CURRENTS The newsletter for CCA members in Texas December 2011 / January 2012



A champion of coastal enforcement passes

Warden Frank Dickerson

By Jack King

rank Dickerson was successful and happy as a Texas Parks & Wildlife Regional Supervisor in the Texas Hill Country. But in 1975, enforcement problems on the Texas coast were escalating, and Law Enforcement Director Henry Burkett wanted a strong leader for newly created Region 10. Frank and wife Faye were reluctant to move, but he accepted the challenge, and was an enforcement leader on the coast until he retired in 1993.

Frank Dickerson's tenure saw

exceptional changes, especially in coastal conservation. The illegal harvest of trout and redfish had become a serious issue. Frank was among the leaders who began a three-sided solution. They recognized the problem, devised a plan to defeat

the problem and successfully implemented the plan to remove virtually all illegal netting from Texas waters by 1985

...such an exceptional 10-year period for conservation, where you see all parties all parties come together, work together, identify the problem, eliminate the problem and see the resource recover.

The three sides were private fishermen (after GCCA was formed in 1977); TPWD biologists (developing management plans to restore fish populations and reduce overfishing); and law enforcement (catching violators and picking up miles of illegal monofilament nets and trotlines.)

The three sides worked together to write new regulations and statutes, get them passed, and implemented stiffer penalties for illegal fishing and stricter bag limits. Illegal netting became mostly a thing of the past by 1985.

uring Frank's tenure, he designed, wrote and implemented the Coast Watchers Program which provided training and information to GCCA members in chapters all along the Texas coast. The goal-be more effective in working with Texas Game Wardens on observing, recognizing and reporting illegal fishing activity. This program was so successful it was implemented in other Gulf states by GCCA. Frank also worked with GCCA on innovative new enforcement tech-

Austin CCA Laguna Madre Trip, hosted by Scott Sanderson: A speckled trout went for this weird Orvis fly, cast by Sam Caldwell on a Hexagraph fly rod, in The Hole, near the Land Cut. Great Photo By Stephen Boriskie.



Frank Dickerson leaves a legacy of integrity and service to the Texas Outdoors. He passed away September 22, 2011. Painting by Sam Caldwell.

and redfish illegally, and to prevent the purchase and sale of Texas-caught trout and redfish.

uring his tenure, he was recognized and honored by GCCA for his leadership in dealing with illegal netting and harvest of redfish and speckled trout on the lower Texas Coast. Frank was

named Game Warden of the Year, Game Warden of the Decade and then after he had retired, Game Warden of the Century.

Frank was also honored by Sportsmen Conservationist of Texas (SCOT) as Law Enforcement Officer of the year for his leadership in the fight against illegal commercial fishing and illegal harvest of redfish and trout.

here are anecdotes about that crucial stretch of Texas coastal history, and Frank took part in many of them. One day, several wardens had confiscated a large series of mono nets. We were removing a huge pile of trout from the nets in our coastal building, prior to donating the fillets to charitable organizations. A car pulled up outside, with netters yelling obscenities. One of my favorite memories of service on the coast was watching as Frank Dickerson reached into the back window of that car and

grabbed a netter. It was probably good for both Frank and the netter that the car pulled away, the netter still inside.

On the cover of an early Tide magazine is a photo by Larry Bozka of a huge pile of burning nets, Dickerson in the foreground. The photo caused problems, but Frank shrugged it off.

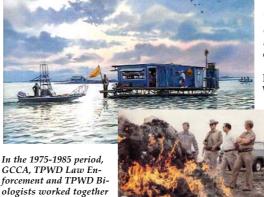
Frank succeeded in bringing a lot of technical muscle to the program. Just a few notable items: Two radar trucks in 1977 to observe illegal fisherman at night from the shores of the Laguna Madre. Use of Pumpkin Air helicopters to patrol the Texas lower coast. It was like picking up Easter eggs when we saw bundles of nets hidden in the water and on the King Ranch shoreline from the helicopter. Pumpkin Air helicopters were painted bright orange and illegal fishermen started to call it the "Orange Crush." We would leave an empty can of Orange Crush when we picked up stashed illegal net, so the netters would know we had been there.

Frank managed to bring 65' patrol boats to the lower Texas coast so that,

besides patrolling the Gulf for illegal shrimping, they could be used as bases of operation in the bays to allow for long-term operations.

For a time, Paul Wimberly's Laguna

Madre cabin, "The Church" was used as a base of operations by wardens. The locale of the cabin was right in the middle of illegal netting operations. One night, the cabin was mysteriously burned to the waterline.



GCCA, TPWD Law Enforcement and TPWD Biologists worked together to solve illegal netting problems. A turning point came when "The Church" was burned, apparently by illegal netters. Painting by Herb Booth.

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Later, a large collecnow retired, is on right. Photo

tirement, Paul Wimberly pre-

Wimberly said it was a turning point, the worst mistake the illegal netters could have made. After that, Wimberly said, the gloves came off. Dickerson worked with the GCCA to rebuild "The Church," which continued to provide an important base of operations for coastal

wardens. 🔄

t is the good fortune of coastal resources and Texas conservationists, as well as Texas Game Wardens that Frank got the message from Mr. Burkett in 1975 and moved to Corpus Christi. This was such an exceptional 10-year period for conservation, where we saw all the parties come together, work together, identify the problem, eliminate the problem and then, see the resource recover. - Jack M. King Director of Operations, The Diamond Group

tion of confiscated monofilament nets was burned. Warden Jack King, by Larry Bozka. At Frank Dickerson's re-

sented Dickerson with a white commercial fisherman's boot,



A champion in our midst Austin flycaster earns Gold at world championships



Sixteen year-old Noah Thompson, a CCA Austin Junior Board Member, recently returned from Sansepolcro, Italy, where he helped guide the US Junior Fly Fishing Team to its FIRST EVER Gold Medal at the World Championships! All five members of the team placed in the top 13 of

the competition, and Noah finished 8th overall in the individual competition. And, don't for a minute think Noah's a "one shot wonder" — this follows his performance last year when he earned the Bronze medal in the individual competition in Slovakia!

This is a tremendous accomplishment for Noah and the US Team in a competition that has historically been dominated by international teams. Not only is it the US team's first GOLD MEDAL finish, but it's also only the second US team medal in the history of the competition. If you meet Noah, congratulate him. CCA Austin certainly does!



Attention volunteers! The 17th annual Big Shell Beach Cleanup is set for February 25.

This event can't happen without the help of our volunteers and your help is needed again. Volunteers will meet at Malaquite Pavilion on PINS and the event will commence at 7 a.m. Gloves, water provided, gourmet hot dogs afterward from CCA Corpus Christi. See you there! **—Capt. Billy Sandifer**

For complete details, drop by the website: http://www.billysandifer.com/ cleanup.htm

Live Catch Tourney benefits Sea Center Texas, Women's Resource Center

On October 6 and 7, Texas Lures & Leaders, a charity fishing tournament benefited The Women's Resource Center of Houston, Camp for All and Sea Center Texas. This annual charity event was co-founded by Lisa Hankamer (CBRE) and Leigh Anne Ahr (Proximity Real Estate Advisors). The event is an invitational made up, for the most part, from businesses and persons in the commercial real estate arena. I had the distinct honor to be a co-director and emcee. Festivities began at Harborwalk Marina and Yacht Club on the evening of October 6 with registration, raffle, dinner and a live auction. On the morning of October 7, 24 teams, all with a guide on board, took to the waters of Galveston Bay for a day of fishing and competing for bragging rights for the next 12 months.



Names to come

Teams were allowed to bring 5 fish to the scales, trout and red fish, with no more than 2 slot red fish and only 1 trout over 25". Teams also got a ½ lb. bonus for all live fish that were weighed in. When results were tallied and the dust had settled, **Team Tight Lines** (all ladies) and **Capt. Nathan Gray** crossed the scales with a winning stringer of

21.95lbs, besting the rest of the field by almost 6.5 lbs. In 2nd place was Team Fish n Chicks, once again all ladies, and Capt. Craig Lambert with a respectable 15.69 lbs. In third place was team Hayworth and Capt. Jimmy Trahan with a nice stringer of 14.85 lbs. All proceeds from this event went to The Women's Resource of Houston, Camp for All, and Sea Center Texas. A special thanks to Sam Caldwell for his artwork donations and to Harborwalk Marina and Yacht Club for hosting the event. Also, would like to thank the rest of the sponsors, for without them, this event would not be possible. Everyone had a great time and we are already making plans for next year. Until then...Tightlines! —Capt. Lynn Waddell

Third Annual Redfish Shootout

The CCA Texas Annual Redfish Shootout **sporting clay** eventwas a loud success. It was again held at the American Shooting Center. There were 24 teams, all of whom ejoyed the shooting, door prizes, beverages as well as great food from **Goode Company**.

The shoot was Lewis class scoring, so everyone had a chance to win. There were 24 teams. The winning team was Larry Feeland, Nathan Kroeker, Ricky Wright and Joey Bolton. The individual high shooter was Joey Bolton who shot an 84. —Kathy Wheatley kathywheatley@sbcglobal.net www.goelite.com.







Kocian, Caldwell, McDonald Outdoor Art Show Indoors Join us at Orvis/Houston Saturday, December 10 Refreshments, 5 to 8 pm Benefitting CCA's HTFT

Get your Holiday shopping done early. Classic outdoor art on view, plus great Orvis gear. Win an **Orvis Access 9 ft. 8wt Tip Flex Rod** with a matching **Hydros Large Arbor Reel and 8 wt Redfish line with backing.** Retail value, \$700. Orvis will also have valuable coupons for everyone.

Ben Kocian and Les McDonald will have prints in the \$5 raffle. While you heckle, Sam Caldwell will complete an original Caldwell watercolor painting, which you can win at the end of the evening. All proceeds go to CCA's Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow program (HTFT). For more information: www.samcaldwell.com



22nd Annual State of Texas Angler's Rodeo 123 prizes offered... 108 prizes awarded

The 22nd Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo (STAR) shined bright this year! Approximately 42,000 anglers fished the summer-long tournament, a five percent increase in participation over last year's event, and recruited approximately 9,800 NEW members into the organization. The 2011 CCA Texas/STAR event offered a total of 123 fabulous prizes, worth over \$1 million including trucks, boats, motors, trailers and \$290,000 in college scholarships! A total of 108 lucky anglers were rewarded with some amazing prizes! Those anglers brought in some amazing catches along with some equally amazing stories. In the Offshore Division, the Ling category saw yet another record-breaking entry for the third year in a row! Robert Kirchner of Galveston won with an 84 lb. Ling, taking over the new "largest fish ever weighed in the history of the tournament" record! The Trout Division also had an interesting new record broken... 7 year-old Nolan Casey of South Padre Island weighed in the largest trout overall making him the youngest winner ever in to win in the Trout Division. In the Spirit of this Special Season of Thanks, and Giving, CCA continues to be blessed by our loyal and generous members who truly care about our work. We extend special thanks to each and every one of you. Certainly, our world-class sponsors are without equal and we are extremely grateful for their support. In these tough times, we take a moment to recognize and appreciate these blessings and pray that we might continue to be a blessing to our precious resources. Again, special thanks all of our fine sponsors and volunteers who made this year yet another great success! STAR would not be possible without your generosity.

This year's tournament awarded a total of 108 prizes. Here are lucky winners with their awesome prize packages:

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

Aven Campos -

Houston Commu-

StarKid Scholarship

nity Newspapers

Tabitha Rowland - StarKid Scholarship Flounder winner and Eddie Martin of Tilson Home Corporation



Sheepshead winner and Carole Jodain of Houston Community Newspapers Camden Ritchey - Fox Sports Hous-



ton & Southwest StarKid Scholarship Gafftop winner and Steve McNair of FS Houston.

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

Sterling McIntosh - StarTeen Upper Coast Trout winner and Al Cortez of Academy Sports & Outdoors Lake Jackson Store.



Benjamin Koehler -StarTeen Middle Coast Trout winner and Manuel Ynfantes of Academy Sports & Outdoors Webster Store

StarTeen Lower Coast Trout winner and Al Cortez of Academy Sports & Outdoors Lake Jackson Store.

Carter Goyen -



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



Robbie Laskoskie,

StarTeen Sheepshead winner with Ron Hartman, Curtis Denison and Joel Battle, Texas Oilman's Board.

Brittany Leatherwood, StarTeen Gafftop winner and Ardia & Roy Neves of Texas Fish & Game Magazine

Brown of

STAR has reached \$4,345,000 in schol-

arships awarded to 134 children, ranging from 6-17 years of age. Many thanks to our sponsors for making this happen. Without them, it would not be possible.

Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division - The first five winners drove home a fully-loaded 2011 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" truck and Haynie 23 BigFoot, Mercury150 OptiMax outboard mo-

tor and Coastline trailer. David Holt, 1st Redfish - Truck

& Boat winner

Paul Resendez, 2nd Redfish -Truck & Boat winner



Boat winner Speckled Trout Division - These win-

ners took home a Shoalwater 22' Legend boat package:

Davie Elmore, Jr. - Upper Coast Trout winner

Michael Leach -Middle Coast Trout winner

Nolan Casey (age 7) - Lower Coast Trout winner





Offshore Division - These lucky anglers won the Explorer by Dargel 216 Blue Water Series boat package:

Barry Shaneyfelt Jr. - Kingfish winner





Robert Kirschner - Ling (Cobia) winner

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



Robert Goode Sr. -Flounder winner Ramon Zapata -Sheepshead winner Jerome Ard -Gafftop winner



Runner-Up Winners - A total of 64 runner-up prizes were awarded this year. First through fourth runners-up in ALL divisions received a plaque, "special edition" STAR runner-up cap and gift certificates from Academy Sports & Outdoors. Gift certificate amounts for scholarship divisions: 1st - \$250, 2nd - \$150, 3rd - \$125, 4th - \$75 and for regular divisions: 1st - \$500, 2nd - \$250, 3rd - \$150, 4th -\$100:

StarKids Scholarship Division-

Flounder: 1st: Dylan Gill (age 9) of Corpus Christi, 3 lbs. 11ozs. / 2nd: Titiana Ybarra (age 10) of Houston, 3 lbs. 9 ozs. / 3rd: Connor West (age 6) of Kingsville, 3 lbs. 6 ozs. / 4th: Mason Vrana (age 6) of Beasley, 3 lbs. 2 ozs.

Sheepshead: 1st: Todd Rolirad (age 10) of Dayton, 5 lbs. 6 ozs. / 2nd: Travis Pulkinen (age 8) of Dickinson, 5 lbs. 6 ozs. / 3rd: Landon Campos (age 8) of El Lago, 4 lbs. 13 ozs. / 4th: Doyle Blume III (age 10) of La Porte, 4 lbs. 11 ozs.

Gafftop: 1st: Colton Ritchey (age 6) of Houston, 6 lbs. 6 ozs. / 2nd: Lauren Sulak (age 10) of Richmond, 5 lbs. 10 ozs./ 3rd: Justin Barrow Jr. (age 10) of Winnie, 5 lbs. 6 ozs. / 4th: Sydney Pearson (age 9) of San Antonio, 5 lbs. 5 ozs.

Academy Sports and Outdoors StarTeens Scholarship

<u>Trout Division-</u> Upper Coast: 1st: Robert Miller (age 15) of Alvin, 6 lbs. 10 ozs. / 2nd: Parker Mitchiner (age 17) of Alvin, 6 lbs. 2 ozs. / 3rd: Ryan Grissett (age 16) of Sugar Land / 4th: NONE

Middle Coast: 1st: NONE / 2nd: NONE / 3rd: NONE / 4th: NONE

Lower Coast: 1st: Kristina Anderson (age 14) of Port Mansfield, 7 lbs. 15 ozs. / 2nd: Chse Kinney (age 12) of Edinburg, 7 lbs. 12 ozs. / 3rd: John Guerrero (age 14) of San Antonio, 7 lbs. 12 ozs. / 4th: Cole McGrew (age 15) of Stockdale, 7 lbs. 3 ozs.

StarTeens Inshore Scholarship Division-

Flounder: 1st: Reilly Lawrence (age 13) of Houston, 4 lbs. 1 oz. / 2nd:Sarah Otto (age 12) of Marion, 3 lbs. 14 ozs. / 3rd: Terri Martin (age 13) of Manvel, 3 lbs. 12 ozs. / 4th: Cameron Curry (age 16) of Port Isabel, 3 lbs., 11 ozs.

Sheepshead: 1st: Blake Christopher (age 14) of Andover, KS 8 lbs. 6 ozs. / 2nd: Cameron Curry (age 16) of Port Isabel, 7 lbs., 9 ozs. / 3rd: Ben Ibarra (age 11) of Baytown, 6 lbs. 9 ozs. / 4th: Rex Bustamante (age 15) of League City, 6 bs., 1 oz.

Gafftop: 1st: Jarren Mahon (age 12) of Winnie, 6 lbs. 4 ozs. / 2nd: Ryan Tijerina (age 16) of Bayview, 5 lbs. 13 ozs. / 3rd: Bryce Arrant (age 11) of Vidor, 5 lbs. 10 ozs. / 4th: Eastin Cripps (age 12) of Santa Fe, 5 lbs. 9 ozs.

Speckled Trout Division-

Upper Coast: 1st: G. Todd Penick of LaMarque, 8 lbs. 8 ozs. / 2nd: Danny Higgins of Galveston, 8 lbs. 5 ozs. / 3rd: Corey Frank of Danbury, 8 lbs. 1 oz. / 4th: NONE.







Zach Crawford, 3rd

Redfish - Truck &



Middle Coast: 1st: Neil Appleby of Katy, 8 lbs. 10 ozs. / 2nd: Harley Nicar of Lake Jackson, 8 lbs. 9 ozs. / 3rd: NONE / 4th: NONE.

Lower Coast: 1st: Jack Gibbs of Rockport, 9 lbs. 7 ozs. / 2nd: Omar Rocha of Ediburg, 9 lbs. 3 ozs. / 3rd: Gerry Butts of Cedar Park, 8 lbs. 13 ozs. / 4th: Tansel Basci of League City, 8 lbs. 11 ozs.

Offshore Division-

Kingfish: 1st: Frank Carner of Santa Fe, 54 lbs. 9 ozs. / 2nd: Shannon Tronicek of Shiner, 52 lbs. 7 ozs. / 3rd: Krystal Smith of Orchard, 50 lbs. 12 ozs. / 4th: John Benkenstein of Rosharon, 50 lbs. 10 ozs.

Dorado: 1st: Dan A. Hughes III of San Antonio, 43 lbs. 11 ozs. / 2nd: Rob Richards of McAllen, 42 lbs. 11 ozs. / 3rd: Kenneth Ogle of Corpus Christi, 42 lbs. 5 ozs. / 4th: Dustin O'Connell of Bay City, 42 lbs. 1 oz.

Ling: 1st: Chris Schubert of Portland, 69 lbs. 9 ozs. / 2nd: Matthew McBee of Orange, 67 lbs. 13 ozs. / 3rd: Colt Cook of Port Aransas, 63 lbs. 10 ozs. / 4th: Andrew Dykes of League City, 60 lbs. 0 ozs.

Inshore Division-

Flounder: 1st: Clint Auer of Richmond, 6 lbs. 10 ozs. / 2nd: Susan Singleton of Houston, 6 lbs. 0 ozs. / 3rd: Earl Manning of Cypress, 5 lbs. 10 ozs. / 4th: David Beaty of Danbury, 5 lbs. 0 ozs.

Sheepshead: 1st: Fabian Scarpetta of Tomball, 9 lbs. 1 oz. / 2nd: Dung Anh Nguyen of Houston, 8 lbs. 6 ozs. / 3rd: Donald Bennett of El Lago, 8 lbs. 0 ozs. / 4th: Larry McDaniel of Brazoria, 7 lbs. 8 ozs.

Gafftop: 1st: Michael Roessler of High Island, 7 lbs. 9 ozs. / 2nd: Mike Darder of Beaumont, 6 lbs. 10 ozs. / 3rd: Jessica Darder of Beaumont, 6 lbs. 6 ozs. / 4th: Debbie Mahon of Winnie, 6 lbs. 5 ozs.

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

NRG Energy "New Tide" Member Scholarship Drawing – For the eighth year in a row, all "New Tide" Members (ages 6 -17) were eligible for a bonus drawing that netted one lucky youth a \$20,000 college scholarship. The lucky winner was Christopher Holle, age 11, of Brenham.

Center, Christopher Holle (age 13), New Tide Scholarship winner, Laura Parker and Ben Carmine of NRG Energy.

<u>Member Bonus Drawing</u> -Every 2011 STAR entrant's name was put into a drawing for a Shoalwater 22' Legend with a Mercury 150 OptiMax outboard and McClain trailer. The

lucky name drawn was Richard Kirscher of Houston.

<u>2011 Early Bird Drawing Winners</u> – Every 2011 STAR entrant who registered prior to May 28th went into this special drawing and 21 names were drawn. The following are the lucky "Early Bird" winners:

Coors Light "Early Bird" Grand Prize - 21' Shoalwater Cat, Mercury 150 OptiMax motor and McClain Trailer-George Hopper of Anahuac was the lucky winner.

Mercury 9.9 ELPT BF Pro Kicker motor: Grace Brunton,

age 7, left, of San Antonio.





Rodsmiths rod combos: Cookie Long of Sugar Land; Chris Smith of Seguin, TX; David Cattan of Spring Branch, TX Coleman Thermo-Electric Travel Cooler: George Krenek of Sealy, TX

Fifteen (15) CCA "Special Edition" Posters:

Robert Taylor of Sugar Land / Heaven Von Rosenberg of Lexington / Mackensi Muzik of East Bernard / Linda Hendry of Channelview / Ruth Gutowski of Bay City David Sadtler of Pearland / Kandace Carmichael of Dickinson / Michelle Beale of Houston / Ted Grimes of Round Rock / Stephany Galicia of Corpus Christi

Marshall Matthes of Lumberton / Elise Martinez of Harlingen / Carlos Garcia of Corpus Christi / Stephen Rehberg of Austin / Estela Martinez of Corpus Christi

2012 STAR News!

<u>CCA Texas/STAR Platinum Print Membership</u> <u>Package, Series II</u> – 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 reneval), 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 as a unique gift, please place your order the STAR Dept. by calling (713) 626-4222 no later than **December 5. 2011** to reserve

yours in time for Christmas! For more details **go to**: <u>www.startournament.org</u>. 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!

<u>STILL AVAILABLE... CCA Texas/STAR Platinum</u> <u>Print, Series I</u> – STAR Reds is still available. If you signed up for CCA Texas and the 2011 STAR Tournament and would like to begin your CCA Texas/ STAR Platinum Collectible Series by upgrading to receive the 2011 Platinum Print, please contact the STAR Dept. and we can get you fixed up. To own this first-ever commemorative piece don't delay... purchase yours today before they're all gone!



The 2012 Tourney

The STAR 2012 is set to begin at sunrise Saturday, May 26 and will run through 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 3 (Labor Day). In order to win at STAR, an angler must be registered and be a member of CCA. You're going to get in anyway, might as well do it now! Remember, everyone entered in the STAR Tournament, who will be 6 years old in 2012 and older, is eligible to win the prizes being offered (even the TAGGED REDFISH DIVISION)! While you renew your CCA Texas membership and STAR entry, why not honor your family and friends, of all ages, with this unique Christmas gift that offers hundreds of thousands in prizes. You might put 'em in a new truck/boat combo or pay for their college education! Get everyone signed up for the 2012 STAR.

The **2012 STAR entry fee is \$20** for ages 18 and up - an awesome bargain! Membership fee is \$25 annually and an additional \$20 to enter the 2012 STAR Tournament for a total of \$45. For kids age 6–17, "New Tide" membership fee remains \$10 annually and the STAR entry fee is "FREE", but <u>will not</u> <u>be automatically included</u>. Each "New Tide" member <u>MUST sign-up each year for the current year tournament</u>.

2012 Early Bird Drawings - 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. Be on the lookout for special "Early Bird" prizes available ONLY for those entrants who sign up before the tournament kicks off. Everyone who signs up for STAR by the May 25, 2012 deadline will be automatically entered into the special Early Bird Drawings. Several prizes will be given away! They are sure to be a reel catch. You can sign up NOW online at www.startournament.org!!!

> 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, Houston Community Newspapers, Fox Sports Houston, Fox Sports Southwest, Time Warner

Cable Sports, Comcast, Haynie Boats, Shoalwater Boats, Explorer by Dargel Boats, Blue Wave Boats, Texas Fish & Game Magazine, Costa Del Mar Sunglasses, Texas Oilman's Charity Fishing Tournament, Houston Astros, Coastline Trailers, McClain Trailers, Chris's Marine, Mt. Houston Marine and Coastal Backwater Marine

For more information, including a list of weigh-in stations, instant-entry registration locations in your area and weekly leader board updates, go to <u>http://</u> www.startournament.org

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 This is the issue of December 2011 / January 2012 Vol. 28, Issue 6

An early STAR winner from the Brush Country chapter remembers 20 years with a STAR Tournament boat

Wet Willy By Blaine Wise

In 1991, I was lucky enough to win the king fish category in the STAR Tournament. I sud denly became the owner of a 20' SeaRay Laguna offshore boat, a 175-hp Mercury motor, and a new Wilson trailer. I am happy to say that I am still fishing out of that boat, having just completed my 20th fishing season. I am grateful for the way it changed my fishing, and in some respects, my life.

I picked up my new STAR boat at a Corpus Christi CCA event. Turning into my driveway, I ruined the stainless steel console railing on a large mesquite tree branch. It hadn't even seen water yet, and I was already looking at expensive repairs. My first trip was to Port Mansfield, for snapper fishing at an oilrig, 25-miles to the north of the jetties. We toughed it out and caught good fish, but that was one of the longest and wettest, boat rides of my life. A few days later, I came home to find the name Wet

Willy (in very large letters) stuck on both sides of the boat. Those letters are still there after 20 years.

While I've had my share of bad luck, I've had far more good luck. The worst thing I remember was someone getting a hook impaled in a hand, along with some bad cases of seasickness. But, if it could happen, I've done it. I left the plug out twice while launching, but only once did it make for an exciting trip. We ran 18 miles from the jetties, anchored, and fished until I noticed my transom was getting close to the water line. I picked up the stern hatch to find my battery a foot under water. The motor started, however, and we took off running as best we could to help run the water out.

My first motor problem occurred when I was 37 miles from the jetties. I lost both power packs, but Fred Hornsby pulled me all the way to the harbor. That trip taught me the value of carrying a good mechanic on board, as well as the value of fishing with friends who won't leave you. But, in the great scheme of things, I'm at least even on pulling boats in over the years!

I still don't know much about outboard motors, but I do know how to use a radio. I've had to call the Coast Guard when I locked up an engine, and learned that they can hear a pin drop when no one else can. I'm now on my third motor and second trailer. Maintenance was a learning experience as well. I used a good compass when I first started fishing, followed by a Loran, and later by GPS. I still smile when I punch in those waypoints and remember the 'old days.' Our fishing changed from surface targets to submerged targets. That taught me some skills in negotiating submerged rocks and wrecks, and how to anchor on them. Sometimes, I even got my anchor back!

Over the years, we've caught our share of red snapper, kingfish, ling, dorado, mangrove snapper, and a few grouper. Farther out, we have caught wahoo, a sailfish, a tarpon, and blackfin tuna. Of course, there is also the category of 'hooked, but not caught' fish, which still generates the most interest. Those unseen fish are what keeps me going back. Besides the fish caught, there are so many other experiences. We've come across a whale shark, manta rays, huge hammerheads,



Wet Willie, one of the first STAR boats on the way with Blaine Wise and crew.

bait-ball feeding frenzies, and all sort of floating debris. Other interesting trips would have to include over-nighters on clear, full-moon nights.

Here's the bottom line, as far as I'm concerned: If I had not won that boat back in 1991, I am fairly sure that I would never have purchased an offshore boat of that size. Winning the STAR boat has given me new experiences, and the good ones far outweigh the bad ones! I've enjoyed taking my friends fishing over the years, and I've met new folks, and learned new things.

I've given back to the STAR Tournament by donating trips at our banquet, and every trip was a positive experience. Through it all, I still have the company of those friends that were with me when it began, with the exception of my old friend, Jack Cunningham, who was with me the day I hooked that winning kingfish in 1991. We spent many good days on the water in *Wet Willy*.

Winning the STAR kingfish category gave me a lifetime of memories... and I am still making them. My thanks to CCA and the STAR Tournament team!

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

Welcome to the CCA Texas Online Auction. Sponsored by Costa Del Mar. Winter is finally here and the temperatures are dropping!

This month's online auction consists of two prints by John Cowan. Both are limited editions with only 800 prints made! Make these great paintings yours while supporting a great cause. 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 CCA Texas's 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 <u>CCA Texas Online Auction</u>:

Auction runs December 12 through December 19. To bid and win, go to **ccatexas.org** and click on the link (left hand side) **online auction**. Good luck! **—Drew Adams**



"Moving School" – John Cowan unframed, overall size: 24.5" x 31.5" / *"Up Near Vinson's"* – John Cowan unframed, overall size: 24.5" x 31.5"

Sponsored by our friends at Costa.



Enter Great Photos 2011

Categories: Best In Show / Action / Scenic / Humor / Kids / Wildlife / CPR Important: for jpegs, be sure you include name of subject, title, your name and address. On back of prints, write your name and address, as well as the names of anyone in the photo. email jpegs to: sam@samcaldwell.com Color prints to: CCA Great Photos Editor 6919 Portwest Dr., Suite 100 Houston, Texas 77024

Art prints for Best In Show, First, Second and Third Place winners. Give us your best shot, and keep Currents an award winning newsletter. If you don't see your Great Photo here, it may be under consideration for upcoming issues. Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR TEXAS MARINE HABITAT

2011 a successful year for habitat restoration and creation in Texas

By John Blaha

CA Texas enjoyed a successful year once again in 2011. The continued efforts of lo cal chapter volunteers and the many grass roots supporters and sponsors across the state continue to be the driving force behind the most successful marine conservation organization of its kind. 2011 provided several success stories for the organization in terms of net fundraising, membership increases, habitat restoration and creation, research, education and chapter development across the state.

CCA Texas's habitat program, Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT), continued to play a major role in the restoration and creation of habitat that will benefit Texas's coastal resources and recreational anglers across the state. Once again, these efforts are a direct result of local chapter efforts and a growing campaign to create partnerships with local communities, industry, academia, like organizations, governmental agencies and foundations with the same vision to restore and create critical habitat along the entire Texas coast. A summary of completed and ongoing habitat restoration projects that HTFT took part in during 2011 include: Port Mansfield Nearshore Reefing Project – CCA Texas partnered with TPWD and Alamo Concrete products to deploy in excess of 4,000 concrete culverts to the Port Mansfield nearshore reefing site. CCA Texas contributed \$50,000 to the project. This project was completed at the end of August by the contractor, Cajun Maritime, and according to local CCA members and board

members it is already yielding nice catches of snapper and other nearshore species.

Matagorda Nearshore Reefing Project – This will be the third nearshore reefing project that HTFT has participated in with TPWD. As of May 2011 all permits and sub surface leases are in hand and a late spring 2012 deployment is currently being planned for the first set of reefing materials to this site. CCA Texas currently has \$115,000 committed to this project and is actively seeking more funds for the project to assist Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Artificial Reefing Program.
 JD Murphree WMA Shoreline Stabilization Project – CCA Texas partnered with Texas Ducks Unlimited by contributing \$50,000 for matching funds. These funds in turn yielded in excess of \$400,000 in matching funds that will be used with Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) dollars, bringing the total to approximately \$1,000,000.

These funds will be used to restore and protect over 3,000 acres of fresh and saltwater wetlands along ICW within the JD Murphree Wildlife Management area. Work should begin in the first quarter of 2012.

■ Bird Island Cove Marsh Restoration – This project will restore 52 acres of marsh in West Galveston Bay. CCA Texas has committed \$50,000 to this project to be used as matching funds for a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Coastal Wetland Grants Program. Work is expected to begin in 2012 for this restoration effort led by TPWD. Goose Island Marsh Restoration Phase III - This is the final stage of an ongoing marsh restoration project that once completed will have restored 24 acres of lost marsh. The project continues to move forward, and HTFT has committed \$25,000 to the project. The continued drought has currently placed the project on hold until sufficient rain and fresh water return for successful marsh grass plantings. Dickinson Bayou Marsh Restoration – This project will restore 10 acres of marsh and the subsequent protection of over 40 acres of wetlands in the lower end of Dickinson Bayou. CCA Texas has committed \$25,000 to this project to be used as matching funds for a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Coastal Wetland Grants Program. Work is expected to begin in 2012 for this restoration effort. ■Sabine Lake Deep Reef Expansion and Research – HTFT contributed \$15,000 to a 10 acre reef expansion to the

Sabine Lake Deep reef that will also include research and monitoring component for creating baseline data to this unique reef system.

■ Aransas Pass Marine Debris Cleanup – HTFT partnered with Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP) and Texas General Land Office (TX GLO) to facilitate a marine debris cleanup in along Airport Park in Aransas Pass. This project cleaned up residual debris from a larger cleanup project and involved the hand picking a materials from the area. CCA Texas contributed \$5,600 to the \$11,200 project.

Nueces Bay Delta Water Management System – HTFT has partnered with CBBEP to install a water management system that will keep important fresh water in the Nueces Bay delta. The Nueces River bypasses the historic delta and currently water is required to be pumped into the delta to satisfy fresh water needs through out the year. Many times the water will back up in to the river and this project will insure that it stays and passes through the delta.

CCA Texas Executive Board recently approved \$70,000 in matching funds that will help complete this \$280,000 project.

CCA Texas looks forward to another successful year in 2012 and will continue its work to ensure the health and abundance of Texas coastal resources. On behalf the staff and leadership at CCA Texas we would like to thank all of our volunteers, members, supporters and sponsors for another year of success and many tight lines in 2012. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The 4th Annual Port Mansfield CUT & Beach Cleanup is set for ??????

Last year was a tremendous success, thanks in large part to all the CCA members who cleaned a huge area of the Cut, not available to Capt. Billy's volunteers. Join us again. Start at 7 am, the CC Pavilion. Breakfast served. Afterwards, enjoy drinks and chili at PELICAN'S PUB. We could use some boat captains willing to provide ferry service. — **Miller and Kathy Bassler 979-535-4593** / For photos from last year's event, go to the YouTube site below. Music included! *Type this url into your browser:* http:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=TX1321HA8vI



Join the Port Mansfield crew for clean fun. Here are just a few of the many volunteers who left the Cut and beachfront in pristine condition last year.



Upper Coast

By Capt. Robert Sloan & Capt. George Knighten The Upper Coast is a diverse region,

deserving two winter forecasts. Timing, timing, timing both guides say.

Sloan: Timing is the name of the game during December and January. Some of the best fishing will be just prior to a front's arrival and a couple of days after it moves offshore.

Starting at the Eastern tip of the Texas coast, on Sabine Lake, look for good trout and redfish action, but let the sun warm things up. Just prior to a front, fish Sabine Pass in Lighthouse Cove for big reds. Rig up with 5-inch Wedgetail Mullets on 7/0 hooks. Go to slow sinkers, over shallow shell reefs and in the guts between the reefs.

East Matagorda Bay—guide **Charlie Paradoski** says he'll either be drift fishing on mid-bay reefs with soft plastics or wading reefs in 3 to 5 feet of water. "The best lures for drift fishing the reefs will be soft plastics," says Paradoski, with slow sinking mullet imitation lures for heavier trout while wading. He recommends a MirrOlure 52 series in orange/black/gold or chartreuse/gold.

For Sabine and surrounding waters during the day, stay at Casa de Pescador Lodge, the only full service lodge on the lake. — **Capt. Robert Sloan** / 409-782-6796 *sloan288@aol.com*, *or www.hightailangler.com*.

Knighten: Timing — between cold fronts and after things settle out winter fishing can be as good as any other time of year. Fish instinctively move to deep-water dropoffs and areas that have a mixture of shell and mud. In Galveston Bay that will be areas like Scotts and Burnet Bays or the Greens Cut area close to the ICW in West Bay. In really cold weather, they retreat to the deepest water they can find, like the blue hole in Offatts Bayou or the hole in Moses Lake.

With most of the shrimp gone from the bays and very little bird action, slicks are the biggest give away that there are fish feeding in the area. And, mud boils made by bottom-rooting redfish. Bait fish will be looking for the cover of the off-colored water and the game fish will follow. Of course, bait is an essential piece of the puzzle, and even one jumping mullet will have me checking out an area.

Go slowww. If drifting, slow your retrieve and go to a lighter weight. A slow-falling lure close to the bottom is often the ticket to success. If wading, I like to fish a slow-sinking mullet imitation lure like the Corky or a Mirro-lure, but that being said, don't overlook a slow-twitched top water for enticing a big trout into a strike. Sounds like a broken record for fishing for this time of year but these patterns and techniques have proven successful year after year and this year will be no different. **–Capt. George Knighten** *www.knightensgalvestonfishing.com* 832-310-9146

Middle Coast By Capt. Levi Price

Tactical angling for the coastal bend As this change from fall to winter bears down upon us, you will see many changes in both weather and fishing patterns. Northerly winds and low tides will find myself and my clients wading the soft mud and shell mixed bottom areas near deeper waters. Soft plas-

tics in watermelon seed or strawberry chartreuse rigged on an 1/8th ounce screw-lock jighead will be my lure of choice for this type of slow wading, where you need to probe every inch of the water column.

With water temperatures dropping, baitfish will be stacked thick in areas that are only 1 to 2 degrees warmer than the rest of your fishing zone. This should be a dinner bell for you as well as the fish, as redfish and trout will be following those concentrated, slow-moving schools of bait. Keeping your eyes and ears open for feeding activity is very important for success, as the angler who uses all his abilities will be the hero of the day back at the dock.

Between seasonal fronts, you will have beautiful, sunny days with low tides that will offer excellent sight casting opportunities on shallow grass flats. A calculated cast placed just beyond the fish and retrieved in a natural presentation, will bring a strike from a hungry predator.

A successful angler is also a creative angler, as he uses all of his senses to evaluate conditions on the specific day he is fishing. It's ever changing. Fishing is not always catching, but careful planning will optimize your success.

And, if you haven't enjoyed the hard work of helping Capt. Billy Sandifer and Crew clean the Padre Island Beach, here's your chance to participate in one of the classic Texas coastal events. It'll be February 25. Tight lines. – **Captain Levi Price** *www.thefishtx.com*

Lower Coast

By Capt. Rene Hinojosa Tough fishing, but quality fish for quality fishers

December priority—big reds will still be in the bay. There will be concentrations of fish, so watch for telltale 'nervous baits' and vees made by bigger fish. I expect lower than normal tides, so watch for deep guts and small holes whether you're looking and drifting, or wading.

My Old Reliable, Go To lure is the Norton sand eel. The Bull Minnow will also pay off, but go slow on the retrieve with either one. As the temps go down, I guess the bigger fish tend to look for easy targets that require less energy expenditure. Whether reds or trout, deep or shallow, you'll need to give that big one a chance to ease up on your lure.

Depending on weather, be ready to tie on a topwater of the loud flavor, and again, work 'em slowwww.

Mid-to Late January, stealth wading (or drifting) for trophy trout, you will look for the boggiest mud bottoms you can find. The fish like the warmth, I guess. May not be easy to detect those regions, but you can gain an advantage by concentrating on the shorelines and areas you found in December where there are plenty of deep guts and small holes, which means working those long stretches of spoil dumps and Intracoastal canal shallow shorelines. Wadefishing this time of the year may not be the most comfortable nor productive, but here's your chance to visit with that speckled trout of a lifetime.

If the big one is there — or not — you will still enjoy one of the finest times of the year in the Texas outdoors. Remember that Texas weather can change, so be prepared. Be considerate of your fellow fishermen — and the fish! I hope to see you at the **Third Annual Port Mansfield Cut & Cleanup**, sponsored by Miller and Kathie Bassler, on 22222222222 Cent Bassler, on

????????? – Capt Rene Hinojosa Jr. / 956-347-3534 rhjcharters@aol.com

Alvin-Pearland Rex Richards 281-923-3050

Aransas Bay Karen Wiatrek 210-867-2795

Austin Welcome new president, Scott Sanderson 512-637-1750

scott@mbsquoteline.com The Austin chapter held its 2011 officer elections September 27. Congratulations to the following individuals and sincere thanks as well. We're excited to go forward and continue to grow our chapter and fulfill the CCA Mission that's near and dear to all of us.

President : Scott Sanderson / Vice President : Ryan Joyce / Treasurer : Neal Kieschnik / Secretary: Dennis Blaine / Membership Chairman: Dan Appling / Communications Chairman: Bill Strieber / Junior Board Chairman: Dan Appling / Banquet Chairman: Ryan Joyce / Banquet Co-Chairman: Josh Cook / Banquet Co-Chairman: Ryan Kasten / Banquet Co-Chairman: Neal Meinzer / Sponsorship Chairman: Scott McGuire

As a very important footnote, on behalf of the entire Austin board, I'd like to extend a very special thank you to **Scott McGuire**, who served as our leader and President for the last six years. Scott's dedication to CCA and tireless efforts, guided the Austin chapter to unprecedented growth during his tenure and the Austin chapter will forever owe him a debt of gratitude. But, though his title may have changed, Scott hasn't gone anywhere—he has accepted the position of **Sponsorship Chairman**. Sponsorships are vital to Austin, and our banquet, and we're delighted he has agreed to continue to serve in that capacity.

By the time you read this, hopefully you joined us for Anglers' Night Out (general membership meeting) November 16 at Abel's on the Lake. **Ken Milam**, of striper fishing and radio fame, was our guest speaker and was, I'm sure, enjoyed by all. Anglers' Night Out is every other month on the third Wednesday (July, September, November, January and March- we skip May as that's when we have our banquet) so mark your calendars now.

We have a fantastic venue at **Abel's** overlooking Lake Austin and always have a superinteresting guest speaker. These are FREE, you will get a free meal courtesy of **Smokey Denmark**, and we always have prizes and giveaways from **Yeti**, **American Rodsmiths**, **Smokey Denmark** just to name a few. 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!

Did you know that Austin has a Junior Board? We recognize that the generations behind us are the future of CCA, and our coastal resources, and welcome any youngster age 13-18 to get involved with this great group of kids. They hold their own meetings, work on projects, and assist the Austin board in various ways. These young men and women gain valuable experience working on a board and have



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.

another accomplishment to add to their resume as they move forward towards college and into their careers. Contact Dan Appling, Junior Board Chairman,

dappling@development2000.com, Joseph Sanderson, Junior Board President, at joemac224@yahoo.com, or Sam Appling, Junior Board Vice-President, at smappling@gmail.com for information.

Save the Date! Save the Date! The Austin banquet will be May 10, 2012, once again at the Palmer Events Center. A bunch of dedicated volunteers are hard at work on it already and promise you another event that has no peer in Austin! Also, as I write this, the Austin board is in the process of finalizing the selection of our 2012 Banquet Boat. It is sure to be another eyepopper so look for your chance to buy a raffle ticket to win the boat of your dreams soon.

Finally, WE WANT YOUR HELP! CCA Austin is always looking for volunteers that are willing to help us carry out the CCA Mission. If you have an hour a year, or an hour a week, that you can help-please let me know. No contribution is too small. You'll meet a lot of great, like minded fishermen/women, and have a whole lot of fun-all the while helping raise money for CCA. Warmest wishes for a safe and Happy Holiday season! **– Scott Sanderson** scott@mbsquoteline.com

Bay Area

Welcome new president, Curtis Anderson 832-421-6377

Brazoria County Wes Dingee 979-299-8245 Our annual banquet is scheduled for March,

2012. This year's banquet was a huge success for us. We hope all will join us again this year and we are looking forward to raising the bar. Tight Lines and stay cool. **—Wes Dingee** <u>wesdingee@gmail.com</u>

Brazos Valley

Larry Purifoy – Tammy Aaron Chapter Secretary

> Brenham Ryan Aschenbeck 979-830-8336

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

Hope everyone had a great summer of fishing but remember, even though it's turning colder the fish are still biting. Also be sure and **mark your calendars for the Annual CCA Colorado Valley Chapter Banquet to be held March 22, 2012.** If you are interested in helping out please contact myself of one of the chapter members. Any help is always greatly appreciated. Happy Holidays to everyone!

Corpus Christi????

Dallas / North Texas John Hansen 214-243-9435

We've kicked off the fall Dallas CCA Chapter meetings with a good head of steam. We recently met at **Tailwaters Fly Fishing Company** in September for our annual fall kick-off meeting. We met with a fair turnout but most importantly, new faces were present at the meeting.

Our next get together was at the **Tailwaters sponsored**, **Drake Fly Fishing Film Tour at the Magnolia Theater.** The folks at Tailwaters graciously allowed our chapter to host a table at the event to encourage our membership and prospective members to become more involved with our chapter. Great big thanks to **David Leake, Brent Boone** and all the staff at Tailwaters for their generosity to our chapter!

With the help of our fantastic board, we will begin the arduous process of planning our 2012 Dallas CCA Banquet and benefit auction to be held Thursday, April 26 2012 at the Frontiers of Flight Museum at Dallas Love Field. We need your help to make the banquet as successful as all the banquets in years past.

Thanks for your continued support and if you have yet to become involved with your chapter, I encourage you to join in! We need all hands on deck for the upcoming auction! Our next general membership meeting will be scheduled in late January. Stay tuned into our web page (www.dallascca.org) and follow us on Facebook (DallasCCA) to receive the latest updates. Happy Holidays, **—John Hansen** 214-243-9435 mesalogistics@sbcglobal.net

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

Fort Bend

Troy Burditt 281-239-8507

Hello All. While reflecting back on a great year that our Ft. Bend chapter had, I would like to thank everyone for a job well done. With the mix of Old Salts and Young Salt Shakers, I've never been associated with a more hard working, fun loving, B.S. talking, get the job done when needed group of guys than this one and I'm proud of it. Oh yes, and for those that have not heard or have forgotten. The Ft. Bend chapter took first place in the 2011 Inter Chapter Challenge. We had

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"Lingerie On The Bay" in Matagorda and kids smiling during the Jimmy Guest Memorial Kid's Fish.

I'd like to thank our local Game Warden, Barry Eversole for taking the time to come and speak at one of our monthly meetings. It was very informative and I encourage all chapters to do the same.

Our Ft. Bend committee members have been on the ball, making plans and coming up with some great ideas for our 26th annual banquet. Next year's banquet is scheduled for April 26th at the Ft. Bend Co. Fair Grounds Bldg. C, in Rosenberg, Tx. Grand Prize Raffle item is a 19' JH w/115 HP E-TEC from Sport Marine in Richmond, Tx. What a great bunch to do business with.

Special thanks to this years officers: Vice President – Garren "Puggs" Schmidt; Secretary – Robb Gaston; Treasurer – Clint Shepard.

On behalf of the Fort Bend Chapter I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year. Till next time ... **— Troy Burditt**

Fort Worth Fearn Mastin 817-291-1302

Galveston Shane Justus 409-908-0275

Golden Triangle Joseph Ramey 409-338-1095

Weather has definitely been the topic of discussion on everyone's mind this year. I think it is the strangest year I have ever seen in the whole state..The drought is behind it all. One, the oyster season is "dead in the water," as the red tide on the mid coast near Matagorda and POC has wiped it out. Robert Sloan, who guides out of POC, has packed up his gear and headed for Sabine for the winter.

There are reports of people actually getting sick from the airborne bacteria while they are out on boas: nausea, dizziness, sore throat, etc. There are many reports of dead fish everywhere. We need a steady bout of rain to wash out the rivers and high salinity levels in the bays to get back to a healthy balance.

November is usually a wet month in Southeast Texas, but there has been nothing normal for the past year weather-wise. Amarillo got its biggest dumping of snow ever in October, yesterday (October 27th), 2 inches. We are actually experiencing our first good cold front here today (October 28th). Not much rain though; the mosquitoes are huge and aggressive right now. from an offshore well in Louisiana, with live video of the action below at a depth of 32 feet. Very cool; TV donated by the **O'Donavan family**. Website is **www.save-the-blue.org**. November is a great time to be out on the water and GO FISH! — **Rocky Chase** gaylord.chase@sunbeltsecurities.com

Greater Sugar Land Welcome new president, David Kveton 281-808-4870

Greetings from the GREATER SUGAR LAND CHAPTER. **Our annual Banquet is scheduled for April 12th, 2012.** This year's banquet was a huge success for us and we would like to thank all of the donors, and table sponsors for their support. Look for more information in the coming months.

We welcome you to attend 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.

Welcome to our Assistant Director **BRIAN MEUTH**. October 8, **Bass Proshop** in Pearland sponsored our **Kid Fish** event. Thanks to **John Beffano** and all the members that came out and help with the kids.

October 15, we held our PRESIDENT'S CUP FISHING TOURNAMENT in Sargent. The President's cup went to Joel Calavan with a stringer of 9.25 lbs. Joel Calavan also won first place trout - 3.60 lbs. Buford Jurick won second place trout - 3.25lbs. Chris Zwar won first place red - 7.40 lbs. Sean Meguire won second place red - 5.20 lbs. Keith Bauman won first place flounder - 5.25 lbs. Sherman Phillips won second place flounder - 3.15 lbs. Thanks to all the members that helped with this event.

During our November 2nd meeting we had **Tommy Countz** from Matagorda. Tommy is an extremely knowledgeable guide and speaker. We had a packed meeting! Thank you, Tommy.

Our December 7TH guest speaker will be David Leach from David's TACKLE BOX of Rosenberg and Dusty Rhodes, owner of HOGIE'S LURES. On January 4th come join us to hear Bill Balboa, with Texas Parks and Wildlife, who will share with us all the latest info on the red tide's affects along the Gulf Coast.

Thanks to the board members for making this a fun chapter to be involved with. Check out our Face book site http:// www.facebook.com/ccasugarland. If you would like to receive updates on our chapter events you can contact

KeithjBauman@Comcast.net. David Kveton

GMM (General Membership Meeting) -October 26 with **Capt. Jesse Arsola**. Well, you can say we finished off our year with a bang! We had the largest turnout we've ever had in 2011 with 49 people in attendance, with a lot of new faces in the crowd. We held our meeting at our local **Rico's Mexican Grill** and enjoyed some great food and drinks with **Capt. Jesse Arsola**, our guest speaker of the night. He gave us some good advice on where to fish, how to fish, and what lures to use.

Of course most guest speakers talk about these things, but we had a lot of questions for Jesse and could have stayed around all night being captivated by his good advice and many years of fishing knowledge. We ended our meeting with some fabulous raffle prizes, which included a two-night stay at a lodge in Rockport, a full day of fishing with Jesse Arsola, and some fishing bags with insulated CCA cups. We're looking forward to an even bigger crowd at our next General Membership meeting which will be held in January/February 2012. See y'all there!

2012 - What will be on tap for the New Year? First and foremost we need your participation in our chapter. Please contact any of the board members on our website http:// www.ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands/ (or) contact **Jimmy Pape** at the number above to get involved. We will take any and all volunteer assistance available.

Here are the events planned, to be scheduled for 2012: (1) Kidfish, (2) Fishing Trip for CCA Texas GWC members and Friends, (3) Annual Banquet (July 2012) (4) Fundraiser II in the form of a Fish Fry (or) Crawfish Boil (April 2012), (5) General Membership Meetings, (6) and more as they develop throughout the year. Keep Conserving ...To Keep Fishing!

> **Guadalupe Valley** Cliff Weber 361-275-6506

Hays County Welcome new president, Steve Schiber 512-524-2989

Heart of the Hills Randy Plummer 830-377-0737

The Ninth Annual Heart of the Hills Chapter fundraising banquet was held in Boerne on September 22. Thank You to the following "Bull Red" sponsors for your support: Academy Sports & Outdoors, Boerne Marine, Jennings Anderson Ford, Keg 1 - Miller Lite, and SEA. Attendees enjoyed an awesome shrimp boil by Cajun Country Cookers and then participated

The good news is that the fishing has been great on Sabine and Galveston Bay. Birds are definitely working, and there are reports of nice trout being caught in both bay systems. If you want to stay up to date with the red tide, go to TPWD website or CCA's website, and there is good info there.

If you are ever in the Houston Galleria area, stop by CCA's office and check out the television in the lobby. There is a High Definition live feed

Greater Woodlands

Jimmy Pape / 832-326-6723 www.ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands As we wrap up-2011 with our last currents article of the year we reflect back to the

article of the year, we reflect back to the continued growth CCA Texas and our chapter has seen. We want to thank all our Sponsorship for 2011 and look forward to having you back in 2012. in the silent auction, \$5 raffles, cooler raffle, and the live auction.

It was great to see everyone having a good time. Several tables to mention include W.A. Automotive ; thanks, Richard and Debbie, Mercedes-Benz of Boerne, Bohnert Lumber and Mike Saur Automotive in Comfort, Ben E. Keith - Budweiser, and our friends from Benson Body & Paint and Blanco Auto Parts.

This banquet would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of the following people: Tom Wayland (Matco Tools), Darrell Steubing (American National Insurance), Rodeana Reynolds (Mercedes-Benz Boerne), Wayne Nelson, Mike Saur (Saur Automotive), Bob Beckett, Jim and Kathy Simmons (H&R Block - Boerne), Rusty Mertink (Auctioneer) and the CCA crew from Houston. Thanks again to all for a great banquet. If you would like to get involved, give us a call; 210-380-5709. —Jim Simmons <u>210-380-5709</u>

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

The Hill Country Chapter set it's 'sites' on hunting the October meeting. We had a TPW Game Warden speak and four vendors set up for the meeting. It was very informative and everyone had a good time.

One of the things the game warden brought up is that all kids that will be driving a boat will need to take a boating course. Anyone born after 9/1/93 that operates PWC over 15hp or over must take a boating safety course. We also raffled a trip for two to the **Circle B Ranch** in **Rocksprings**. A special thanks to **Clay Sultemeier** for setting it up and guiding the trip, and to the **Blackman family** for the trip!

We had a special guest, **Ben Koehler** who took first place in the STAR teen mid coast division with a 7lb 5oz, 29.25" trout. Ben told his story of landing the big trout without a net in the boat! Congratulations Ben! Good team work, Dad!

The Hill Country Chapter has a lot of family participation and we always like hearing a good, or 'first time' story. If you have one, come to our meeting and share it with us! Our next meeting will be in the spring of 1012. We'll let you know as soon as we have a date. The feedback we've gotten from our members is that they would like a Fall tournament as well, so we will work on that, too! Be safe! Happy Holidays! And God Bless till we meet again! — Darlene Cook

Houston Real Estate Dale Couch 281-953-2510

Katy Jason Smith 281-924-7040

We are closing another successful year for the Katy CCA, We had a great banquet and several wonderful guest speakers this past year. I want to take the time to thank all of you members for making it such a good year. Our next meeting will be January 18. We have moved locations to **Spring Creek BBQ at Westgreen** and I 10, still

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at 7 pm. Remember, come early and get some good food and drink before the meeting.

This meeting will be kicking off several new programs for the Katy Chapter, we will have a project with The Katy kids about fishing, **a Warrior Weekend** is in the works, and numerous others, all it takes is your participation.

The January meeting will be a great one. It will feature "THE TEXAS GOURMET" Bryan Slaven from Texas Fish and Game magazine as

our guest speaker. Come prepared to learn some new ways to prepare your game after this hunting season. This is one, bring your spouse. Remember, getting Involved is how we pass this wonderful country to our next generations. Please join us for our monthly meetings and get involved and find out more about your CCA. — Jason Smith

Laredo Jesse Martinez j<u>martinez@bushlan.com</u> 956-763-5555

Lee County

Welcome to a new chapter and a new president, Clarence Wolfshohl 979-412-0916

Cwolfshohl@claytonwilliams.com The Lee County Chapter had its 1st Annual Banquet and Fund Raiser on October 20, 2011. The event was held at the American Legion Hall in Giddings. By 6:30 pm, the hall was full and you would have had to use a shoehorn to get anyone else in. The food was great and the auction went really well. The final tally is not complete, but it will be better than we originally expected.

I want to thank the Banquet Committee, and especially Chairman **Sharon Ferguson** and **co-Chairman Janis Wolfshohl**. It was a job well done. I also want to thank **Ellen Ohmstede** and all of the Houston staff that guided us in the planning, preparation, and helping us that night. I also want to thank **Sam Caldwell** for his help and support.

A special thanks to the donors, contributors, underwriters, buyers, and attendees. It was a really great evening of fun. I want to remind everyone of the 4th Annual Port Mansfield Cut and Beach Clean Up, sponsored by Kathy and Miller Bassler. It will be March 17, 2012. Make your plans now; it will be here before we know it. Thanks again everyone, be safe and have fun on the water. — Quatie

> Live Oak Brad Kotrla 979-732-1669

Lower Colorado Valley J.L. West 979-318-9007

Lower Laguna Madre Mark Helmke 956-299-0601

Mainland Eric Minor 281-534-6242

Oilfield Consultants and Russell's Bait & Tackle.

We also want to say a special thank you to all of our Matagorda Guides who donate their time, effort and equipment to make the guides cup a remarkable success each and every year. This year's winner was Captain **Troy Keen** with the assistance of **Brian & Amy Walters and Robby Henske**.

Their first place finish earned them each a custom Laguna rod donated by Laguna Rods. The gap between second and third place was very close with Captain Tom Perrilloux edging out Captain Charlie Paradoski. We are truly blessed to have some of the best guides in the state right in our own backyard.

Please look these Guides up when you book your next trip. Troy Keen, Tom Perrilloux, Charlie Paradoski, Kenny Hauff, Scott Reeh, Bink Grimes, Nate Koenig, Mark Talasek, Lee Warmke, Tommy Alexander, Tommy Countz, Terry Karstedt, Jimmy Riddle, Philip Leopold, Jesse Arsola, Dwayne Newbern, Rob Cummings, Stan Sloan, Floyd Ciruti, Ozzy Arnold, and Walt Schelle. Thank you again to all of our sponsors and guides. — Linc Lutrick

MidCoast Danny Hurta 361-648-4914

Northeast Houston Welcome new president, Jason Law 713-898-8594

The Northeast Houston Chapter is excited to welcome **Jason Law** as their new chapter president! The chapter held it's general membership meeting Wednesday, October 19 at Cedar Landing with **Phil Ortiz**, founder and designer of **Flounder Pounder** Lures, as the speaker. He showed everyone some new techniques and shared some great flounder secrets! **— Jason Law** 713-898-8594 jlaw1899@yahoo.com

> Northwest Houston Jim DeClue 713-826-3314

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

Piney Woods Jess Mowery 903-736-3891

Port O'Connor Bill Moore 361-983-4690 Another great year! The 12th Annual POC CCA Banquet was held on October 22 at the

Matagorda Bays

Linc Lutrick 979-541-9901 On September12 and 13 we held our annual Matagorda Bays Guides Cup in Matagorda. Once again, Russell and Brandy Hicks at Russell's Bait & Tackle did a great job of cooking and making sure we were well taken care of. We would like to thank our sponsors Duckett, Bouligny & Collins, L.L.P, H & H Community Center and what a great run at the door to complete another sold out year. Thanks to all the board members and donors. Without your dedication, the banquet would not have been such a great success. When you try to thank everyone involved, you leave someone out- but we try.

Special thanks to banquet chairman Carl Ray and co- chairman Jim Busby, VP's Gib Fox and Mike Sharp, Treasurer Ann Brownlee, secretary Debbie Busby, and sergeant-at-arms



Sonny Cook. Also, our outstanding board members Carol Fox, Pam Ray, Chris Smisek, GB Robertson, Jerry and Virginia Lichac, Steve and Linnie Mashman, Jim and Jessamy Reed, Lefty and Joanne Ward, Susie Onishi, Harry and Carolyn Pond, Monique Morlan, and Maxine Sharp, Candace Stryker for doing an outstanding job on the programs. Also, to our CCA AD Ellen Ohmstede for assistance. And to

Fred Carr and Sam Caldwell for again making our banquet a success with their unique Change Of Tides CCA book.

Again, our appreciation to a very special group that has made our banquet a success, our great supporters who donated all the items, gifts and trips. Again, thanks, come spend some of your holidays with us in POC "where it all began" – **Bill Moore**

Prairie Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103

Redfish Bay

Norman Oates 361-758-0266 The Redfish Bay Chapter Board wishes all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We hope your holiday season and the following year are filled with success and happiness.

It is time to mark your new 2012 calendars for our upcoming events. The Annual Banquet is scheduled for April 28, 2012, and it will be in the Port Aransas Civic Center.

The annual **"Take a Kid Fishing" event** will be held the first weekend of June at Woody's Sports Center in Port Aransas. **The Beeville Fish Fry** will be held in September, the Thursday evening before dove season starts place is still to be determined. Thank you for a



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great 2011, and we look forward to a great 2012. – Norman Oates

Rio Grande Valley Matt Klosterman 956-642-7965

Here in the Rio Grande Valley we are starting to see a change in our temperature along with a change in wind direction. For us fisherman the opening of deer season means a little less traffic on the bays. The summer fishing was excellent in the Lower Laguna Madre and should continue through the fall and into winter.

We did have a brief run in with red tide but the past few cold fronts seem to have blown it back out into the Gulf and with the decrease in water temperature, there is also a decrease in the algae bloom.

The RGV Chapter will begin to organize our 32nd Annual Banquet in the next few months. The chapter is always looking for fresh faces to help so if you are interested in helping the RGV Chapter feel free to give me a call at 956-642-7965 to join. We meet at the **Best Western Palm Aire in Weslaco**.

We are busy selling raffle tickets for our **21ft Explorer Attacka Flats boat with motor and trailer.** The RGV Chapter would like to thank L& F Distributers for sponsoring the boat again this year. —**Matt Klosterman**

Sabine-Neches

Darin Johnson 409-790-9855 darin.johnson@delpapabud.com What a difference a couple of fronts can make! Mother Nature has flipped the switch and the fishing on Sabine Lake is fantastic! While looking at the calendar I also noticed that we are 4 months away from the 2012 Sabine Neches Banquet! If you are wanting to be a part of the action on March 1st 2012 call or email me and we will take care of you! We have also set up a General Membership meeting to be held in January 2012, 6pm at Dylan's in Port Arthur, stay tuned for further details! This is all I have for now, time to get outside and enjoy this great weather! Happy Holidays Everyone! - Darin M. Johnson 409-790-9855 darin.johnson@delpapabud.com

> Sam Houston Mark Robinson 936-662-0841 mark6469@hotmail.com

San Antonio Liz Hewitt 210-859-6924

CCASanAntonio@yahoo.com We had **Bill Kinney**, director of the STAR tournament come out on October 12 at the **Quarry Golf Club** to talk about the STAR and what's going on in CCA Texas. Bill has a wealth of knowledge that he graciously shared with us. The meeting was opened with a talk about **Rockport Rattlers** by **Charles Sablatura**. If you haven't tried the Rockport Rattler, you owe it to yourself to do so. (And they make great stocking stuffers!) Each talk was followed by a Q & A session.

Thank you Bill and Charles for a wonderfully informative and entertaining evening! We ended the meeting with door prizes for just about everyone. I would also like to thank **Lisa Bruce**, **David Barrera and Robert**



Lozano, our dedicated volunteers as well as the Quarry Golf Club for taking care of all of us.

It is hard to believe another Thanksgiving has come and gone and we are looking at the end of the year again. Before you know it we will be starting up our banquet committee meetings in January. If you would like to participate we would love to have you. I will be posting the times and dates on the San Antonio page of the CCA Texas website (ccatexas.org) and on our Facebook page, CCA Texas, San Antonio Chapter. Check us out and "like" us!

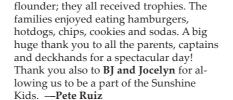
It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as president of the San Antonio chapter for the past two years. I would like to welcome our new president, Johnny Rayburg! Happy New Year and stay salty my friends! - Liz Hewitt casanantonio@yahoo.com

San Bernard **Royce Macha** 979-472-5211

San Gabriel John Melnar 512- 497-8284

San Jacinto Pete Ruiz 832-496-4903

On October 8, we hosted the Sunshine Kids Tournament. We had a total of 18 children and their families present for this event. Our 18 boat captains and deck hands did a superb job assisting the children and their families. The children caught specs, reds, whities, drums, catfish and



TAMU

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Texas State Robin Benson 830-385-1081

Tomball/Magnolia Mike Uhlig 832-566-6492

Tri-County Jason Trial 830-570-2988

Trinity Bay Gerald Payne 281-385-2894

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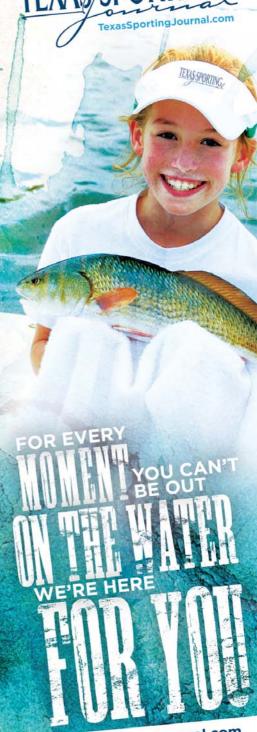
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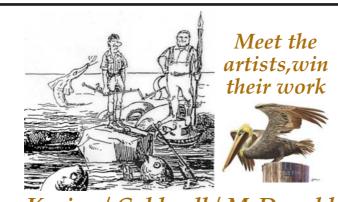
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www.samcaldwell.com Texas State Artist 2004 281-455-9390

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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://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/ To focus on fishing and boating, visit http://www.tpwd.-state.tx.us/fishboat/.



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

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



COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (including STAR Entry)

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