Financial Group – Rex Richards, Sunbelt Valve Services – John Richie and Academy. Silver Sponsors were Diamond Hydraulics, Tidal Tank/Tarp Depot and Del Papa Distributing.** Other Table Sponsors included **Baumann Marine Service, Friendswood Firewood, M-1 Transport, Lone Star Construction, Mike's Glass and Mirror, Ron Carter Auto Dealerships, Dacon/Dashiell, Dorsett Brothers Concrete, Frost Bank, and Glazer's Distributors.** The 2012 Hat Raffle was sponsored by **Wadefishing.com.** The Card Raffles were sponsored by **Allied Fire Protection and Back Bay Rods.** As a chapter tradition, **Fishing Tackle Unlimited** sponsored the **Stringer Game.** Our Sportsman's Raffle was a great success this year thanks to the support of **The Shooters Corner, Yeti Coolers, Capt. Bill Pustejovsky and Capt. Steve Hillman.**

There are many others who donated to our event as well. Space does not allow us to list everyone, but please know that your donations are very valuable and most appreciated by our chapter and CCA.

Many of these sponsors and donors support the CCA and our chapter every year. This is an important component our success each year! Please try to support those who support us whenever you can. Of course, our event could not happen if it were not for all of the tremendous work and support of our dedicated board members. Thanks to all of you for stepping up to get everything done! You did a great job!

In other chapter news, we would like to thank **Capt. Anthony Pieper of Pieper's Guide Service** for speaking at our June Meeting. He shared a lot of tips and tactics we can all use on the water! We are still finalizing all of the General Meeting Speakers for the rest of the year, so stay tuned to your e-mail for the announcements. On that note, if you would like to be included on our Chapter E-mail Distribution List, send a request to **AlvinPearlandCCA@yahoo.com.** Please be safe on the water this summer!—**Rex Richards**

Aransas Bay

Carter Crigler 435-830-5984

jcraigler@hotmail.com

The **13th Annual Babes on the Bay** all women's fishing tournament sponsored by the Aransas Bay Chapter under the leadership of **Karol Scardino** set a new participation record again this year. Thanks to the new and returning members of CCA and many thanks to vendors, sponsors and volunteers. This year the tournament held in Rockport had 1,301 lady/babette entrants with cash pots exceeding \$31,000. **First place winners** in their respective divisions were: Non-guided Artificial - **New Water Curlew Chicks** - 12.54 lbs. / Non-guided Any Bait - **Gypsy Catch** - 19.06 lbs. / Non-guided Juniors - **Jail Bait**

*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**.*

(Chloe) -4.8 lbs. / Guided Artificial - **Redden's A-Luring Ladies** - 14.3 lbs. / Guided Any Bait - **Bettin' on Brett** - 20.24 lbs. / Junior Division Guided - **Reel Sassy** - 7.54 lbs.

For complete list of winners go to www.babesonthebay.com

Karol Scardino was presented an award by members of the Aransas Bay Chapter of CCA for ten years of outstanding leadership and dedication to the Babes on the Bay tournament whose mission is to get women involved in fishing. **Mark your calendars for the 14th Babes on the Bay tournament to be held in Rockport, Texas, May 17-18, 2013.**

Saturday, August 11, 2012 - Check your calendars and make sure you have reserved this date for the 13th Annual Aransas Bay Chapter Banquet to be held at the Paws and Taws Convention Center in Fulton, Texas. As in the past there will be a live auction including trips, art, sculptures, etc.; silent auction with wide selection of goodies; raffle to test your luck and door prizes. Dinner, drinks and a CCA Membership are included in your ticket price and tickets will be on sale at **Rockport Tackle Town and Seaworthy Marine.** You may contact **Michelle Green**, Banquet Chairperson, at fishin.fools2012@gmail.com for advanced ticket reservations, Sponsor opportunities, donations or any questions you may have. We look forward to seeing you there for an evening of food and fun and thank you in advance for your support of CCA. Tight lines, —**Carter**

Austin

Scott Sanderson 512-637-1750

scott@mbsquoteline.com

I hope you were able to join us for our 2012 banquet. Thanks to unprecedented support from our sponsors, donors and members, the night was a whole lot of fun and an incredible success. Roughly 1200 CCA friends convened at the Palmer Events Center May 10th for a great night of festivities, with beverages flow-

ing and food from some of Austin's finest restaurants.

It featured a spectacular live auction with hunting and fishing trips to four continents, our Shallow Sport banquet boat raffle, Austin's infamous YETI Cooler game and the biggest and best raffle and silent auction Austin's ever offered. Fundraising records were set on every front. Banquet revenue was up over \$200,000 from 2011, and the final tally shows net fundraising for the night was over \$300,000. The Austin board extends its sincere thanks to all our great sponsors, donors and members for their generous support of CCA and for making our 33rd annual fundraiser the best in the history of the Austin chapter.

Congratulations to **Steven Cuellar**, the winner of Austin's 2012 Boat Raffle! At our banquet we drew the winning ticket out of only 500 sold and Steven was the proud owner of ticket #301. Well, now Steven is the proud owner of a 21' Shallow Sport Bahia! Word is Steven was rigged and on the water, fishing the STAR tournament by Memorial Day weekend. Thank you to our boat sponsors, **Firestone Complete Auto Care and Burt Watts**, and to **Shallow Sport Boats and Coastline Trailers** for making it possible to give away such an awesome rig. Watch for another special boat coming soon as we get set for our 2013 giveaway. Remember, tickets were sold out before the banquet this year, so get yours early.

[Cutline for pix: Michael Curlee congratulates Steven Cuellar and family, winners of Austin's 2012 Shallow Sport.]

We have just had our **July Anglers' Night Out**, with **Captains Sally and Aubrey Black** sharing their legendary fishing knowledge with our chapter. If you haven't made it to one of our ANOs lately you really need to. With guest speakers like **Jay Watkins, KT Townsend** and **Captain Sally and Captain Black**, we're on quite a run. ANO is every other month on the third Wednesday (next one will be September 19 so mark your calendar) and are open to all to come and enjoy. Bring a guest and ask them to Join CCA! We meet at **Abel's on the Lake**, there's no charge to attend, you'll get a free meal courtesy of **Smokey Denmark Smoked Meats**, and we promise you'll learn a lot about fishing the Texas coast! And of course, ladies and children are always welcome.

Our chapter is growing by leaps and bounds and we can always use more help. If you'd like to join a fun and dedicated group of men and women as we take Austin to even greater heights, just contact me about becoming a board member. We will welcome you. And remember, our **Junior board** is doing great things too, and welcomes any youngster between the ages of 13-18 to get involved.

Be sure to Friend us on Facebook by searching Coastal Conservation Association

We were pleased to present a very special award to **Karol Scardino**, in recognition of her dedication for 10 years as Babes in the Bay Tournament Director.
—**Aransas Bay chapter President, Carter Crigler**



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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. Join STAR, hit the water and have a safe and happy summer. —**Scott Sanderson**
scott@mbsquoteline.com

Bay Area

Curtis Anderson 832-421-6377

Well, the Mainland Chapter has pulled off another successful banquet, which was held in Texas City on Friday May 4. We have two other events coming up in the next few months that I would like to talk about real quick. As Currents goes to press, we will have had **Captain Robert Sloan** with High Tail Anglers talk to us about summertime fishing on the upper coast.

We have our 4th annual CCA Mainland Chapter Kids Fishing Tournament coming up, but have not yet determined a date yet. More to come later.

Getting back to the banquet, I would personally like to thank all of the Mainland Chapter Board Members for making this happen. Not in a million years would we be able to pull this off without their help. On behalf of CCA Mainland Chapter we would like to thank all of those who attended the banquet as well as all of our sponsors. As in prior years, **Academy** has donated many of our raffle items, **Del Papa Distributing and Kroger** for our drinks, **Cook Ford** for the koozies, **American National Insurance Company** printed our program, and **Apollo Sign & Shirt with Chris Sapp Insurance** provided the hats.

BP America, C-Bar Contractors, Hilliard, Story, Long, GE-Betz, Shelmark Engineering,



San Antonio banquet: Guess who won the gun event— Austin CCA president **Scott Sanderson**? Wrong. The gun goes to *San Antonio's* Junior event chairman, **Joseph Sanderson**. **John Graham**, above left, was SA's gun chairman.

Eastman, Texas First Bank, Walton Roofing, Randy's Marine, Valero, Ron Carter, Serious Tackle, Crescent Electric, Stronghold, Dickinson Feed, Marine Max, Kyle Jackson, McRee Ford, Envantage, Wayne Faircloth, and Affiliated Power all purchased Corporate Tables. Thanks to all of the other contributors of time, advertising, and products that were used for our raffles and auctions. **JZ Rails, Bay Oil, Capt. Randall Groves, Capt. Scott Null, Capt. Lloyd Pepper, BAAD Marine, Chickenbyslures, Creative Feathers, HAAK, Break Water Marine, Billy Styx, Sherwin-Williams, Castaway Rods, StickEmRods, Capt. Kurt Saures, Outcast Reels, Hackberry Rod and Gun, Snider Transmission, Mickey's Marine, Doreck & Sons, and Ron Hoover.**

We have already booked the time and location for next year's banquet. It will be held on Friday May 3, 2013 at the Nessler Center in Texas City. If you would like to get involved in

a great cause give me a call. —**Eric**
281-534-6242

Brazoria County
Wes Dingle 979-299-8245

Brazos Valley
Larry Purifoy 979-229-4752

Everyone who attended the IntraCoastal Challenge in Port Aransas had a fun time, and won some nice door prizes. Everyone not able to attend were greatly missed! We will try again next year to best the competition from our fellow chapters. Everyone is busy fishing and enjoying the excellent weather this year!

We meet each second Tuesday of every month at the **Brazos Center, 3232 Briarcrest Dr., Bryan, Texas** under the pavilion in the back, or inside at a designated place during inclement weather. We welcome anyone who is interested in joining our chapter, so please plan to visit us. Anyone wishing to be on our e-mail list can e-mail chapter secretary **Tammy Aaron** at bcsgoldtx@gmail.com and ask to be added to the list or **Larry** at lvpurifoy@yahoo.com.

Our chapter will be planning an interchapter tournament for this fall, so plan to attend the upcoming meetings and let us know what kind of tournament would be fun. Friend and follow us on Facebook, Brazos Valley CCA. Happy Fishing, —**Tammy Aaron** Secretary

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





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Brush Country

Hank Henry 361-215-6803

Centex

Brad Hensel 254-776-3411

Central Houston

Todd Buster Mobil, 713-545-1897

Colorado Valley

Jonathan Brandt, (aka JK)
979-966-2679

jkjb00@cmaaccess.com

Corpus Christi

Welcome new president, Andy

Poelma 361-851-1129

r_poelmacpa@sbcglobal.net

What an honor to be your president for this great chapter – thank you! Monthly meetings will resume after the summer fun slows down and the kids are back in school.

Upcoming events –

Guides Cup - October 4-5, 2012. Contact **Cody Roesner**, Chairman 916-531-0078.

Captains dinner and Calcutta, Thursday evening at 6:00 pm.

Babes on Baffin and Blue Ladies Fishing Tournament - October 5-6, 2012.

Registration is now underway for the 8th Annual Babes on Baffin and Blue Ladies Fishing Tournament. The tournament is our annual Columbus Day weekend event. This year it will take place on Saturday, October 6 at **Roberts Point Park** in Port Aransas. Friday night's check-in and social will be at Doc's Restaurant in Corpus Christi. To encourage conservation, the tournament features a live weigh-in and donation bonus with the live fish going to the CCA/CPL Marine Development Center in Corpus Christi to be placed in the kid fish pond. Tournament entry includes Saturday dinner catered by **Castaways**, a long sleeve T-shirt, visor, gift bag, and an annual CCA membership. Awards will range from a \$500 Grand Slam Team Award to one for Best Team Outfit. There will be raffles and optional cash pot opportunities. So far, our wonderful sponsors are: Fifteen Carat Diamond Sponsor: **My Pink Marlin**; Ten Carat Diamond Sponsors: **Total Oilfield Equipment & Supply, LLC**, and **Jackie's Brickhouse** located in Kemah; Five Carat Diamond Sponsor: **John and Laura Holmgreen**. Read more about the tournament at www.babesonbaffin.com. We heartily welcome all lady anglers to the Coastal Bend for a weekend of fishing and fun. Contact **Candace Tidmore**, 713-444-4903.

Poco Rojo Kids Fish – October 20, 2012. Contact **Mike Henry** 361-816-0300.

As always, if you have an interest in joining our board and being involved in conservation of our coastal resources, please contact a board member or myself at r_poelmacpa@sbcglobal.net. It's for the fish.

–**Randy Poelma**

Dallas / North Texas

Welcome new president, **Craig Jones**
817-239-6200

As incoming President, I want to thank everyone for the success of our banquet in April. The vendors, donors, members, attendees and guests all came together for a great event! Special thanks to outgoing 2-year President John



The 2005 CCA Texas STAR New Tide \$20K Scholarship Drawing Winner, Kaylea Erwin - Alice High School Scholarship Awards Banquet, May 24. A note from Kaylea's mother, Jan Erwin: "The scholarship night went very well. Hank Henry, The CCA Brush Country chapter president, did a great job of presenting Kaylea with her scholarship. We were delighted to have the involvement of CCA for this opportunity."

Hansen, your enthusiasm and leadership are really appreciated!

We are in search of a Corporate sponsor to help underwrite our next banquet in 2013, so anybody that has a connection or a business with a desire to help out and get a lot of great publicity, please let me know. I am honored to be a part of this great organization and look forward to a memorable year.

In June we had a booth at Tailwaters for their anniversary celebration. It was a great time and we signed up over 20 new members, including several Life Members! Thanks to all the folks that joined or renewed and welcome. Thanks as well to the volunteers for staffing our booth and, as always, a big thanks to Tailwaters for all of their support. If you are a Fly fisherman and have not checked out Tailwaters, please do so - <http://www.tailwatersflyfishing.com>

We will be planning some general membership gatherings this fall, so please be on the lookout for information to follow. We are in search of a 'home' to have regular meetings, so if anybody has a great place to suggest please contact me.

Walker Hairston is our newly appointed chief of Social Media, so please check out the Facebook page – [dallascca](https://www.facebook.com/dallascca) for really great pictures, updates and general information. Make sure to "friend" us! We are trying to post everybody's fishing pictures, so please submit photos – even the "old school" pictures.

I hope everybody is able to get some time on the saltwater and the wind cooperates as we settle into a summer pattern. Good Luck!

–**Craig Jones** Craig_a_jones@yahoo.com
president@dallascca.org

East Texas

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

Fort Bend

Welcome new President,

Clint Shepard 832-595-5375

Hello All. Summer recap so far:

Your Fort Bend chapter took 1st place in the CCA's Inter Chapter Challenge Tournament (ICC Tournament). Our

team was made of a good mix of old salts and some young salt shakers and let me tell you something, these guys can fish. Way to go guys!

Our **"Lingerie On The Bay"** all ladies fishing tournament was another huge success and as always a fun event. This year we had 291 ladies, and 67 in the side pot. These ladies can fish and from what I could tell a good time was had by all. We hope to see you all again next year.

Our **"Jimmy Guest Memorial Kid's Fishing Tournament"** was also a great event with around 150 young anglers fishing this year. Special thanks to all those that helped and also for all those that brought the kiddos and withstood the heat. Despite the heat, get out of the A/C and enjoy the great outdoors! Till next time,

–**Clint Shepard**

Fort Worth

Fearn Mastin 817-291-1302

Galveston

Shane Justus 713-818-6940

Golden Triangle

Joseph Ramey 409-338-1095

As of this writing on June 26, the recreational fishing season is definitely "on," as evidenced by the three times I have been down on Bolivar and in Galveston for various fishing tournaments. **Jerry Niekamp** and **Ed Gordon** hosted their annual HAPL (Houston Association of Professional Landmen) tourney out of **Sea Isle Marina** on West Bay. It always amazes me to go to a weigh-in, and see the various fish that are caught—both size and type. **Andy Rische** won big fish, with a 50 lb. jackfish caught in the Bay. Many redfish and trout were also caught.

Two weeks later, **Boogie's Tournament** on Bolivar was held, and the wind was not real kind. However there were many fish caught—both inshore and offshore. **Mandy Wilson** won the speck division, **Christine Grozkowsky** won redfish, **Kirk Brenner** won the flounder division, **Rocky Chapman** won red snapper, **Earl Frost** won first and second in King, and **Greg Biesindome** won with a good ling.

Will Jenkins and I were able to go down to Sabine Lake not long ago, and again, the wind was a bit rough, so we eased on up in to the Bessie Heights marsh. It had been a long time since I had fished up there, but it is a pristine marsh, that looks much like Big Pasture and Yates Bayou on East Bay. Gorgeous redfish everywhere—very peaceful place to fish if you get run off the lake.

As of 6/26, there have been 4 tagged reds caught in the STAR tourney, with 2 being verified as legal entrants and winners of the boat,

motor, trailer, and F-150, and the other two were not entered. When will they ever learn?

In general, the fishing has been fabulous the 1st part of this summer, all over the upper coast. "Debby" made her entrance on to the Florida coast and is soaking the panhandle of Florida pretty good right now. The temperature of the Gulf is approaching 90 degrees, so we shall all be watching the Gulf with bated breath....pun intended! So get out there, catch you one, and GO FISH! —Rocky Chase

Greater Sugar Land

David Kveton 281-808-4870

Hope everyone is having a great summer. We had our first kid fish with the City of Sugar Land. The kid fish was held on June 2 at Sugar Land Memorial Park. Thanks to **Barry Walter** with the City of Sugar Land Parks Dept. and all the members that worked the event. Turnout was great!

Our monthly meetings will start back up Wednesday, August 1st at 7 pm at **Spring Creek BAR B-Q** on HWY 6 in Missouri City. Come on out for some great BBQ and meet some great people. Check out our facebook page at <http://www.Facebook.com/ccasugarland>.

—David Kveton

Greater Woodlands

Jimmy Pape / 832-326-6723

www.ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands

First off, we should all recognize our new incoming chapter officers **Bryant Bennett** (president), **Charlotte O'Dell** (treasurer) and **Russell Dennis** (historian). I'm sure we will all put forward our best effort to make this year is just as successful as our previous ones. Also thanks to our outgoing president (**Jimmy Pape**) and officers who made last year one of our most successful years to date. We have a strong act to follow and definitely will not let them down.

At our last meeting the topic of most importance was the upcoming annual banquet. We are still firming up the exact date, but we are shooting for September. Last year's banquet was our best yet and there is no reason why this year can't be even better. Look forward to all chapter members contributing in some way to the banquet. Our next meeting is scheduled for July 25 at **Rico's Mexican restaurant** on Sawdust Rd, in The Woodlands. The meeting should start around 6:30-7pm look forward to seeing everyone there! Until then, hope everybody is catching fish and doing their best to stay cool. —Russell Dennis, Historian

Guadalupe Valley

Cliff Weber 361-275-6506

Hays County

Steve Schiber 512-524-2989

Hays County CCA started July out with a BANG! **Getting ready for our banquet, August 23rd in San Marcos Texas**, we provided two boats all decked out in red, white and blue for the Wimberley Fourth of July parade, along with our over-sized golf cart that will soon be in one lucky raffle winners hands. Tickets are moving at an amberjack's pace. As president of the Hays county CCA, I would like to thank my board members for all their hard work. The success of ticket sales at the parade and rodeo is truly the reward of their hard work.

Remember August 23 at The San Marcos Activity Center Located at 501 E Hopkins,

San Marcos Texas. Doors open at 6pm with dinner being served at 7pm. **For tickets call me: 512-924-2989. —Steve Schiber**

Heart of the Hills

Randy Plummer 830-377-0737

Members of the Heart of the Hills Chapter participated in the CCA Inter-Chapter Challenge fishing tournament in Aransas Pass in June. We had a great steak dinner on Friday evening and a lot of good fellowship. Several people in our group even won door prizes - three **Yeti coolers** and a **Shimano reel**. On Saturday, we had beautiful weather and everyone caught fish. Our team's three trout and one redfish stringer totaled over 20 pounds and was good enough to take **second place in the tournament**. Congratulations to **Kelly Parks** for catching the 1st place trout in the tournament and to **Scott Schwake** for the heaviest hardhead.

We are getting ready for the Heart of the Hills Banquet at the Boerne Community Center in mid-September. For ticket information or to volunteer, give me a call at 210-380-5709. Look forward to seeing you there! —Jim Simmons 210-380-5709

Hill Country

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

The Hill Country Tournament was June 16. We had over 100 entered and attended the awards banquet at **Drifter's Hall in Rockport**. **Josh and Elizabeth Downey** and **Sterling Schulz** did an amazing job! Thank you!

I look forward to the Fall Tournament, October 13. Put that date on your calendar! We had a fun team for the ICC Tournament, and we came in 6th Place! **Dawn Koehler** was the Captain of the ICC Team and did a great job getting everyone organized and at the weigh-in on time. Our next general meeting is July 17 at the **Elk's Lodge in New Braunfels**. **Jay Watkins** is the guest speaker. We will raffle off a trip with Jay and there will be some great door prizes!

A special thanks to **Keith Cook, Randy Lenz, Quinn Koehler, Josh Downey, Bill Daugherty** and **Jeff Coleman**, our meetings committee. They've gotten great speakers and some really good door prizes. If you have someone you would like to hear at a meeting let one of them know. We have 36 Directors who work to promote CCA through meetings, tournaments and the banquet.

The Hill Country Banquet is August 16 at the New Braunfels Civic Center. We have some great items this year! A **1985 Chevy Blazer** with; Lift Kit with Over Sized Mud Tires, Bucket Seats, Both Doors and the Cargo Area Top have been Removed. Heavy Duty Replacement Bumpers and a Grill Guard with receiver hitches in both front and rear. Custom Cargo basket for either front or rear hitch. Custom Heavy Duty Rear Rack with a Over Head Storage Basket and Boxes. Custom Snorkel Package installed on Engine. All of the body has been completely **Rhino Lined** in Light Khaki Color. All of the Bumpers, Baskets,

Racks, and Storage area in the rear of the Blazer have been **Rhino Lined** in Black. **A tricked out jeep.** Women and men's jewelry. A custom redfish bench.

Hays County's oversized golf cart.



Elk hunt. A \$10 Raffle table that is all new! And!! For the first time, **THE WATKINS WADE-OFF!** **Jay and Jay Ray** will compete for the coveted Hill Country CCA Watkin's Wade Off Trophy. Father and son will take six people wade fishing and the winning boat will keep the Trophy for one year until the next Annual Watkins Wade-Off! This will be a hot item at the Banquet! Bring plenty of money, there are a lot of items that you will want to take home!

Do you have an item you would like to donate to the banquet? If you have a service or a product you would like to donate, please call me at 830-214-3067. If you would like to make a monetary donation to purchase guns or art work that would be great. Have you purchased your table at the banquet? We have a couple left! Hope I saw you at the July 17 meeting at the New Braunfels Elks Lodge. —Darlene Cook

Houston Real Estate

Dale Couch 281-953-2510

Katy

Jason Smith 281-924-7040

Laredo

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

Lee County

Clarence Wolfshohl

979-412-0916

Cwolfshohl@claytonwilliams.com

Live Oak

Brad Kotrla 979-732-1669

Lower Colorado

J.L. West 979-318-9007

It is with sadness that I start our article with the news that a dedicated member of our chapter has passed away. **Mrs. Don "Marylyn" Busha** died on May 27, 2012. She was a highly motivated person whose efforts made all of our Kid Fish and fundraiser/banquet events happen smoothly and effectively. Marylyn loved her CCA chapter and she will be missed.

Our chapter hosted our 2nd Annual Kid Fish on May 19 at the Matagorda County Birding and Nature Center ponds. We had 86 youngsters ready to go. After enjoying a morning of fishing, everyone was treated to a meal of hotdogs, chips, ice cream and drinks at the Nature Center Pavilion area. Trophies were given by chapter president, **Jerry West**, to winners for the largest accumulative weight of fish caught in four age categories. As a highlight of the awards ceremony, 10 rods and reels were also given away free to lucky raffle ticket holders.

We want to thank the individuals and businesses who donated funds to make it possible for our chapter of CCA to present this event to the young people of Bay City and surrounding areas. We also want to thank the many volunteers who took time to help us make this event a success, and to **Drew McGinnis** of **"Serve Outdoors Inc."** for providing all the fishing equipment at the ponds.

Our 4th annual CCA Fundraiser/Banquet will be held Friday, AUGUST 17th, at the Bay City Civic Center. MARK YOUR CALENDARS. We are already selling Banquet and Raffle tickets, and contacting our local businesses for sponsorships. Last year, we had a lot of great sponsors who made the difference in making our banquet a success. Our big raffle this year will be 10 assorted firearms and 10 assorted Yeti coolers for \$20 a ticket. That's 20 opportunities to win something for a \$20 in-

vestment.

For a \$40 banquet ticket, you get a CCA membership, a delicious BBQ meal, drinks, entertainment, and a world class auction, all this for the price of a tank of gas. It's going to be a great event, just like last year. We still have a lot of planning to do. It takes a lot of effort from a lot of people to make this event a success. If you can help with ticket sales for the banquet, or ticket sales for the gun/Yeti cooler raffle, or talk to businesses about underwriting our auction items, or just need information, call **Jerry West** at 979-318-9007, **Ronnie Bose** at 979-429-0457, **Robbie Noster** at 979-241-8598, or **John Kubecka** at 979-245-9571.

REMEMBER! The Lower Colorado Chapter regularly meets every first Tuesday at 6:30 pm. Check your email or the **Bay City Tribune Memos** column for location. Come early and share a meal with us. Chapter members get involved with your chapter. Come to meetings and bring a friend. In the meantime, keep those lines wet. —**John Kubecka** Secretary, Lower Colorado Chapter

Lower Laguna Madre
Travis Flanagan 956-207-6391

Mainland
Eric Minor 281-534-6242

Well, the Mainland Chapter has pulled off another successful banquet, which was held in Texas City on Friday May 4. We have two other events coming up in the next few months that I would like to talk about real quick. As *Currents* goes to press, we will have had **Captain Robert Sloan** with High Tail Anglers talk to us about summertime fishing on the upper coast.

We have our 4th annual CCA Mainland Chapter Kids Fishing Tournament coming up, but have not yet determined a date yet. More to come later.

Getting back to the banquet, I would personally like to thank all of the Mainland Chapter Board Members for making this happen. Not in a million years would we be able to pull this off without their help. On behalf of CCA Mainland Chapter we would like to thank all of those who attended the banquet as well as all of our sponsors. As in prior years, **Academy** has donated many of our raffle items, **Del Papa Distributing and Kroger** for our drinks, **Cook Ford** for the koozies, **American National Insurance Company** printed our program, and **Apollo Sign & Shirt** with **Chris Sapp Insurance** provided the hats.

BP America, C-Bar Contractors, Hilliard, Story, Long, GE-Betz, Shelmark Engineering, Eastman, Texas First Bank, Walton Roofing, Randy's Marine, Valero, Ron Carter, Serious Tackle, Crescent Electric, Stronghold, Dickinson Feed, Marine Max, Kyle Jackson, McRee Ford, Envantage, Wayne Faircloth, and Affiliated Power all purchased Corporate Tables. Thanks to all of the other contributors of time, advertising, and products that were used for our raffles and auctions. **JZ Rails, Bay Oil, Capt. Randall Groves, Capt. Scott Null, Capt. Lloyd Pepper, BAAD Marine, Chickenboylures, Creative Feathers, HAAK, Break Water Marine, Billy Styx, Sherwin-Williams, Castaway Rods, StickEmRods, Capt. Kurt Saures, Outcast Reels, Hackberry Rod and Gun, Snider Transmission, Mickey's Marine, Doreck & Sons, and Ron Hoover.**

We have already booked the time and location for next year's banquet. **It will be held on Friday May 3, 2013 at the Nessler Center in**

Texas City. If you would like to get involved in a great cause give me a call. —**Eric**

Matagorda Bays
Linc Lutrick 979-541-9901

The recent banquet was again sold out. As always, the food catered by **Praseks** was superb. A highlight was the annual presentation of the Game Warden of the Year, Region 4, which went to Warden **Carl Shock**. Next *Currents*, we'll have a complete wrapup of the event.
—**Linc Lutrick**

MidCoast
Danny Hurta 361-648-4914

Northeast Houston
Jason Law 713-898-8594

The summer is flying by with vacations, family reunions, and hopefully some great fishing. We started our monthly happy hour last June, and had a nice turn out. We will be meeting every second Thursday of the month from 6-9pm at **Mojo's Sports Grille**. It's located at 18323 West Lake Houston Parkway, Humble, Texas 77346. Come join us for some great brew, tasty food, and many fish tales.

We have been working hard helping put together the **2012 CCA Joint Chapter Fishing Tournament**. The weigh-in will be at **Topwater Grill** in San Leon on Saturday, October 13. If you would like more info on this tournament please email: garybrown@daytonsuperior.com, or call **Gary Brown** at 281-870-8740. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and don't forget to check out the latest chapter news on our Northeast Houston Facebook page. —**Jason Law**
jlaw1899@yahoo.com

Northwest Houston
Blayne Eversole 832-444-4579

Our Annual Fund Raising Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, August 16. This year the banquet will be held at the **Crowne Plaza – Houston Northwest** located at 12801 Northwest Freeway. (Pinemont at Hwy 290). Get your tickets early by calling me or **Alan Massey** at 281-414-6341. This year we feature a \$1 Keg beer Happy Hour starting at 6pm. Dinner is served at 7 pm and the auction soon thereafter. Please plan to attend and support the NW Houston Chapter of CCA. You can count on a great venue and evening program.

Our Speaker for the **August 7 General Membership meeting is Captain Hollis Forrester**. He specializes in wade fishing with artificial lures and waterfowl hunting the Matagorda Bay complex. Not only a guide but a teacher for wade fishing, artificial lures and more. It will be an entertaining evening so join us.

Our speaker for the June 5th General Membership meeting was **Scott Jones**, Galveston Bay Foundation's Director of Advocacy. Scott guides the Foundation's efforts to serve as the watchdog for Galveston Bay. Scott ensures that the Foundation is an active participant in the public review of projects, initiatives and issues that impact the estuary. He presented many of the current efforts for wetland dredge, fill projects and protecting seafood consumption safety. It was a well-received evening program.

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 an-

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nouncements, please send your e-mail address to js_declue@yahoo.com. — **Blayne Eversole**

Orange County
Scott Bandy 409-988-3667
sabandy@gmail.com
With summer now in full swing, **Orange County CCA** is gearing up for another **SOLD OUT** banquet on August 30th. Banquet Sponsors **Granger Chevrolet / Orange Auto Mart** has our five **Yeti coolers** on display on their show room floor. These coolers along with five guns supplied by **Lonestar Gun Range** make up our 2012 Sportsman Raffle. Raffle tickets are available through a banquet committee member or contact **Matt Still** in the CCA office. — Tight Lines — **Scott Bandy** 409-988-3667
Occ_cca@yahoo.com

Piney Woods
Jess Mowery 903-736-3891

Port O'Connor
Bill Moore 361-983-4690
Summer Greetings from POC and we hope everyone is having a good one. There has been a lot of activity on this end and the fishing has been fairly consistent.

Without taking anything away from the summer activities, we want to remind everyone to **come join us on Saturday, October 20th,**



Louis Moore with Yeti coolers for the Orange County Sportsman Raffle.

will be **Coastal Boat Services, Coastal Bend Marine, Port O'Connor Rods, and Sonny's Marine**. Tickets may also be purchased from CCA Assistant Director **Ellen Ohmstede**, 713-626-4222, ellen@ccatexas.org or from any POC CCA member. So, as we continue to work to support our coastal resources, come join us on Saturday, October 20th in POC. "Where it all began." — **Bill Moore**

Prairie
Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103
On Saturday May 19, the chapter held our annual kid's fish tournament at the Eberly Ranch in Chappell Hill Texas. Many thanks to George and Renee Eberly for the use of their facility. The event was successful despite other activi-

ties in the area. Next year's tournament may be scheduled for the fall. Information will be posted later in the year.

We wish to express our appreciation to several POC businesses for assisting in our table/ticket sales. Those listed again

ties in the area. Next year's tournament may be scheduled for the fall. Information will be posted later in the year.

WHAT AN AWESOME TOURNAMENT!
On June 30, the chapter hosted our first annual CCA Prairie Chapter Bay blast fishing tournament which was held at Matagorda Harbor. There were over 35 teams signed up for the tournament. Awards were given to the "heaviest stringer," the largest red fish, trout and flounder. Also, a side pot for the biggest hard-head. Thanks to **Travis and Amy Herbrig** for putting together a great tournament. Also, thanks to all the board members that helped with the all-day event. Thanks to **Joann Herbrig** for finding the donors who sponsored the gifts for the \$1 and \$5 raffles. Thanks to **Mike Kasprovicz of Cool Blue Fans** for keeping the pavilion pleasant. Thanks also, to **Bellville Meat Market** for donating the sausage and to **Larry Wiestruck** and family for preparing the food. Sorry if I have left anyone out who made this event a success. This tournament will become an annual event. Thanks, — **Ron Chess, SR.**

Redfish Bay
Norman Oates 361-758-0266
Put September 20 on your calendars! It is almost time for the annual Beeville Fish-fry. Fun for all and a chance to help CCA Texas at the same time. As usual, there will be fried fish and beer. Live auction, silent auction, and raffle items will be there for the taking. Plans are still

Partners in conservation initiatives

At Anheuser-Busch, focusing on environmental sustainability is a key issue. The company operates efficiently to reduce water and energy use and increase recycling in its facilities across the country. As part of this commitment to conservation efforts, the company has supported the Coastal Conservation

Association in their mission to protect coastal resources.

In addition to supporting CCA, Anheuser-Busch promotes outdoor sports and wildlife conservation in several ways, including a \$10 million investment in on-the-ground conservationist initiatives.

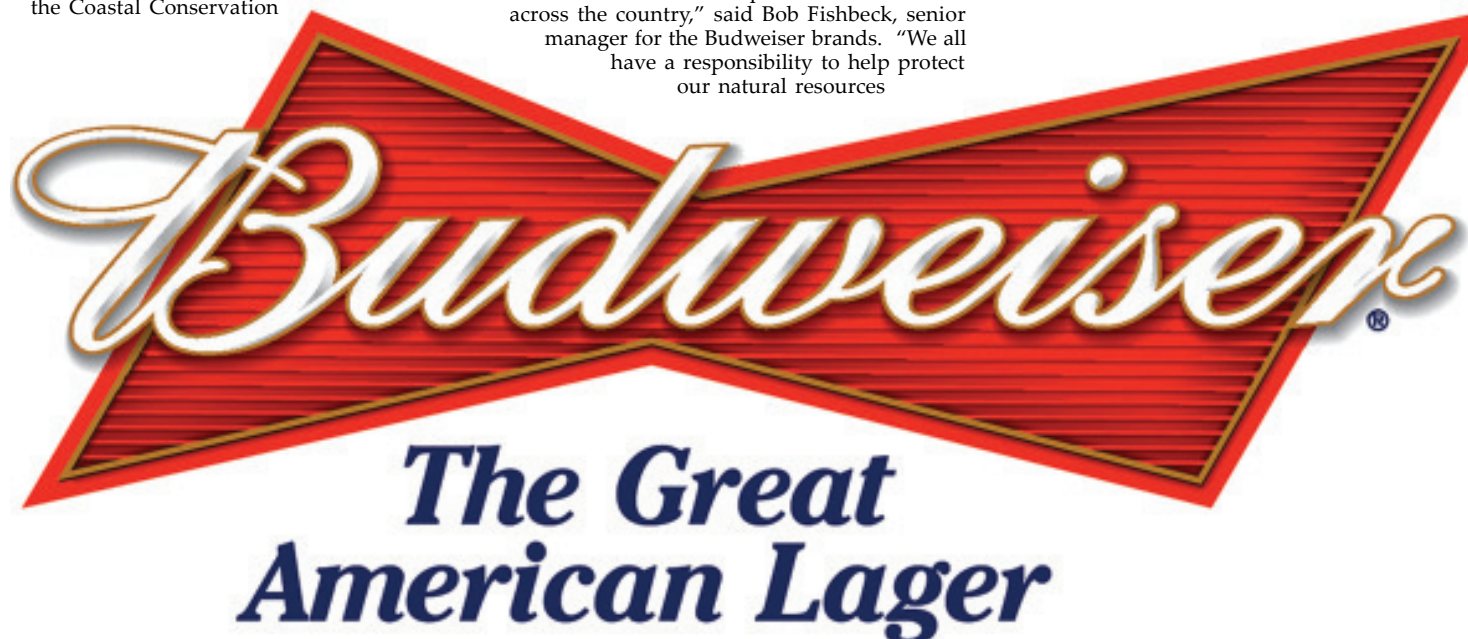
For the past 17 years, the company had awarded the Conservationist of the Year, along with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

"Since 1995, the Budweiser Outdoors program has celebrated and supported the passion, dedication and leadership of conservationists across the country," said Bob Fishbeck, senior manager for the Budweiser brands. "We all have a responsibility to help protect our natural resources

and the work being done by CCA and other wildlife advocates is an inspiration for all of us to follow."

Throughout the years, the Budweiser Outdoors Program has supported numerous conservation organizations.

"Budweiser has become an important supporter of CCA, and we're proud to be among their many conservationist partners," said Robby Byers, executive director of CCA Texas. "Our programs aim to conserve, protect and enhance our coasts for everyone to enjoy."



being made, and we hope to see you there! Call **Dan Moore**, 361-813-6303, or John Blaha, 800-626-4222, for details. —**Norman Oates**

Rio Grande Valley
Matt Klosterman

956-642-7965

Sabine-Neches

Darin Johnson 409-790-9855
darin.johnson@delpapabud.com

Happy Birthday America! Greetings from the Sabine Neches Chapter! On May 19th the Sabine Neches Chapter hosted the 2nd Annual Kidfish. This year's participants were greeted with a bunch of goodies from many of our local businesses! While the fishing may not have been the best Sabine Lake could offer on this day, it didn't matter to our group of young anglers because to them it was all about the fun!

I would like to thank our sponsors for this event, again you went above and beyond to help make this a day for the kids to remember; **Daley's Hunt and Fish, Causeway Bait and Tackle, Texas Marine, Peavey Distributing** (those Little Debbie snacks were addicting) **Ancelet's Cajun Market** (awesome links) **Sonic, Dairy Queen, Burger King, Classic Chevrolet of SE Texas, Del Papa Distributing, and SALT Club** (thanks for the scale). But, most importantly, thank you to the moms and dads who brought out the kids! And Thank You to all of the volunteers!

This day was not about who caught what and how many but



Sabine Neches Kidfish was a fine day for all.

more about making memories and getting the young anglers excited about the outdoors! We look forward to seeing everyone and more next year. Speaking

of next year, put a big red circle around **THURSDAY MARCH 7, 2013!** This is the date for our 16th annual banquet to be held at the **Bob Bowers Civic Center** in Port Arthur. Last year's banquet was sold out, it's never too early to get your tickets! Until next time, Tight Lines to all! See you on the water, —**Darin M Johnson**

Sam Houston

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

Sam Houston Chapter Annual Banquet / August 02, 2012 6 pm, Walker County Storm Shelter TICKETS: Individual - \$40 / TABLES: Corporate Table - \$400 To purchase tickets or for more information, please contact: **Campbell Weber**, 713-626-4222 or email, cweber@ccatexas.org

San Antonio

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

San Bernard

Royce Macha 979-472-5211

San Gabriel

John Melnar
512- 497-8284

As this newsletter reaches you on August 1, (I hope) **our 10th Annual banquet is right around the corner on Thursday, August**

9. We still have tables and tickets available. Individual tickets are \$90 each and will be available at the door. Tickets include a BBQ dinner and open bar. We will have live and silent auctions which will include fishing and hunting trips, select artwork, and many other great items. We will also have our card games for a pair of custom boots and an iPad. Another raffle will be a **custom AR-15**, last year this gun was a very hot item!

A new game we will have this year is a **10 Gun/10 Yeti Cooler raffle**. We have pistols, rifles, and shotguns. In addition to the guns, we have 10 coolers ranging in size from 35 quart to 250 quart. Tickets are only \$100 each. Only 250 tickets will be sold. That's a 1-in 12.5 chance to win a prize ranging from \$400-\$800. Who doesn't need a new gun or Yeti cooler?

We would also like to announce that we have a new Title Sponsor for our banquet. **Don Hewlett Chevrolet** has stepped up to the plate and drove one deep! They have been a sponsor in the past but have now gone the extra mile for us. So if you're in the market for a new or used vehicle, please take the time to stop by their dealership or visit their website at www.donhewlett.com.

Please come out and help us celebrate our 10th annual banquet. We want to make this year our best yet. If you can't make the banquet but would like to purchase a ticket for the Gun/Cooler raffle or you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at jmelnar@piscavore.com or 512-497-8284. Thanks for your response. Thanks, —**John Melnar**

San Jacinto

Pete Ruiz 832-496-4903

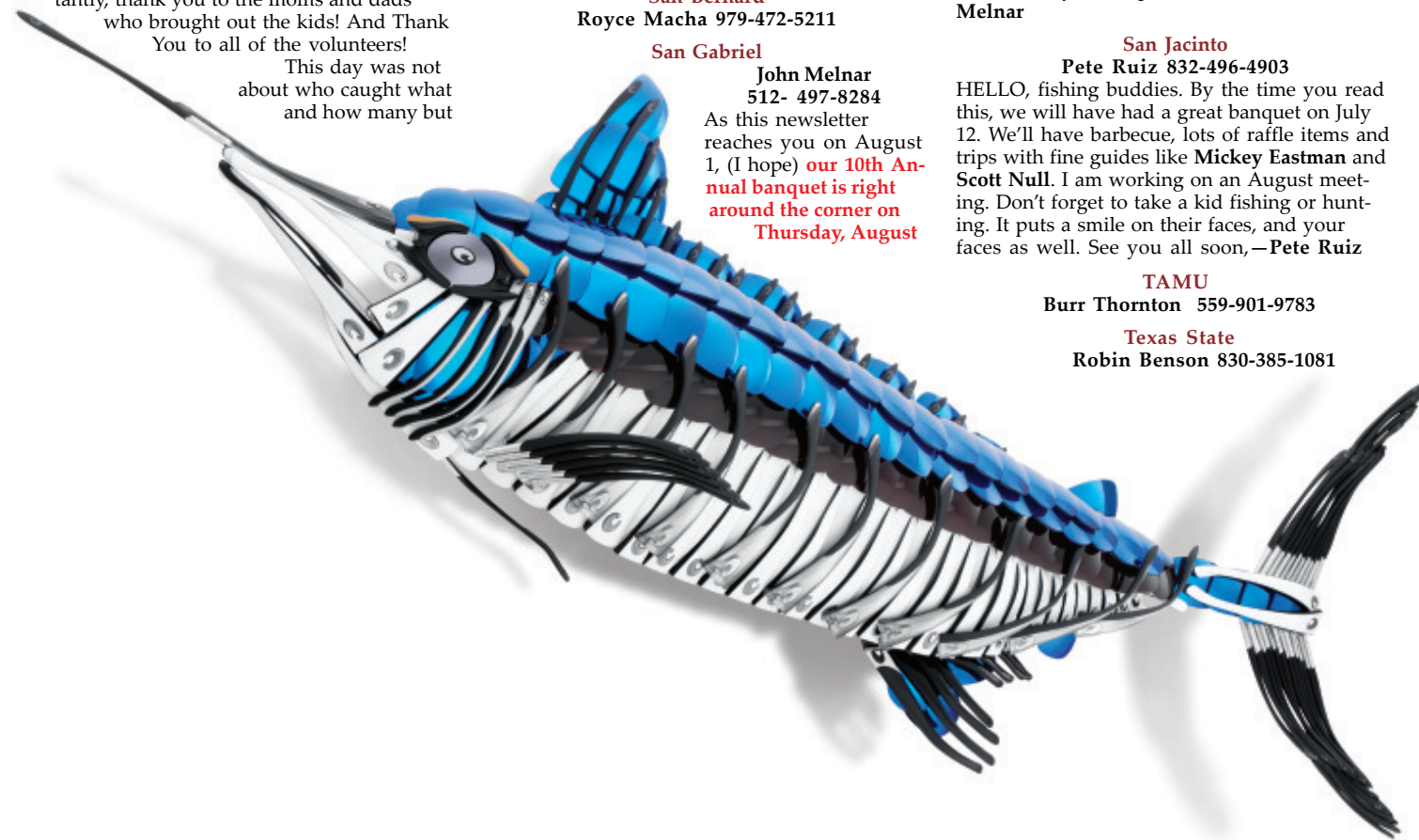
HELLO, fishing buddies. By the time you read this, we will have had a great banquet on July 12. We'll have barbecue, lots of raffle items and trips with fine guides like **Mickey Eastman** and **Scott Null**. I am working on an August meeting. Don't forget to take a kid fishing or hunting. It puts a smile on their faces, and your faces as well. See you all soon,—**Pete Ruiz**

TAMU

Burr Thornton 559-901-9783

Texas State

Robin Benson 830-385-1081



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832-279-4794

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Double Hook Up! Cici Hart and Ronnie Luster found reds in The Lagoon. Great Action
Photo by Tom Hart.

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Redfish sighting, spotted on Hwy 87.





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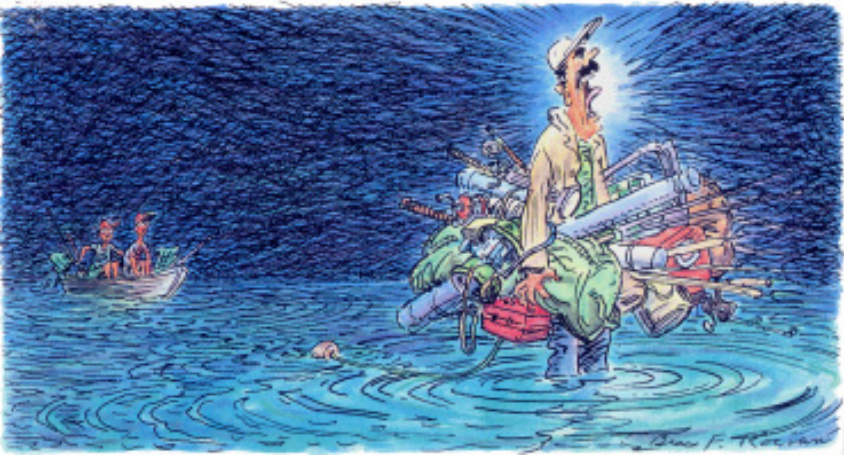
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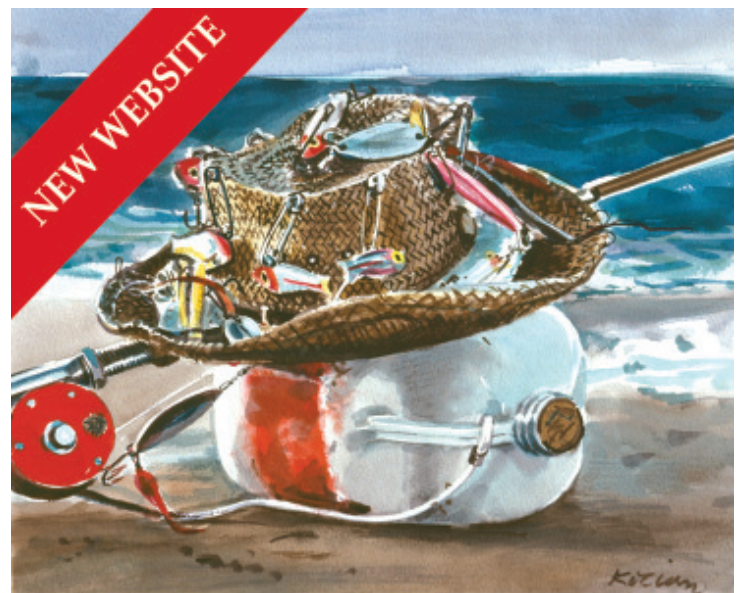
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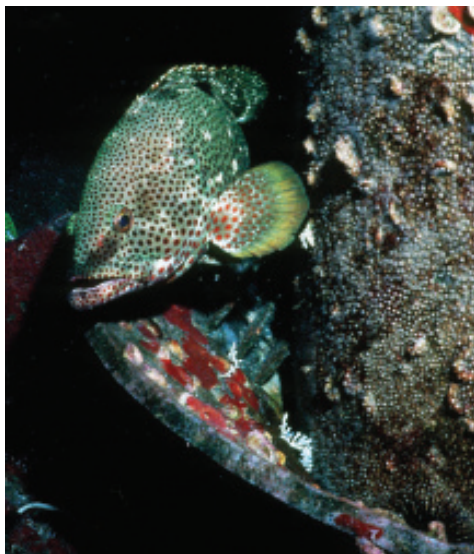
Coastal Conservation Association

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Freeport: 979-233-3801
Houston, Galveston: 409-766-5620
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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://
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and boating, visit
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