

CURRENTS

December 2016 / January 2017



*Estuaries and Wetlands:
CCA volunteers making a
hands-on difference*

San Jacinto River Superfund Site

By Shane Bonnot

Advocacy Director – CCA Texas

Thanks to Jackie Young for several of the photos

Seven hundred years. Yes, 700 years from today. The year 2716. Assuming there is no future contamination, in the year 2716, the cancer-causing dioxin waste in the lower San Jacinto River will no longer be toxic. So if we do nothing and assume that there are no future releases of industrial wastes, our descendants approximately 25 generations from now will finally be able to eat a speckled trout out of upper Galveston Bay without fear of becoming ill from contaminated seafood. It is safe to say that anyone who lives near or fishes on the Texas Coast will tell you this is unacceptable.

For over two decades, local and state governmental bodies have known that aquatic species living in the Houston Ship Channel and the San Jacinto River are contaminated with high levels of dioxins and furans. No one really knew exactly where the point source was located, but since the early 2000s the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) routinely found elevated dioxin levels near the Interstate 10 (I-10) Bridge over the San Jacinto River. In 2005, an Army Corps of Engineers dredging permit application was sent to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) for review and comment.

A typical TPWD permit review goes something like this: TPWD will review the details of the permit application and associated documents, conduct at least one site visit, analyze the impacts of the project and then send their comments back to the Corps. Through the process of this particular permit application, studying old maps and making some site visits, TPWD biologist Andy Sipocz determined that there was something unique about this location. So unique in fact it prompted a letter to the TCEQ stating that the area around the I-10 Bridge was possibly used as a dump site for paper mill wastes in the mid-1960s and requesting the TCEQ further investigate the site. The waste pits site was studied for the next couple of years by state and federal authorities.

As it turns out, TPWD's suspicions were correct. In fact, a company that specialized in hauling waste, McGinnes Industrial Management Company, transported liquid pulp, solid pulp and paper mill wastes by barge from the Champion Papers, Inc. paper mill in Pasadena, Texas to man-made impoundments (waste pits) located north of I-10, adjacent to the San Jacinto River. The specifics of the impoundment south of I-10 are not well documented but evidence suggests it also received the same type of wastes from Champion Papers, Inc. As a result of sand mining adjacent to the site in the 1970s, subsidence caused the San Jacinto River to widen and begin flowing through the waste pits. It is safe to assume that some of this dioxin waste has washed into the river, although much of it still remains behind in the waste pits.

Knowing this, in March 2008 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) placed the site on the National Priorities List, designating it as a Superfund Site. By late 2010 an agreement was made between the potential responsible parties and the EPA to place a protective cap over the site to isolate the waste. This cap was designed to withstand a 100 year storm (of which we have not seen), however from 2011-2016 numerous repairs and routine maintenance have been required to keep the cap intact and up to expected standards.

This past September, the EPA announced its proposed plan for the San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund Site (SJRWP). The EPA's goal for the SJRWP project, as written in the proposed plan, is to: 1) Prevent the release of



Cover shot by Lisa Laskowski;

Volunteers head for an estuary with boatloads of marsh grass and hands-on workers.



dioxins from the former waste impoundments; 2) Reduce human exposure to dioxins from consumption of fish; 3) Reduce human exposure to dioxins from contact with contaminated materials; and 4) Reduce exposures of benthic organisms (crabs, clams, oysters, etc.) to dioxins. Knowing this, the EPA has determined that the removal and relocation of the dioxin waste is the only remedy that prevents any catastrophic future releases of waste upon completion of the project.

Remove, or Cap?
Removing the dioxin waste in a safe and controlled manner is the only path forward that ensures a healthy Galveston Bay system for both present and future generations.

The EPA accepted public comments on their proposed plan until November 28th, 2016. In fact, if you are reading this article, you likely received an email from CCA Texas to take action and submit a comment to the EPA, showing your support for their plan. We certainly hope you did just that and thank you for your efforts.

In early 2017, the EPA will release their final decision. If they adhere to the plan calling for the waste to be removed, the preferred remedy will not begin for another four years. The EPA projects it will take 26 months and 13,000 truckloads of removed materials to clean up the entire Superfund Site. Just doing some back-of-the-napkin math and assuming a 40 hour work week with no weather delays, that breaks down to a removal rate of nearly 3 truckloads per hour.

What the EPA is proposing to do is certainly not without risk. We recognize those risks but leave you with a final question recently articulated by Scott Jones of the Galveston Bay Foundation. Would you rather take your chance at a con-

trolled release during a clean-up process or would you rather just keep the site capped and take your chances with an uncontrolled release over the next 700 years? When put in those terms, the answer is clear. Removing the dioxin waste in a safe and controlled manner is the only path forward that ensures a healthy Galveston Bay system for both future and present generations.

Interested in learning more about the San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund Site? Search for the "Coastal Advocacy Adventures" podcast on SoundCloud, Stitcher, TuneIn, or iTunes. Podcasts will also be posted on the CCA Texas blog. The first episode of the podcast was a conversation with Scott Jones of the Galveston Bay Foundation on this very important issue. Subscribe to our podcast to ensure sure you don't miss any of our latest advocacy updates, and please provide any feedback by leav-

ing us a review. We value your comments and interaction on matters of importance regarding our Gulf Coast Resources.

Shane Bonnot joins CCA Texas as Advocacy Director

We are extremely excited to have Shane join our CCA team. Shane brings a tremendous amount of experience and expertise to the organization. Creating this new advocacy position will allow us to continue to focus on the fishery issues that concern recreational fisherman. —Robby Byers Executive Director, CCA Texas

Hello CCA Texas! I can vividly remember the first time I saw the CCA logo (formerly GCCA) in the late '80s. My father acquired a maroon GCCA ball cap which was perfect at the time because my family was chock-full of Aggies. I proudly wore it until the plastic snap closures finally dry-rotted away. It was so unique and perfectly represented what I aspired to be—someone who cared deeply about fishing and wanted to do something that would make a difference.



That hat and numerous outdoor adventures helped to shape my career choices and have held me close to the coast throughout my life.

I graduated from Texas A&M University in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in Animal Science, and from Texas A&M University Corpus Christi in 2003 with a master's degree in Mariculture.

I have worked in the aquaculture and fisheries arena for the past 16 years, spending time in both Texas and Virginia. Prior to coming to CCA Texas, I was employed by Texas Parks and Wildlife, where I proudly served for over 10 years as a hatchery biologist and more recently as the hatchery manager at Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson.

I have had the opportunity to work with some enthusiastic and brilliant fisheries professionals in both Virginia and Texas. That same level of dedication and passion is present throughout the ranks of CCA Texas.

Moving forward, we will start rolling out an Advocacy Section in the Currents newsletter. We also have created a blog and podcast called *Coastal Advocacy Adventures*, where you can read or hear the latest on a variety of fishing-related topics. I will also be hitting the pavement and speaking on relevant issues at chapter meetings when opportunities arise. In the meantime, I will do my best to become familiar with the nature and business of various CCA committees, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, advisory panels, research programs and other conservation initiatives. If fishery or conservation issues emanate in your local area or favorite bay system, please voice your concerns. CCA Texas may not be able to address all issues, but rest assured we will look into them for you.

I'd like to say thanks to the tens of thousands of members who care enough about our coastal resources to make a difference. I appreciate this opportunity to work with you and build upon the prestigious efforts that have established the CCA brand.

It's funny how a common and inanimate object like a ball cap can mean so much to a young boy during his formative years. Perhaps it was fortuitous that I crossed paths with that headgear. I certainly am proud to have worn it, and am even more proud now to work for what it represents. —Shane Bonnot Advocacy Director — CCA Texas sbonnot@ccatexas.org





27th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo

After a hundred plus days of competition, the 27th Annual CCA Texas Ford Dealers/Tilson Home Corp/Capital Farm Credit State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo came to a close at 5PM on Labor Day, Sept. 5.

STAR Winners claim over 100 prizes

The 27th Anniversary CCA/Texas Ford Dealers/Capital Farm Credit STAR was a delightful surprise for all anglers. Despite torrential floods, vibrio scare, and a tough economy — almost 48,000 fished this year, nearly topping last year's all time record. CCA Texas is grateful indeed to all our members for "weathering" some tough conditions. In the Spirit of the Season, we give immense thanks to all our partners—both sponsors and media—for making this fun, wholesome family event possible. On behalf of all CCA members, we recognize the enormous investment made by our friends and look forward to returning the favor in our patronage. Thanks again.

Major sponsors for the 27th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament include: Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Home Corporation, Capital Farm Credit, Mercury Marine, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, LP Building, Rio Ammunition, Hoffpauir Polaris, KTRK-abc13, Houston Community Newspapers & Media Group, Haynie Boats, Mowdy Boats, Shoalwater Boats, Dargel Boats, Texas Fish & Game Magazine, Texas Oilman's Charity Fishing Tournament, Coastline Trailers, McClain Trailers, Chris's Marine and Mt. Houston Marine.

2016 Early Bird Drawing Winners

Every 2016 STAR entrant who registered prior to April 29th went into this special drawing. Mark Jupe of Saint Hedwig, TX was the lucky winner of the 1st Prize Dargel 210 Skout, Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax & McClain Trailer in the 2016 Early Bird Drawing. Twenty more lucky winners received



Mark Jupe, 1st Prize Winner



Sherry Lyles, Member Bonus winner



Aaron Lopez, \$25,000 Scholarship Winner

great prizes, 2nd Prize — 9.9 HP Mercury Motor, Christopher Locke, Angleton: 3rd, 4th, 5th Prizes — Rod (American Rodsmith) & Reel (CCA Operation Think RED See BLUE Reel) Combos, Garry Pyka, San Antonio: Rudy Gutierrez, Victoria; Christian Gross, San Antonio: 6th Prize — Thermo/Electric Cooler, Jeff Abbott, Corpus Christi, TX, 7th thru 21st Prizes — CCA Special Edition Print, Greg Broussard, Spring: Patrick Devine, Houston; Larry Nix, Sugar Land; David Jester, Adkins; Evan Thayer, McAllen; Danny Jansen, Magnolia; Chad Janecka, Weimar; Bruce Laser, Corpus Christi; James Nall, Sugar Land; Boyd Collier, Hideaway; Haley Davis, Buchanan Dam; William Bass, Houston; Kayin Mitchell, Cove; Allan Maniha, Houston; Nicholas Marininos, Wimberly.

Member Bonus Drawing

Lucky Sheryl Lyles of Deer Park, TX, won a Dargel 210 Skout, Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax & McClain Trailer.

New Tide(Youth) Scholarship Drawing

Aaron Lopez of Bishop, TX is our lucky \$25,000 Scholarship Winner in the New Tide Scholarship Drawing.

2016 TOURNAMENT

RECAP: The Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division had TWO lucky winners! Each will be driving home the awesome Ford F-150 Texas Edition truck with a Haynie 23 Big Foot boat, Mercury 150 OptiMax Pro XS motor and Coastline trailer. Sadly, there were SIX unfortunate anglers who lost out on prizes to the tune of about \$45,000 - \$80,000 each!!!

This year's tournament offered 123 fabulous prizes. A total of 108 prizes were claimed and the **twenty-three** top prizes were presented to the winners during the CCA State of Texas BBQ and STAR Awards Ceremony on Friday, Oct. 7th at the Bayou City Event Center! These are the lucky winners of each division:

StarKids Scholarship Flounder Division — The StarKids Scholarship Flounder Division will provide a young angler between the ages of six and ten with a college scholarship totaling \$50,000 for catching the largest flounder. This year's winner is **Mia Guerra**, age 10, of San Antonio — 5 lbs. 8 ozs.

Houston Community Newspapers StarKids Scholarship Sheepshead Division — The Houston Community Newspapers StarKid Scholarship Sheepshead Division will provide a young angler between the ages of six and ten with a college scholarship totaling \$50,000 for catching the largest sheepshead. This year's winner is **Rylan Basci**, age 7, of League City — 8 lbs. 12 ozs.

StarKids Scholarship Gafftop Division — The StarKids Scholarship Gafftop Division will provide a young angler between the ages of six and ten with a college scholarship totaling \$50,000 for catching the largest gafftop. This year's winner is **Ashton Sumrall**, age 8, of Orange — 6 lbs., 5 ozs.

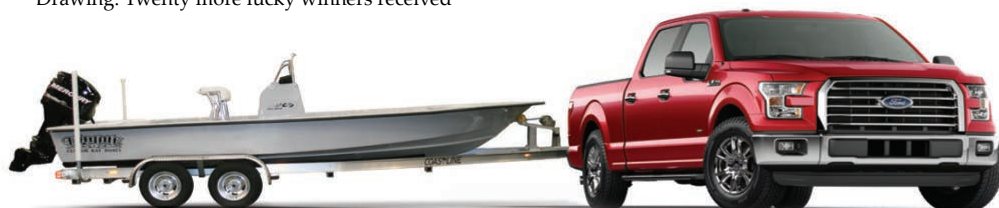
Academy Sports + Outdoors StarTeens Scholarship Trout Division — The Academy Sports and Outdoors StarTeens Scholarship Trout Division was open to all New Tide/STAR members ages 11-17. These fisher-teens with the largest speckled trout in each region -- upper, middle and lower coast -- will be awarded a \$25,000 college scholarship:



Upper Coast: **Dylan Balch**, age 15, of Liberty 7 lbs., 8 ozs.

Middle Coast: **Sydney Greaves**, age 16, of Palacios 6 lbs., 14 ozs.

Lower Coast: **Mitch Lyssy**, age 17, of Falls City 7 lbs., 9 ozs.



2016 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT SuperCab with Haynie 23 Bigfoot, the Redfish Division prize.



BEST IN TEXAS

COLLECT THE 2017 STAR PLATINUM PRINTS



"IT'S ON"
© David Drinkard



TWO CHOICES...
one great cause!

Proceeds from the sale of these limited-edition packages will help us continue to fund the STAR scholarships.



"SCHOLARSHIP ON THE LINE"
© Sam Caldwell

Act now to own ONE of these signed, limited-edition prints in time for Christmas! Renowned artists Sam Caldwell and David Drinkard showcase their unique styles exclusively for CCA Texas STAR 2017. Pick your favorite or **BUY BOTH!**

CCA Membership and STAR registration included with your purchase ★ ccatexas.org ★ startournament.org ★ (713) 626-4222

StarTeens Inshore Scholarship Division – These fisher-teens, ages 11-17, with the largest flounder, gafftop and sheepshead will be awarded a \$25,000 college scholarship:

Flounder: **Devin Williams**, age 15, of Angleton 5 lbs., 8 ozs.
Sheepshead: **Nick Bell**, age 13, of Baytown 10 lbs., 2 ozs.
Gafftop: **Jordan Sandow**, age 17, of Kingwood 6 lbs., 5 ozs.

Awarding these ten scholarships is truly the highlight of the year for STAR and makes a serious statement toward getting kids on the water. We couldn't be happier for these kids and their families. The kids are really what the tournament is all about. They are the future generation that will keep the vitality of our precious marine resource going for years to come. This brings our total awarded scholarships to **\$5,560,000!**

Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division – We have TWO confirmed winners in the ever-popular Texas Ford Dealers Redfish!

The following winners will be presented with a fully-loaded 2016 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" truck and Haynie 23 BigFoot boat, Mercury 150L OptiMax Pro XS motor and Coastline trailer:

Jeff Myers of Houston Tag #TA816 caught 6/10/16
Mike Boyer of San Antonio Tag #TA847 caught 7/30/16

TTrout Division – These registered anglers brought in the largest trout for Upper Coast, Middle Coast and Lower Coast will each receive a Mowdy 22' V, Suzuki 150 motor and Coastline trailer:

Upper Coast: **Dean Halewyn** of Alvin 9 lbs. 9 ozs.
Middle Coast: **Thad Reichert** of Catspring 9 lbs. 1 oz.
Lower Coast: **James Vaughan** of Runge 9 lbs. 1 oz.

Offshore Division - In the Offshore Division, the following anglers who hooked the biggest kingfish, dorado and ling (cobia) will each be awarded an awesome Polaris Ranger® Crew 570 EPS UVs in Polaris Pursuit Camo each with a Big Tex 35sa Trailer:

Kingfish: **Matthew Bronstein** of Houston 62 lbs. 13 ozs.
Dorado: **Shane Huff** of Canyon Lake 24 lbs. 11 ozs.
Ling (Cobia): **Hunter Reed** of Nassau Bay 63 lbs. 2 ozs.

*STAR has reached **\$5,560,000** 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.*

Inshore Division - These Inshore Division winners will take home a Shoalwater 19" Cat with a Mercury 115 ELPT OptiMax engine and McClain trailer for hooking the largest flounder, gafftop and sheepshead:

Flounder: **Paul Gregory** of Brazoria 6 lbs. 13 ozs.
Sheepshead: **Jerry Mills** of Houston 10 lbs. 5 ozs.
Gafftop: **Troy Sumrall III** of Orange 7 lbs 8 ozs.

Over 47,500 registered for the 2016 STAR, and over 7,800 NEW members were recruited into CCA. Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and fishing the STAR Tournament! **Don't forget to take advantage of the great benefits your CCA membership has to offer!**

New Tide Member Scholarship Drawing – All "New Tide" Members (ages 6 - 17) were eligible for a bonus drawing that netted one lucky youth a \$25,000 college scholarship. The lucky winner will

be announced in the next issue of CUR-RENTS.

CCA Texas and STAR would like to thank our fine sponsors, weigh stations and tickets stations, and to the many volunteers for their hard work and dedication to enhancing our marine resources.

Of course, without YOU there would be no STAR, and we are most grateful to you... especially those who added kids to their fishing experience.

Immense thanks to our official STAR Weigh Station friends that do such a tremendous job for us each year:

Peggy On The Bayou in Orange; SGS Causeway in Port Arthur; Sportsman Supply in Sabine Pass; Stingaree Marina on Crystal Beach; Marburger's Sporting Goods in Seabrook; GYB Bait & Tackle in Galveston; Pelican Rest Marina in Galveston; West End Marina in Galveston; Surfside Marina in Freeport; Caney Creek Marina in Sargent; Harbor Bait & Tackle in Matagorda; Indianola Fishing Marina in Indianola; The Fishing Center in Port O'Connor; Terry's Seaworthy Marine Supply in Fulton/Rockport;

*Continued on page 6,
with more photos of
STAR
winners*



Nick Bell-STAR Teens Sheepshead Winner with Matt Combar of LP Building Products



STAR Teen Trout Division Winners Dylan Balch, Sydney Greaves, Mitch Lyssy with Dean Nunciato of Academy Sport and Outdoors



Mia Guerra- STARKid Flounder Winner with Justin Rich of Tilson Homes

Woody's Sports Center in Port Aransas; Roy's Bait & Tackle in Corpus Christi; Harbor Bait & Tackle in Port Mansfield; South Shore Bait & Tackle on South Padre Island.

For more information, go to
www.startournament.org

**Thanks for supporting
CCA Texas and the STAR
Tournament!**



Rylan Basci- STARKid
Sheephead Winner
with Susan Rovegno of
HCN



Ashton Sumrall- STARKid
Gafftop Winner with Wally
Hinkle of Capital Farm Credit

KETCHIKAN SALMON CHOWDER

Ingredients:

- > 6 tablespoons butter
- > 3/4 cup chopped onion
- > 2 stalks celery chopped
- > 1/2 green pepper, chopped
- > 6 tablespoons flour
- > 2 Lg. new potatoes chopped into 1/2" cubes
- > 2 cups chicken broth
- > 2 cups water
- > 1 teaspoon salt
- > 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- > 1 teaspoon dried dill weed
- > 2 carrots grated
- > 1 (12 fluid ounce) can evaporated milk
- > 1 (7 ounce) can corn
- > 2 lbs. raw salmon cut into 1" cubes
- > 1 cup half and half

Directions:

Melt butter in a large pot over medium heat. Sauté onion, celery, and green pepper until tender. Stir in flour and add more butter if needed for roux. Cook for 3 min. Stir broth, water, salt, pepper, and dill into the roux until smooth. Bring to a boil, add potatoes and evaporated milk, reduce heat. Cover, and simmer 20 minutes. Stir in carrots, corn, half and half and salmon, bring back to a simmer and turn off. Garnish with fresh dill and enjoy!



Great Foods Editor Liz Hewitt



Ashton Sumrall-
STARKid Gafftop Winner
with Wally Hinkle of
Capital Farm Credit



Mike Boyer-2nd
Tagged Red Winner
with Kelly Klein of
GTB representing the
Texas Ford Dealers



Dean Halewyn- UC Trout
with Robbie Gregory and
Frank Crapitto of Mowdy
Boats of Texas



James Vaughn-LC Trout with
Robbie Gregory and Frank
Crapitto of Mowdy Boats of
Texas



Mark Jupe, 1st
Prize Dargel
Winner



Devin Williams-STAR-
Teens Flounder with
Mark Brown of Wha-
taburger

Thad Reichert-MC
Trout with Robbie
Gregory and Frank
Crapitto of Mowdy
Boats of Texas



Paul Gregory-Flounder
Division with Katie Bliss
of Capital Farm Credit



Troy Sumrall III-Gafftop
Division with Landon Re-
nau of Capital Farm Credit



Offshore Winners Hunter Reed -Ling, Matt
Bronstein-Kingfish, Shane Huff-Dorado with
Justin Stewardson of Hoffpauir Polaris

Reports from TP&W Game Wardens



Recently, Calhoun County Game Warden Weston Burris responded to a call of men keeping undersized fish. Warden Weston seized 50 trout.

Farewell and good luck to a longtime friend in conservation and law enforcement

"It is with a heavy heart that I have to let you know that I have transferred to Waco. It was a hard decision, but right for my family. I have enjoyed the relationship with the CCA, and in 15 years in law enforcement I have never been around a group more committed to conservation law enforcement.

I rest easy knowing that the CCA will continue to support the district as well as the mid-coast when I am gone." — Jason Campbell
Captain Game Warden

Texas Game Wardens
serving Texans since 1895
Law Enforcement
Off the Pavement



We want you to fish for us!

CCA Texas and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department encourages volunteers to help with fishing surveys for the East Galveston Bay Reef Restoration project. It's critical to have data, and you can be that important Fishing Scientist.

The \$3.7 million project restored approximately 140 acres of oyster reef in the East Galveston Bay system. Areas restored include one location on Hannah's Reef, two locations on Pepper Grove and two locations on Middle Reef.

This effort continues to be an important part of the project. As a Fishing Scientist, your efforts will be critical in understanding the benefits of oyster reef restoration all along the Texas coast.

Contact: Bill Rodney (TPWD)
at 281-534-0127

bill.Rodney@tpwd.texas.gov

Or, Bryan Legare (TPWD) at 281-534-0103

bryan.legare@tpwd.texas.gov

Or, John Blaha (CCA Texas)

at 713-626-4222

jdblaha@ccatexas.org



Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR TEXAS MARINE HABITAT

Volunteers Participate in Marsh Grass Planting During National Estuaries Week

By John Blaha
Photos by Lisa Lakowski

CCA Texas staff, CCA Texas members and volunteers from Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's Dickinson office and NRG's Cedar Bayou EcoCenter recently participated in a volunteer marsh grass planting day.

The event was held at the Bird Island Cove Marsh Restoration Site, located in West Galveston Bay. Construction at the site was completed in February of 2015. Since that time several grass plantings have taken place, and more are planned.

The Building Conservation Trust (BCT), which is CCA's National Habitat Program, was able to secure a \$3,000 mini-grant from Restore America's Estuaries. This grant was made possible through CITGO's "Caring for Our Coast" program. BCT and CCA Texas each then matched that mini-grant, which allowed for some 2,500 *Spartina alterniflora* sprigs to be planted at the event. These new sprigs will add needed protection and encourage future grass growth to the exterior marsh mounds of the restoration project. This event coincided with National Estuaries week, in which similar events took place all along the Gulf Coast.

The Bird Island Cove project directly benefits approximately 114 acres of existing coastal wetlands in



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

CCA's National Habitat Program, the Building Conservation Trust was able to secure a \$3,000 mini-grant from Restore America's Estuaries.

intertidal marsh elevations.

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

The methods used in this project have shown much success in West Galveston Bay, including projects at Jumbile Cove, J-Cove, Delehide Cove, Starvation Cove, Carrancahua Cove and McAllis Point.



Texas coastal wetlands are some of the most important parts of the ecosystems up and down the Texas coast. These wetlands serve over 95% of fish species found in the Gulf of Mexico and the intertidal marshes serve as nursery areas for fishery species such as brown and white shrimp, blue crab, sand seatrout, Gulf menhaden, southern flounder, red drum, bay anchovy and many other marine organisms. Coastal wetland loss in Texas and in the Galveston Bay system in particular is significant and an ongoing concern because of the important and necessary roles that the wetlands perform.

TPWD, CCA Texas's Habitat today for Fish Tomorrow program, BCT and other organizations recognize the importance of these wetlands and

are working continuously to protect and restore these resources. TPWD takes the lead in this effort, and CCA Texas is there to provide community matching dollars for federal and state grants, outreach about the im-

portance and roles of these resources, and volunteers for marsh grass planting events and other types of habitat events when volunteers are needed.



Upper Coast

By Capt. Steve Hillman

Great wading and drifting start now

The first cold front with any substance has just passed through as I type. Discussing winter patterns and strategies seems even more appropriate now; for the first time in two years, salinities are normal to even above-average throughout the entire Galveston Bay Complex, which offers many options for quality winter fishing.

Assuming rainfall amounts remain status quo, every corner of this 600 square mile complex will come into play. Water temperature, wind speed and wind direction will determine which area to enjoy. Assuming the first part of December remains somewhat mild, Trinity and East Galveston Bay will offer great wading and drifting opportunities over oyster and clam shell. MirrOlure Soft-Shads and Provokers rigged on 1/8th ounce lead heads work great for drifting while those same baits will get the job done coupled with 1/16th ounce heads when wading. With the abundance of white shrimp, birds may even work through Christmas this year.

January could find us drifting mud streaks along the Old Intercoastal in West Bay immediately following cold fronts, then wading the back of East Bay two or three days after, as tides rise and southeast winds return.

Be sure to take advantage of warmer water temperatures which result in positive feeding patterns. Casting a MirrOdine XL or a Paul Brown Original Fat Boy in the vicinity of a flipping mullet over mud and shell could produce big bites from healthy winter specks. Of course, you will gladly return those big spotted ladies to produce more big and small ladies.

With all of these options we should be able to look forward to a fantastic winter. I'm thankful to God to be a part of this. Happy Holidays!

—Capt. Steve Hillman 409-256-7937

www.hillmanguideservice.com

Middle Coast

By Capt. Steve Boriskie

A 'pre-frontal' bite can be fabulous

Hunting, snow skiing, tax concerns — if you have put away your wade fishing gear and your boat and your rods and tackle, you are going to miss some of the best times of the year on salt water.

Fish 'plan' their meals around the weather, why shouldn't the angler? A 'pre-frontal' bite can be fabulous, a ringing of the dinner bell as they begin to dine out. Drop offs are your friends; fish may be stacked on top of each other like a high school football dog pile. A slight warmup of a few degrees tends to pull fish up and onto your line. Work your lures a click slower, or switch from a soft plastic to a slow sinking soft bait like the Corky Devil or Fat Boy.

Most important this time of fishing year is safety and comfort. Plan your clothing well. I like pocket warmers, specially when wading. Layering is another must; go with moisture wicking/management garments. Expect to be wet, then take extra clothing and first aid gear. You can always shed clothes, but you can't wear what you don't have. Finally, cover head and hands too.

Plan your fishing from a weather standpoint and use common sense on your expectations of what you and your vessel can do in high winds and bays. Realize that your trip also may be in December or January, but the weather could be more like October or March.

Stick with the idea that this time of year is great for all those other things we do to spread holiday cheer. And, when the catch is great, remember to send the big girls back for further duty. In cold weather, even trout will survive much better.

Season's Greetings from the Middle Coast of Texas and from all of us at Bay Flats Lodge.

—Captain Stephen Boriskie

Bay Flats Lodge, Seadrift Texas

www.bayflatslodge.com

Lower Coast

By Capt. Aubrey Black

Redfish, redfish and more redfish

Exciting times are happening now now at Baffin Bay Rod and Gun: Redfish, redfish and more redfish. Early and mid-December will see shallow water loaded with black drum and lots of slot redfish with a few smaller ones mixed in. The deep rocks will still be teeming with oversized reds including some true giants over 50." Trout have been hit or miss but they are showing signs of preparing for the spawn in late winter/early spring. Right now and into December, they are gorging themselves, eating virtually anything that swims a tad too close.

Our prospects for an epic trophy trout season seem to be off the charts. We expect water conditions to remain excellent. We are seeing grass beds where we haven't seen any in years. Bait has proliferated in the entire bay.

The opening weekend of South Zone duck season was a huge success. We saw what we affectionately refer to as the Baffin Trifecta, pintails, wigeon and redheads. Remaining dates are Dec. 12 to Jan. 24. Special white wing season is Dec. 18 to Jan. 18. It kind of pulls us in two directions when the fishing as well as the hunting is this good, but that's not a bad problem to have.

So, y'all come on down and check out our new lodge. We have a first class staff to go along with our first class accommodations. We promise you will not be disappointed. Get on our booking calendar soon if you are interested in catching that once-in-a-lifetime trout. 2017 promises to be an incredible year for any and all outdoor activities on our home waters. Y'all be safe, and we'll see ya on the water.

—Capt. Aubrey Black 361-720-9394

Captblack@captblack.com

FaceBook Baffin Bay Rod And Gun

www.baffinbayrodandgun.com

How great are the new smart phones? Last issue, the editor called MidCoast guide Tommy Countz, who yelled, "I'll call you right back — I'm fighting a big trout in the surf!" Adam Gilvarry sent this image of a redfish acquisition and subsequent CPR via his iPhone. The photo credit goes to Rick Spillman with Rick's Kayak Adventures.



CCA Texas Social Happenings

CCA Texas has been very busy wrapping up banquet season and working on Texas Gulf Coast habitat projects. Visit youtube.com/CCATexasProjects to view our habitat video page, which includes footage from our Bird Island Cove grass planting event, done in partnership with Building Conservation Trust (CCA's National Habitat Program), Restore America's Estuaries and Citgo!

Shane Bonnot, CCA Texas's new Advocacy Director has started a blog, so visit www.ccatexas.org/blog to read the latest news on coastal advocacy updates! Shane also hosts a new podcast called "Coastal Advocacy Adventures," which can be found on iTunes, SoundCloud, Stitcher, TuneIn and various other podcast platforms, as well as the blog. Check it out!

As temperatures cool down and the holidays arrive, we hope that you enjoy relaxing and sharing special moments on the water with your loved ones. Be sure to take a kid fishing!

In each issue of *Currents*, CCA Texas will feature a recent Facebook photo, Twitter Tweet, and Instagram photo. Please "Like" our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter, Instagram and YouTube to get the latest updates from CCA Texas and become a part of the conversation! Want to submit a photo of a great catch or fun times at a CCA Texas event to be featured on one of our social media platforms? Email it to kogonosky@ccatexas.org for consideration!

Facebook:

CCA Texas: TGIF, and take a kid fishing! Pictured here is Izzy Wibben showing us how it's done, with the beautiful 22 1/2" red she caught and released last weekend. Way to go Izzy!!



Twitter:

@fishcontrolhead: Thanks @CCANational @CCA_Texas for helping make moments like this happen

Instagram:

@ccabct: Yesterday we teamed up with staffers and volunteers from the @cca_texas Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow program to do a grass planting event at the Bird Island Cove marsh restoration site in Galveston! This event was a part of National Estuaries Week. Thanks to a \$3,000 mini grant from @raestuaries and Citgo that BCT and CCA Texas each matched, we planted 25 buckets of *Spartina alterniflora* at the site. This restoration project will directly benefit approximately 114 acres of existing coastal wetlands in the Bird Island Cove area! Photo: Lisa Laskowski #ccabct #ccatexas #joincca #EstuariesWeek

ing event at the Bird Island Cove marsh restoration site in Galveston! This event was a part of National Estuaries Week. Thanks to a \$3,000 mini grant from @raestuaries and Citgo that BCT and CCA Texas each matched, we planted 25 buckets of *Spartina alterniflora* at the site. This restoration project will directly benefit approximately 114 acres of existing coastal wetlands in the Bird Island Cove area! Photo: Lisa Laskowski #ccabct #ccatexas #joincca #EstuariesWeek



Facebook: facebook.com/CCATexas

Twitter: twitter.com/CCA_Texas

Instagram: instagram.com/cca_texas

YouTube: youtube.com/cccatexasprojects



Chapter Updates

YES, the type is SMALL! But, we have to get everyone in, along with images.

If you submitted images and they're not all published, you may find them on your chapter's web page, and your chapter's area in the CCA website:
www.ccatexas.org/chapters

Alvin-Pearland
Emery Sadler 713-501-2778

Monthly General Meetings (Anglers Night Out):
7:00 pm - First Tuesday of the month.

Location: **Spring Creek BBQ** 9005 Broadway, Pearland, TX 77584

Check out our info:

<http://www.ccatexas.org/alvin-pearland/>
We will have a raffle at each meeting! Happy Holidays, and we look forward to our next meeting in March 2017!

2017 Meeting schedule

March 7 / April 4 / May 2 / June 6 / **June 15 - Annual Banquet**

September 5 / October 3

We welcome new board members who would like to get plugged in. Our monthly chapter meetings have a great speaker lineup and a raffle.

Bring a friend, a kid and get plugged in! -**Emery Sadler**

Aransas Bay
Welcome new president, Bud Kittle
210-279-7309

ernestkittle@gmail.com mailto:ernestkittle@gmail.com
On behalf of the Aransas Bay Chapter, I would like to thank all the participants/attendees of the **17th Babes on the Bay** and **2016 Aransas Bay Chapter Annual Banquet**. A big thank you also to the sponsors, donors and volunteers for their exceptional support. In addition, volunteers supported the **Abandoned Crab Pot Removal Project**, **Billy Sandifer Big Shell Cleanup**, **'Wetlands Field Trips'** and the **Interchapter Challenge Tournament**. To sum it up, it was another outstanding year for the chapter!

The Aransas Bay Chapter elected a new slate of officers at its October monthly meeting for 2017 and 2018. Congratulations to the new officers: President **"Bud" Kittle**; Vice President **Austin Cox**; Secretary **Jane Jackson**; and Treasurer **Carrie Cox**. Volunteers from the Aransas Bay and Redfish Bay Chapters of CCA and TP&W Game Wardens provided volunteer support to **Fulton 4-5 Learning Center in Rockport** to conduct its annual **'Wetlands field trips'** during the week of **October 17-21**. Two classes traveled on this field trip daily for a total of 10 classes. The trip was organized by **FLC Science Coordinator Martha McLeod**. Volunteers worked daily to help ensure that EVERY student caught a fish and obtained a greater appreciation for the outdoors!

Registration for **Babes on the Bay XVIII** is just around the corner. Last year's Babes entrants will receive a letter in December outlining the 2017 event. Please visit the website (www.babesonthebay.com) in early January, and review the registration process to determine if you have any questions. Online registration will be used exclusively for the event. **Karol and her team** have found some fantastic items for the swag bag, so get registered to insure you get the correct t-shirt size. One person registers the entire team, so make sure you have everyone's correct information before you enter the registration process. The last day for regular registration is 4/15/2017. All registrations

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Editor, Sam Caldwell
sam@samcaldwell.com

This is the issue of December 2016 / January 2017
Vol. 35, Issue 1

received after this date and prior to the 4/30/2017 cutoff date will pay a late registration fee. If you have any questions, email Karol at CCABabes@gmail.com or call her at 361-386-0028.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! **Mark your calendars: May 19-20: Babes on the Bay / August 12: Annual Chapter Banquet** / Tight lines, -Carter

Austin

Josh Cook 512-656-2964

With football and hunting seasons well under way, it is nice to move into the cooler side of the year in Texas. Before we know it, May banquet season will be upon us. **Specifically, the 2017 Austin banquet date is May 11, 2017!**

We had an outstanding **Angler's Night Out in September with Captain Ruben "Snook Dude" Garza**. If you happened to miss the event, your friend who did go may be using some tips from the "Snook Dude" and out-fishing you on your next trip! Just as a reminder, these events are free and held every other month at **Abel's on the Lake in Austin**. In November, we are featuring **Captain Nathan Beabout**, and I know he will be outstanding.

Our 2017 banquet boat is very close to being delivered. Please keep an eye on our chapter website (www.ccaaustin.org) for up-to-date details on the 2017 banquet boat and timing regarding ticket sales. Tickets and additional details will be available soon!

If for any reason you are not receiving communications from our fun and active chapter, **please call the CCA Texas Office at 713-626-4222** and ask them to put you on the Austin mailing list. Also, be sure to friend us on Facebook by searching for Coastal Conservation Association Austin Chapter. It's a great way to keep up with everything in the Austin Chapter and to make sure you don't miss anything. **Happy Holidays from CCA Austin!** —Josh Cook
josh@ccretx.com

Bay Area

Curtis Anderson 832-435-0257

Brazoria County

Wes Dingee 979-299-8245

Brazos Valley

John Ben Strother 979-220-1738
jbsunlimited@yahoo.com

Brenham

Welcome new president Brandon Marth 979-277-0151

Brush Country

Brenda Ballard 361-296-4037

The past couple of months have been busy for our chapter. We held our Annual Kids Fish Day on October 8. The event had a wonderful turnout and a lot of winners! We also held our Annual Fish Fry Banquet on November 2. There were

auctions, raffles, good fun and fellowship! For information or how to volunteer with our chapter please email us at brushcountrycca@gmail.com.

—Brenda Ballard

Centex

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

Central Houston

Todd Buster
713-545-1897

Colorado Valley

Eugene Ulrich
979-249-7425

Greetings from the Colorado Valley! I hope everyone's summer was enjoyable with plenty of fishing included. I got a chance to go out last week for three days and it was great! I'm sure glad the weather/water is cooling off some. Now it's time to focus on harassing some whitetails and waterfowl! I just wanted to remind ya'll of our **2017 Colorado Valley Chapter Annual Banquet in LaGrange, which will be held on March 30 at the K of C Hall**. We have sold out the past two years, so please get your tickets and tables early. It promises to be a fantastic event again next year! Please give me a call at (979) 249-7425 or Trish at (512) 581-2588. Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all. —Eugene Ulrich

Corpus Christi

Jake Herring 361-244-0258
jakecherring@hotmail.com

Cool Breeze Wishes to all during this holiday season. In October the Corpus Christi Chapter held our largest ever **Babes on Baffin All Ladies Fishing Tournament**. Approximately 93 teams representing 391 lady anglers hit the water for a fun day all in the name of conservation. The competition was fierce yet friendly and the team names were epic! **Congratulations goes out to 'Poppin Corks' for taking home the top honors with a full stringer weighing in at 21.02 lbs**. We really appreciate all the ladies who turned out to make this a record setting event. A special thanks goes out to the gang at the **CCA-TPWD Marine Development Center** for being onsite to collect the fish from the live weigh in. Again, we could not hold these successful events without the help and support from our sponsors. So thanks to you, and we look forward to next year's Babes on Baffin tournament!

Coming off our fall events, the Corpus Christi Chapter is now preparing for the **39th Annual Banquet on Thursday March 9, 2017 at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi, Texas**. Saltwater Grill will be cooking up all the crowd favorites, and **House of Rock** will be keeping banquet patrons' thirsts quenched with cold beverages. You will not want to miss this banquet, as we are expecting another 'sell out' event. **Table sales started in November**, allowing companies and individuals to purchase banquet tables this calendar year. **For table sales and banquet sponsorship information please email inquiries to our chapter email CCACorpus@hotmail.com, or call (361) 882-5199**. We would like to thank **Andrews Distributing, L&F Distributing, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Nyati Services, Inc and Ohmstede, Inc.** for their early sponsorship commitments for our 2017 Banquet. If we don't see you before then have a **Happy New Year**, and start it off right with a day on the water. - **Yours in Conservation, Jake Herring**

Dallas / North Texas

Welcome new president Bill Graswich
214-226-2118

wbgraswich11@gmail.com

Happy Holidays and Greetings, Dallas Area CCA Members! Fall and winter are the seasons of "change" (especially the weather from hot to cooler temps). This being an election year, the word: "change" has been used a lot by the politicians. And here at CCA Dallas, we are all about "change" as well.

Look at what your support of CCA Texas is accomplishing: the re-opening of Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough, as well as oyster reef restoration projects in Aransas Bay, Copano Bay, East Galveston Bay and Sabine Lake. Not to mention, the nearshore reef projects in Corpus Christi, Matagorda, Port Mansfield and Port O'Connor. Take a moment to look at the CCA website and see the accomplishments of our organization. It is the support you guys and gals provide that gives CCA the fuel to carry out these Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT) Projects. What other non-profit organization in Texas do you know of that does so much to revitalize and protect the Texas Gulf Coast's natural resources?

We hope to see you at the **Dallas Safari Club's 2017 Adventure Show & Expo, January 5-8, 2017**. And don't forget, the **2017 Dallas Chapter Annual Banquet will be held on Thursday, April 20 at the usual spot – the Frontiers of Flight Museum at Dallas Love Field**. We will be emailing you about upcoming events and speakers, and welcome your participation and joining the Dallas Chapter Board. Best of luck in your fishing and hunting adventures. Take care out there, Amigos! —Bill Graswich

East Texas

Welcome new president Brent Rogers
936-554-4866

brent.rogers@merck.com

Fort Bend

Robb Gaston 281-239-9755

Fort Worth

Hunter Baird 817-437-8351

Galveston

Dr. Ken Ellis 713-962-7731

Happy Holidays to everyone! As the cooler weather has finally arrived, the flounder will be making their way to the Gulf to spawn. Please remember the daily bag limits for flounder in November change, so take note of that. Speaking of flounder, **Joe Moughon of Chicken Boy Lures** will be our guest speaker for our **General Meeting on Thursday, December 1 at Beerfoot Brewery at 28th and Seawall**. I hope to see everyone come out to this meeting for an amazing speaker, starting at 6:00 pm. Tight Lines! – Hook'em —Ken

Golden Triangle

Welcome new president Jason Kuchera
903-780-8618

jlkuchera@yahoo.com

With the holidays fast approaching and the big fish starting to move on the upper coast, the Golden Triangle CCA Board of Directors wants to thank all of its members for a successful year! We had a record turnout at the 2016 Golden Triangle Chapter Annual Banquet in May, and we are looking to expand on that in 2017. We have a fantastic group of volunteers and are currently seeking new members to get involved and join the Board to help CCA Texas through the local chapter. If you

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are interested in joining the board please contact me.

Mark your calendar for the 2nd Annual Anglers' Night Out at The Event Center on February 23, 2017. If you go catch a redfish, trout or flounder, thank a CCA member, or better yet take a kid fishing - the youth will have to take over for us sooner or later, so why not sooner! Happy Holidays! -CPT Jason Kuchera, President

Greater Sugar Land
Welcome new president Robert Bailey
713-819-5534
rbailey@robertbaileypc.com

The Greater Sugar Land Chapter had a busy October! We have a new venue for our General Meetings: **La Escondida Mexican Grill**, 7270 Highway 6 in Missouri City. The restaurant has great food and an excellent meeting room. At our first meeting there on October 5, **Brian Treadway** shared useful tips and techniques for redfish and tarpon fishing. Brian is always a fun and interesting speaker.

The Chapter's President's Cup fishing tournament was held on October 15 and was well attended. **Dennis Stavinoha** won the Cup with the heaviest full slam stringer and bragging rights for a year! **Bob Hrachovy** had the heaviest trout, **Paul Lawson** the heaviest redfish and **Joel Canavan** the heaviest flounder. All three received a rod and a **Shimano Curado Baitcaster Reel** for their efforts. Other notable winners were **Bob Hrachovy** for both the heaviest trout and the trout closest to two pounds, **Dennis Stavinoha** for the redfish with most spots and **Joel Canavan** for the heaviest flounder. In the process, we also raised approximately \$600 for our Kids Fish program! Kudos to **Pam and Joel Canavan** for hosting the weigh in and dinner, and for helping make the tournament a great success.

Also, please be sure to **Save the Date for our Annual Fundraising Banquet Crawfish Boil! It will be held the evening of April 6, 2017 at the Stafford Centre, 10505 Cash Road in Stafford.** Please email greatersugarlandcca@gmail.com for further details. —**Bob Bailey**, Vice President

Greater Woodlands
Charlotte O'Dell 832-368-8263

We recruited some awesome new board members this past year, and I appreciate all the help and support that the entire board has given me as the new president. We're looking forward to a new year of great fishing, new faces and new ideas for next year's events. If you'd like to get involved (as little or as much as you'd like), we're always happy to have you!

We all love to fish, even if we don't get to do it as much as we'd like. So, come and share your fish stories with us, and pictures too. We won't bite, but we like to know that the fish do! You can always call or email me for more information about our chapter and how to get involved. See y'all next year! —**Charlotte O'Dell** *Choctawcharlie69@gmail.com*

Guadalupe Valley
Chuck Howard 361-275-9464
chuck.howard@att.net

The Guadalupe Valley Chapter had another well attended and well-funded Annual Banquet for 2016! Recent chapter meet-and-greets have been well attended, and members were very enthusiastic about this year's banquet, which was held on November 3. As always, there were plenty of great auction items, fishing and hunting trips, raffles and mystery ice chests. Work in a really

good meal, beverages and good friends, and that's what this is all about, shipmate!

Plenty of fishing is going on with chapter members all over the mid coast bays. Reports of huge redfish landings were happening from Corpus to Matagorda for most chapter members. Trout have been consistent, and some big mamas have come to the Boga for a CPR. As we edge into the fall season, and cool fronts push through, we are going to witness a fishing season most people only dream of. Tie the fishing into a good morning duck hunt, and life is pretty good! "Land of the Free / Home of the Brave" Have A Great Shave! —**Chuck Howard**

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

Heart of the Hills
Welcome new president Kelly Parks
210-669-3732
bucksdelucks@yahoo.com

The Heart of the Hills Chapter wrapped up the summer season with our 2016 Annual Banquet on September 8 at the Cana Ballroom at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Boerne. Attendees enjoyed the picturesque Hill Country views from the ballroom while feasting on fresh boiled Gulf shrimp prepared by **Cajun Cookers**. Many thanks to the following sponsors who provided beverages for our event: **Pedernales Brewing Company**, **Keg 1 O'Neal - Lone Star Beer**, **Dripping Springs Vodka** and **Ben E. Keith**. We had very active bidding in the live auction, and the \$5 raffle produced solid results that will greatly benefit our conservation efforts.

Thank you to the following Bull Red Sponsors: **Academy Sports + Outdoors**, **AIM Construction**, **All Country Home Care & Hospice**, **Burkholder A/C**, **David Esser**, **Explorer USA**, **Felco Construction**, **Goodtimes Ranch**, **Hill Country Dental Center**, **1-10 Building Materials**, **In-Line Fence and Fabrication**, **Jennings Anderson Ford**, **KAS Farm and Ranch Service**, **Pat & Bud's Fish Camp**, **Family Medicine of Boerne**, **Dr. David Mullins**, **Sterling Electric**, **Westward Environmental Inc.** and **Winters Electric**.

Trophy Trout Sponsors were **Bonhert Lumber and Supply, Inc.** and **Cokinios, Bosien & Young Attorneys at Law**.

We would also like to recognize **Bear Arms**, **Boerne Marine**, **Aqua-Man Water Conditioning** and **Jennings Anderson Ford** for their continued support of the chapter. This function would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers and the staff from CCA Houston. I appreciate your service. Hope you all had fun, and we look forward to seeing you again in 2017! —**Kelly Parks**

Hill Country
Miles Engelke 210-260-8968

The Hill Country Chapter ended our year on October 25, 2016 with a final General Meeting at the Elks lodge. Our speaker was **Everett Johnson**, editor and publisher of **Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine**. Everett discussed the current state of the middle coast fisheries as he sees it, the importance of fresh water inflow, the positive effects of Cedar Bayou opening and the continuing need for grass roots advocacy of marine resources in Texas. He encouraged us to take kids fishing and become CCA members. Thanks, Everett, for the informative talk!

Thanks to **Captain Joey Farah** for his

presentation at our May meeting and **Captain David Rowsey** for his presentation at our July meeting. Great job!

Thanks to our sponsors: **Stay-Tuff Fence Mfg.**, **Whitaker Insurance**, **KGNB / KNB**, **Cemex**, **Creative Eyewear**, **Power Engineering Services**, **Reel Em Inn On The Bay**, **Redfish Bay Boathouse/Redfish Willies**, **Sandollar Resort**, **FAPCO, LLC** and **Fishers Of Men RV Park**.

Thanks to our vendors who setup at our General Meetings: **Creative Eyewear**, **Rust Game Place**, **Foreverlast Hunting and Fishing Products**, **Stinky Pants Fishing Products**, **Twisted Customs**, **Staunch Traditional**, **Saltwater Sassy** and **Reeltastic**.

I would like to take this time to thank the executive board as well as the board of directors for their time and effort put towards keeping our chapter moving forward. I will be meeting with the executive board to share and discuss ideas for moving forward in 2017. Our first event will be our **5th Annual Social in April at the Red Barn**, then our fishing tournament in June, three general meetings (dates to be announced) and our banquet in August.

If you or someone you know would like to get involved with our chapter as a sponsor, vendor or board director, cast me a call at 210-260-8968. Until next time, go fishing and take a kid. It's a good time to be on the water, as all the fisherman will be sitting in deer blinds. Treasure The Trips -Miles

Houston Homebuilders
Mack Davis 832 381-6130

Houston Real Estate
Dale Couch 281-953-2510

Katy
Welcome new president Gary Mancini
281-850-2212
gman091753@aol.com

Laredo
Javier C. Villarreal 956-206-7953
jcvillarreal13@gmail.com

Lee County
Welcome new president Jake Horne
979-540-6117

The Lee County Chapter held its 6th Annual Chapter Banquet on Thursday, October 20, 2016. A great big THANK YOU goes out to all our sponsors, buyers, table buyers and chapter supporters, who came out and generously gave to help make this another successful fundraiser for the CCA. It is not possible without you!

Mark your calendars folks for the **East Cut & PINS beach clean-up on Sunday, March 12, 2017**. This is one of the most pristine ecosystems in the country, and also one of the most breathtaking areas I have ever set my eyes upon. Preparations are underway to give back to such a beautiful area of the Texas coast that has given us so much. **Miller and Kathie Bassler**, who were instrumental in starting our Lee County CCA chapter, puts on the event. Our chapter has adopted this beach cleanup as our community project. They are always looking for people to volunteer to help clean up the beach and are also in need of donations to help defray some of the expense that comes with putting on such an event. Be sure to watch for emails, flyers and other notices in the upcoming issue of *Currents* for more details. If you are interested in volunteering or donating, please contact **Kathie at kathie@basslerenergyservices.com**.

CCA Texas Says *Thank You...* to our Past & Present Life Members

LEGACY - \$10,000

Jack Guenther
Robert B Porter, Jr.

HERITAGE - \$5,000

Ronald O. Luster, Sr.

LIFE - \$1,000

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Lester M. Albrethal, Jr.
Joe Albright
Jack Graham Allen
James L. Allen
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To have your gun delivered to Academy Sports + Outdoors, contact Mylinda Jones at (281) 646-5908, Candice Buckles at (281) 646-5777, or CustomerFACompliance@academy.com.

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In January we welcome our new Chapter President **Jake Horne** (jake@aubainesupply.com). We are looking forward having Jake as our President who will bring fresh ideas to our CCA chapter. We will have a chapter meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2017. There will be a short business meeting to elect a new Vice President and Treasurer, along with a few other items to discuss. After the meeting, we will have a presentation, and we are in the process of securing a speaker for that night. Look for details in an upcoming email!

It has been a privilege serving as your Chapter President the last five years, and I look forward to what the future has in store for the CCA. Merry Christmas, and a prosperous and healthy New Year for all! —Byron Kalbas

Live Oak
Brad Kotrla 979-732-1669

Lower Colorado
Tim Munos 979 332-2876

Lower Laguna Madre
Oscar Garcia III 956-491-8148

Mainland
Eric Minor 409-370-7379

Matagorda Bays
Chad Hensley 979-541-3239

Well, it's a wrap! Our events for the year are done. The chapter finished off strong with the **Jim Ehmen Memorial Guides Cup**. The winning guide this year with a weight of 29.85 lbs was **Capt Lee Warmke**. His team consisted of **Linc**

Lutrick, Alan Vasquez and Taylor Ashcraft. Capt Lee said it was a great day for fishing, and Linc only backlashed 16 times on the first wade! Good job Linc, you're getting better with each cast! 2nd Place with a weight of 29.08 was **Capt Nick Stillwell**. Nick's team consisted of **Kyle Chandler, Cody Vacek and Gene Kubecka**, and 3rd Place with a weight of 28.01 went to **Capt Troy Keen**. Troy's team was made up of fishermen **Dave Brysch, James Dobson and Rodney Meyers**. Congratulations to all the winners, and thanks to all the team buyers! Be sure to look these guys up if you are ever wanting to book a fishing trip down on the coast: **Capt. Tommy Alexander, Capt Mike Rolf, Capt Kit Caston, Capt Leighton Keen, Capt Jimmy Riddle, Capt Scott Reeh, Capt. Kenny Hauff III, Capt Stan Sloan, Capt Ozzie Arnold, Capt Rob Baylor, Capt Kenny Hauff Jr., Capt Gary Mach, Capt Walt Wendtland, Capt Charlie Paradoski, Capt Mark Talasek, Capt Mike Kubecka, Capt Ken Sabin, Capt Floyd Ciruti, Capt Kevin Kosik, Capt Kendall Kersh and Capt Rob Cummings.**

I hope everybody has a Happy Thanksgiving, and Safe and Merry Christmas. Keep up with the chapter on Facebook for any new updates or news. Thanks again for all the support of our chapter members, donors and board for another great year. If you have any questions about anything, feel free to contact me. —Chad Hensley

MidCoast
David Jenkins 361-648-9185

Northeast Houston
Welcome new president Jason Law
713-898-8594
jlaw1899@yahoo.com

Northwest Houston
Alan Massey 281-414-6341

At press time, our **December General Meeting Speaker will be Chad Handley**. He is the owner and captain at **Vitamin Sea Charter**. They fish the entire East Galveston Bay Complex. He has been fishing East Galveston Bay for over 20 years. They fish full time, all year long. They fish both artificial and live bait, roughly 30% and 70% respectively. The chapter will be raffling off a guided trip with Chad at our meeting, along with our Christmas raffle items and prizes. Do plan to attend.

Also, just a reminder - Please remember that we are always happy to accept donations for the **Annual Kid Fish**. Please let us know of your desire to donate anytime by contacting a director.

Our sincere thanks to **both Houston Distributing and Academy Sports + Outdoors**. 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 announcements of future meetings and events, please contact our CCA Assistant Director **Drew Adams** at dadams@ccatexas.org. See you at the next meeting! —Alan Massey

Orange County
Scott Bandy 409-988-3667
scottbandy77@yahoo.com

The 2017 Orange County Chapter Annual Banquet date has been set for August 10 at the Orange County Convention and Expo Center off Hwy 1442 in Orange, Texas!

The weather is cooling off now, and the fish will be on the move. Get out there and get in on the fun. Take your family and friends, and enjoy the waters that our conservation work enables us to enjoy.

Thanks to all our Officers and Board Members for all their hard work thought the year. If you are interested in joining the Chapter, feel free to contact one of the members below to find out more info. -Tight Lines, -**Scott Bandy**
scottbandy77@yahoo.com
Louis Moore louis_moore@yahoo.com
Davis Dixon dcdixon149@yahoo.com

Port O'Connor
Bill Moore 361-983-4690

The 17th Annual POC Chapter Banquet was held on October, 15 at the POC Community Center. With the addition of a tent and adding 100 tickets, the banquet was a complete sell out and seemed to be enjoyed by all in attendance! We also had great weather and good food.

The banquet could not have been a success without the diligence and dedication of all board members, chapter members, volunteers and donors. Special thanks to Banquet Chairman/Secretary **Jim Busby**, VP **Dain Whitworth**, Treasurer **Ann Brownlee** and Sergeant at Arms **Sonny Cook**. Also, thank you to our outstanding board members: **Ann Brownlee**, **Candace Stryker**, **Carl and Pam Ray**, **Barbara Skalak**, **Chris Smisek**, **Dain and Judy Whitworth**, **Donnie and Julie Klesel**, **Fred Carr**, **Jim Busby**, **Bayle Wilson**, **Jimmie and Barbara Crouch**, **Michelle Lip-pold**, **Lefty and Joann Ward**, **Mike and Maxine Sharp**, **Pam Johnson**, **Patty Elkins** and **Monique Morlan**. Thank you to **Pam Johnson** for doing an outstanding job on the program, to our CCA Assistant Director **Taylor Rieck**, and to **Sam Caldwell** for putting in another appearance and doing a beautiful job on the program cover.

Another feature item at the banquet was the drawing for the golf cart. Thank you to **Coastal Bend Marine** and **Chris Mapp** for making the golf cart available to the chapter. The lucky winner of the drawing was **Barbara Skalak**. Congratulations to Barbara on winning a really nice vehicle!

We give our sincerest appreciation to a special group: the donors who make possible all the items, gifts, trips etc. - You will be notified individually to say, "thank you"! Thank you to all the table sponsors, who will be listed in future issues. And finally, thank you to all who attended and helped make this a successful banquet! So come spend some of your holidays with us - we invite you to visit some of our donors or enter your skiff in the Christmas Boat Parade in POC, "Where it all began." - **Bill Moore**

Prairie
Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103

I hope everybody is having a great fall! With the time change and shorter days we need to get out and fish earlier in the morning. It's kind of quiet this time of the year, with the exception of the hunters! And we have a lot of them in our chapter.

We are planning our **Yearly Christmas Party**, which will be some time in



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December - we will decide on the date (TBD 12/10 or 12/17) at our November meeting.

The first of the year we will start planning our **2017 Prairie Chapter Annual Banquet that will be the first Thursday in April**. It will be the biggest one of all because the Prairie Chapter will be celebrating its **20th Year!** **Thanks and Happy Holidays to all!** -Ron Chess ragdale@industryinet.com

industryinet.com

Redfish Bay
Norman Oates 361-758-0266

Here we are, winding up another great year for the Redfish Bay Chapter of CCA Texas. Our 2016 Redfish Bay Chapter Annual Banquet in Port Aransas was a lot of fun and a great success as usual! We do not change much from year

to year, but our members tell the Board that they really like the format and have a good time - and that is the name of the game! The Annual "Take-a-Kid-Fishing" event continues to be a lot of fun for future fisherpersons. We have people helping now who fished the event when they were kids! Special thanks to **Glenn Martin of Woody's Sports Center** for pulling the "Take-a-Kid-Fishing" event together. The Beeville Fish Fry is always a success, and it gives us a chance to get together with our members who are a little way from the coast - good people.

None of this could happen without

The 2017 RGV boat is a 21' Majek RFL complete with a cap deck, 150 HP Evinrude, and tandem axle aluminum trailer.



our board members, **John Blaha**, and the special members who attend the events. Get ready for next year!

The 2017 Banquet will be on April 29; the Take-a-Kid-Fishing event will be the first weekend of June, and the Beeville Fish Fry will be the Thursday before Dove season starts. We hope to see you at the events, and we will do our best to make them enjoyable! – **Norman Oates**

**Rio Grande Valley
Louis Zimmerer
959-3703-0799**

Lmz01@yahoo.com

Welcome new Chapter President Louis Zimmerer, and greetings Rio Grande Valley members!

2016 has been another great year for the RGV chapter and CCA Texas as a whole. Lots of good things are happening in the Valley, and along the entire Texas coast. Some of the big news includes the new **Rio Grande Valley Nearshore reef**. CCA Texas has partnered with **Friends of RGV Reef**, CCA's National Habitat Program **Building Conservation Trust (BCT)** and **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department** to create the largest permitted nearshore reefing site in Texas.

This site is located between Port Isabel and Port Mansfield, and is in Texas state waters. Friends of RGV Reef are hoping to sink an old shrimp boat and small tug boat as soon as the weather allows, and hopefully it will be done by the time you are reading this update. Soon after, FRGVR, CCA Texas and BCT will be deploying low relief materials such as limestone rock and bundled cinder

blocks to this area. Early results from test patches have shown to be extremely successful, and we are looking forward to having another world class fishing area right out our back door! Thank you to everyone who has supported this effort.

The RGV and Lower Laguna Madre Chapter recently hosted a **Take a Kid Fishing** day on South Padre Island. The **South Padre Island Convention and Visitor's**



The RGV and Lower Laguna Madre Chapter recently co-hosted a Take a Kid Fishing day on South Padre Island.



Bureau sponsored the event, and **Jim's Pier** was our host. We had 50 kids and families show up for a fun day of fishing. The weather was nice, and the RGV and Lower Laguna Madre Chapter boards hope to make this an annual event on the island each year. Thanks again to everyone who supported and participated in the event!

Raffle tickets are now available for the RGV Chapter's **2017 Raffle Boat**. This year's boat is a **21' Majek RFL** complete with a cap deck, **150 HP Evinrude**, and tandem axle aluminum trailer. We are only selling 500 tickets at \$100 each. For more information, and to purchase tickets, contact **Louis Zimmerer** at (956) 373-0799 or **John Blaha** at (979) 709-1085. We want to give a big shout out to **Ron Hoover RV & Marine** and **L&F Distributors** for making this happen.

The RGV chapter will be hosting our **Annual Sportsman's Raffle Party on Tuesday, December 13 at 5:30 pm at the Elk's Lodge in Weslaco**. We will be raffling off 20 guns and 20 rod/reel combos. Tickets are \$100 each and if you are one of the lucky types, you could possibly win all 40 items. Each winning ticket will be placed back in the tumbler after each drawing. Good luck to all of our participants, and we hope to see you there! For more information, or to purchase tickets contact **Louis Zimmerer** or **John Blaha**.

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A trio of charmers from the San Jacinto September Youth Tournament. Check your chapter website for your chapter's photos.

The Rio Grande Valley Chapter wishes to thank everyone for another great year, and we look forward to seeing everyone soon! – **Louis Zimmerer** lmz01@yahoo.com

Sabine-Neches
Darin Johnson 409-790-9855

Sam Houston
Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908

San Antonio
Mike Sarosdy 210-863-7288
urodoc@satx.rr.com

Season's Greetings to All! Thanks to an increasing number of active volunteers, we have had a great fundraising year. In September, we added a new **Hooked on Golf Tournament** to our line-up, which took place after our late March CCA

Sporting Clays Shoot and our 2016 San Antonio Chapter Annual Banquet in early May. None of those events could have happened without a large cast of hard-working volunteers, so thanks to all who helped make our events successful, to those who attended and to our great sponsors.

We had a well-attended October General Meeting, with two speakers: **Capt. Nathan Beabout** of Seadrift and **Dale Shively**, Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Artificial Reef Program. Look in next issue of *Currents* for a similarly formatted social meeting in mid-February.

While there are strategic items under discussion now, the Banquet Committee will start meeting formally every other Tuesday beginning January 10, 2017 at 6 pm at **The Barn Door**. Come out and join us, and get involved with a great group of people doing great things to help our coastal marine fisheries! It is not all work, but

fun as well. New ideas are always welcome! Contact Banquet Chairman **Rick Neitzel** (email tasicorneitzel@aol.com) for any questions.

Have a blessed and happy holiday season, and take a kid fishing. –**Mike Sarosdy**
urodoc@drsarosdy.com

San Bernard
Jayson Zahradnik
832-535-7738
jayson.zahradnik@alleytonresource.com

Hello CCA members. I hope everyone had a great Halloween and Thanksgiving. Just a

friendly reminder that the new year will be here soon, and I would like to invite all of you to our upcoming **2017 San Bernard Chapter Annual Banquet on February 23**. Come out and enjoy great food, friends, fundraising and fun! Please save the date. As always we will be pre-selling raffle tickets and there will be more details to follow. The winter trout will be biting soon, and I hope everyone has a great Christmas! Until next time, fish on. –**Jayson Zahradnik**

San Gabriel
John Melnar 512- 497-8284

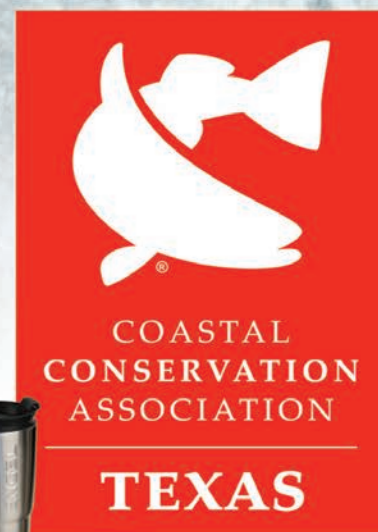
Wow and THANK YOU is all we can say about all our Donors and Attendees at our 14th Annual San Gabriel Chapter Banquet held in September. Once again, we were able exceed our goals and drive home CCA conservation efforts for San Ga-

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This year's banquet was a fun-filled and exciting event with some great sponsor offerings that allowed us to enhance the experience of those who came. We had our first ever fully-equipped hunting Jeep CJ7 raffle that everyone wanted. Our Yeti/Gun raffle was the best this year in terms of gun selection, and our Live Auction was off-the-hook with a fantastic group of prime fishing and hunting trips. Our board-sponsored and guided fishing trip is always popular with good friends who just have to show up and fish - everything else is taken care of!

All that said, San Gabriel needs your help to continue our momentum of CCA support in making our 15th Annual Banquet the best yet; we are seeking to recruit new like-minded friends to help. Whether you would like to join our list of generous sponsors, purchase a reserved table with a group of your fishing buddies or simply buy a single ticket at the door, the most important thing you can do to help support our chapter is attend this event and help spread the word!

So, grab ahold of your fishing buddies and plan to come to our **15th Annual Banquet in August 2017!** We promise you will have fun and enjoy what San Gabriel puts together. If you would like more information on becoming a sponsor or purchasing a reserved table, please contact me or any other board member. We are always looking for more help with our banquet committee, and we will need it as we grow this year, so please let me know if you would like to get involved. -**Darryl Hanson** Darhans@aol.com

San Jacinto

Jim Wilson 713-828-7639

This past May we had our Annual Sunshine Kids Fishing (SSK) event. It was a huge success - we had 23 SSK families, siblings, parents and boat captains, and everything was free for the kids! Every SSK received a trophy. Food, drinks and goodie bags were provided by our donors this year: **John Powell, Kathy Vicory, Steve Daneile, Ted Sullivan and ACUTX Credit Union**. Lots of fish were caught, and everyone had a great time. This is our Chapter's favorite event to participate in!

Our 2016 San Jacinto Chapter Annual Banquet was this past June, and we would like to thank everyone who attended and made it possible. We held our Annual Youth Tournament on September 10, 2016 at the Sylvan Beach Pier. Fishing started at 8:00 am and ended at 10:00 am. Everything was free for the kids. This year we had 100+ kids in attendance. Our chapter and volunteers provided the bait, 80+ rod and reels for any child who didn't have one, food, drinks and trophies. Lots of good catches were had this year. In addition to the usual redfish, trout, sand trout, croaker and piggy perch caught, several nice flounder were also landed. Many thanks goes to **Boyd's One Stop for the shrimp**. A lot of volunteers were involved in this tournament. We had two radio clubs participate: **HAM's (Houston Amateur Mobil Society)** and the **Jefferson County Radio Club**. The radio clubs have participated in this event for several years. You wouldn't think that an 800' Pier is that long

until you walk it 8-12 times each way during the event! The radio operators make this event so much easier by calling in the catches to the judges. **John, Kathy and Nicole Wood** provided the food, chips, pickles, drinks, cookies, condiments, sausages and the cookers for several years at their own expense. **The Dickenson HS FFA** has helped the Woods for the last six years with this event.

Our Chapter had a full team for the ICC this year. We had a good catch of trout, but unfortunately no redfish. Maybe next year! A final thank you goes out to the **city of LaPorte** for the generous use of their pier and equipment. -**Steve Wilson**

Southwestern

Veronica Oliver 830-765-6228

TAMU

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Tri-County
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Trinity Valley

John Hebert Jr 936-334-2528

As 2016 is coming to a close, we are looking forward to another fantastic year. 2017 is full of great events and opportunities, the first being our annual banquet. We have moved it from September to February, in order to accommodate more members. We have already begun planning and are excited to announce that the **2017 Trinity Valley Chapter Annual Banquet will be held on February 23 at 6:30 pm at the Dayton Community Center**. It's going to be better than ever!

For more details please contact our Chapter President, **John Hebert at (936) 334-2528**. We would love to see some new faces and meet new friends who would like to join in on the fun. I hope everyone enjoys the holidays, and I look forward to a great new year! -**Jennifer Creel**

West Houston

Welcome new president, Ruben Delgadillo
281-808-1434

We recently held officer elections and would like to welcome new **Board President, Ruben Delgadillo; Banquet Chair, Carlos A. Vaquero III; and Assistant/Co-Banquet Chair, Jonathan O'campo**.

We are also excited to announce that our **Annual Crawfish Boil and Fish Fry** will be heading back to the newly renovated **Houston Farm and Ranch Club**. We have a fantastic board and some exciting things coming to fruition this year. We continue to have a great and growing

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by Herb Booth



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- > John Dearman
- > Sam Caldwell
- > Herb Booth
- > David Drinkard
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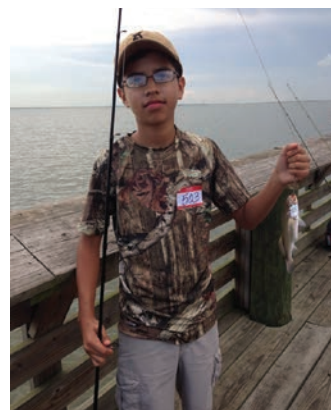
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board, and we welcome new ideas and new faces to help protect and grow our natural resources. We want our kids and our kids' children to continue to enjoy the coastal fishery for years to come. Please come out and get involved, whether by volunteering or helping sponsor an event. Tight lines everybody, and come out and see us! -**Carlos A. Vaquero III, (713) 545-8234**

West Texas

Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499



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Dawn Ambush

Wade Caldwell and Buck set up shop one morning on Jack Mayfield's stock tank.

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CURRENTS NEWSLETTER

December 2016 / January 2017

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Hands-on work to revitalize a wetlands estuary

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Air & Sea Rescue

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

The Texas Parks & Wildlife website is your starting point for almost 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.ogtx.com/>



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☐ MASTERCARD

☐ VISA

☐ AMEX

☐ DISCOVER

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

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Age: _____ Date of birth: _____

Credit card number _____ Signature _____

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