

CURRENTS

February / March 2017



C E L E B R A T I N G



O F C O N S E R V A T I O N

40 Years of Conservation

By Robby Byers
CCA Texas Executive Director

It is hard to believe that not long ago, there were a handful of courageous recreational fishermen trying to figure out a way to save the depleting populations of red drum and spotted sea trout. I cannot imagine this small group of fishermen had any idea that their efforts of saving these two species would then develop into one of the largest marine conservation organizations in the country.

That is exactly what has happened 40 years later from the inception of the Gulf Coast Conservation Association (GCCA) in 1977, and now Coastal Conservation Association (CCA).

As an employee of CCA Texas for 20 years, first as an Assistant Director and now as the Executive Director, it has been incredible to watch the growth of this organization.

In recent years, CCA Texas has experienced an all-time high in membership of over 65,000 members, record fundraising year after year, an expansion to 57 local chapters, an increase in our communications and advocacy, the contribution of funding for dozens of Texas habitat projects and had over 47,000 participants entered in our membership recruitment STAR tournament.

Our success story comes from focusing on all the corner-

stones of membership, chapter development, fundraising, communications, advocacy and habitat, all working hand in hand to create the organization which we have now become.

Membership- With 65,000 members in Texas, membership is certainly one of our most valuable assets and plays a critical role in the success of everything we do. A membership of this size allows us to be a key player in the political arena, forming the policies of fishery management on both a local and federal level.

It also provides an incredible vehicle for fundraising for our local chapters, as well as attracting all kinds of company sponsors. But most importantly, our membership has created a tremendous pool of dedicated volunteers who not only work at the chapter level, but also make up all of our governing Boards and Committees.

This structure that was designed by the founding members 40 years ago is still used effectively today. Our membership and volunteers are truly the horsepower of the organization.

Chapter Development- Chapter development is one of the primary reasons we have seen so much of the growth in our membership and fundraising. In the last 20 years, CCA Texas has grown from 28 to now an incredible 57 chapters.

These chapters expand from Beaumont to Brownsville along the

coast, inland as far as Midland and everywhere in between. Having more chapters is a simple concept. The more chapters you have, the more local boards you create, the more volunteers are involved, which in return produces more revenues and members through their chapter banquets. This has proven to be a very successful model for CCA Texas and all CCA states across the country.

Fundraising- CCA Texas continues to experience tremendous fundraising seasons year after year. Our bread and butter fundraising success is from the incredible group of volunteers that spends countless hours working to raise funds at their local chapter banquets.

These banquets continue to grow in revenues even during some challenging times. We have had two of our chapters break the \$1 million dollar mark at their banquets in recent years as well as another hitting an all-time high in attendance of 2,200. Our chapter success stories are endless.

Another reason for our fundraising success is we have been able to increase our revenue streams through royalties from the CCA logoed products sold in 85 Academy Sports + Outdoors stores, corporate sponsorships, Life Member campaigns, online store sales and CCA license plate revenues to name a few.

This model has generated an incredible amount of revenue and enabled us to put more than \$8 million dollars back into our coastal fishery resources over the last 5 years.

Communications-

As we all know it is important to be able to get our message and accomplishments out to



The first GCCA logo as a bumper sticker.

not only our members, but also the general public who are our future members. We continue to increase our focus on trying to do exactly that.

We have expanded the content of our award-winning *Currents* newsletter and *Tide* magazine, provided conservation articles for *Texas Saltwater Fishing* magazine and *Texas Sporting Journal*, increased our social media footprint (through Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) and have posted over 20 YouTube videos of our habitat projects.

The most exciting part of our communications is we have created a new media position that is focusing exclusively on our communications. So moving forward, it will just continue to get better.

Advocacy- The advocacy work of CCA is really what brings us all together. This is one of the reasons we all spend so much time working on the many different components of the CCA model; in the end we can help make our coastal recreational fisheries even better.

Through the years, we have had lots of victories and some disappointments, but I want to ensure all our members that we have one of the best advocacy teams we could ever put together. Leading our advocacy work, we have an

incredible Governmental Affairs Committee of volunteers from around the state that works closely with our two lobbyist in Austin.

We also retain an environmental law firm in Austin to assist us with environmental issues and freshwater inflows. In addition to our team, we have added an incredibly talented Advocacy Director who works with this group to further our conservation agenda.

Habitat Program- CCA Texas started a habitat program in 2008 named Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT). This program has participated in dozens of habitat projects to date, ranging from offshore artificial reefs and oyster and marsh restoration, to the unprecedented opening of Cedar Bayou.

In addition to HTFT, CCA Texas has played a key role in the creation of our CCA national habitat program, Building Conservation Trust (BCT). BCT is pursuing dollars from Federal grant programs, corporations, foundations and individuals to increase the amount of dollars we will have available to put into Texas habitat projects.

Texas will be the largest beneficiary of the BCT program with a projected amount of \$4 million for projects this year alone. With HTFT and BCT working together

on Texas habitat projects, this will be a game changer for CCA and the future enhancement of our fishery. Very exciting times!

STAR- Our STAR tournament just celebrated its 27th year as the premier CCA Texas membership recruitment tournament.

This tournament had over 47,000 participants enter this past year, all of whom became members. STAR has become an incredible program for CCA Texas in bringing members to the organization, not to mention all the millions of dollars of prizes awarded as well as over \$5.5 million dollars in youth scholarships to date.

STAFF- You cannot mention all the different CCA Texas categories of success without looking internally at the incredible professional team we have at the CCA office.

For those who may not have worked on a personal level with any of them yet, we have a truly world class group of people. The 13 full-time CCA Texas staff members that we have are the most dedicated and loyal group you would ever want working with this organization.

I think one of the main reasons our team is so successful, is that they all believe deeply in what CCA stands for. With the help from volunteers and staff, we have been able to take something that was started from the founders 40

years ago and grow it into something they all would be proud to see.

Although CCA stands for something bigger than all of us, we can all be proud to call it our own.

September 25, 2014: The middle Texas coast underwent a "double bypass," with the historic reopening of Cedar Bayou and Vinson's Slough. Essential arteries for water exchange, a highway for larval and fish migration has been re-gifted to the public of Texas. —Mark Ray, CCA Texas Chairman. Photo by Lisa Laskowski



CELEBRATING
40
YEARS
OF CONSERVATION



28th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo

**Early Bird Registration Deadline is
FRIDAY, APRIL 28**

**Register NOW for the Early Bird
Drawings Before Time Runs Out!**

YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN TO WIN! ATTENTION ALL ANGLERS PLANNING TO FISH THE TEXAS COAST THIS SUMMER! In order to win one of \$1,000,000 in prizes being offered in Texas's largest, richest, summer-long saltwater fishing event, an angler must be a **CURRENT** member of CCA, in addition to being registered as a **2017 TEXAS STAR entrant**. The CCA membership fee is \$30 annually, and the 2017 STAR Tournament fee is \$25 for a total of \$55. In order to win at STAR, an angler must be registered and be a current member of CCA.

YOUNG ANGLERS FISH FOR FREE! For young anglers ages 6-17, the "Youth" membership fee remains \$10 annually, and the STAR entry fee is **FREE!!!** Of course, we want all kids on the water. CCA "Youth" members will continue to have the opportunity to win giant scholarships to fund their college education for just the price of a \$10 CCA "Youth" Membership. We thank our generous sponsors for making it possible for us to offer young anglers this great opportunity. **To be eligible to fish STAR, "Youth" Members MUST BE at least 6 years of age in 2017 and under age 18 to enter for FREE. It is the "Youth" Member's responsibility to make sure their CCA membership is current and that they are registered for the current year STAR tournament.**

As you start making plans, be on the lookout in your mailbox. Our great partner, Academy Sports + Outdoors, will be sending all current CCA Texas members a very special bonus as a reminder and to help with some of your fishing expenses. We also want to remind you to take advantage of all the other great Early Bird and Member incentives that are available to CCA Texas STAR participants. Be sure and register now to get into the Early Bird Drawings. **Several prizes will be given away and they're sure to be a reel catch! Be sure and get everyone signed up for the 2017 STAR! Please see below for more details:**

2017 EARLY BIRD DRAWINGS! Don't forget, by signing up now you could win one of the many great prize offerings just for registering early! Check out the special "Early Bird" prizes below, available **ONLY** for those entrants who sign up before the tournament kicks off. The "Early Bird" Promotion will again offer another awesome "Grand Prize" boat package: the awesome Dargel 210 Skout with a 150 HP motor and McClain trailer – a prize package valued at around \$35,000! Everyone ages 21 and over who signs up **now through April 28** will automatically be entered into this special drawing, along with the 20 other great prizes being offered. Everyone age 20 and under who signs up **now through April 28** will automatically be entered for the 20 other great "Early Bird" prizes.



Mark Jupe of Saint Hedwig, Texas was the lucky winner of the 2016 "Early Bird" Grand Prize, a Dargel 210 Skout boat, Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax motor and McClain trailer. This could be you!

You know you'll go, so you might as well do it now! Remember, everyone entered in the STAR Tournament, who will be at least 6 years old in 2017 is eligible to win the prizes being offered, *even the TAGGED REDFISH DIVISION!* You can sign up NOW online at www.startournament.org!!! Don't miss "the boat" or "the truck and boat"... register today!

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

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



We somberly inform all CCA members that over Christmas the state of Texas lost a giant in the outdoors world, David Drinkard. Besides being a spectacular artist, and conservationist, and husband and father....and friend—he was a notable man of God. His faith was transcendent, and can be seen in the work of his paintbrush.

He loved CCA, and members will note that his dedication to kids and the CCA mission has generated hundreds of thousands of dollars to the STAR scholarships. No finer sportsman alive could surpass his generosity to the resources we love so dearly. We salute his honor and gentle spirit, but grieve the loss of such a man. In memoriam, his dear wife Beverly requested donations be made to further extend CCA scholarships.

We send love to his family, knowing his memory will live on with many—particularly every STARKid winner that can now go to college. What a legacy!

— Bill Kinney, STAR Tournament Director

We are elated to report a new friend joining us in the CCA mission, Shiner Bock! I know.....Shiner was likely the very first in Texas to have a "micro-brew" before it was trendy. Well, that little brew-ery not only makes fine beers, they support the lifeblood of marine conservation.....the volunteers of CCA Texas. We appreciate their superb products and their desire to ensure the solid work of CCA goes on. We are very grateful and will remember that when we pop a top!

Shiner BOCK

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

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



BEST IN TEXAS

2017 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT SuperCab with Haynie 23 Bigfoot, the Redfish Division prize.

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! 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

TEXAS FISH & GAME MAGAZINE "BONUS DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION!"

- We all love FREE stuff, and speaking of FREE stuff many STAR anglers have discovered the benefit and convenience of using digital technology and have requested we do the same. *Texas Fish & Game Magazine* is thrilled to announce that 2017 CCA Texas STAR participants are eligible for a

FREE one-year (12 issues) DIGITAL subscription. This subscription (normally \$11.99/year) will allow you to access the latest and most in-depth outdoors information anywhere and any time on your smart phone, tablets and desktops. Now STAR anglers have the chance to embrace the latest in technology, plus conserve our natural resources.

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

TILSON HOMES \$1,000 in FREE Upgrades - Every CCA Texas member who purchases a Tilson Home is eligible for a value discount. Tilson will give you \$1,000 off on any upgrade such as ceramic tile, hardwood floors, kitchen cabinetry and more. See ad in the CCA Texas CURRENTS newsletter, page 23 for more details or call 1 (888) 540-6705.

CCA Texas STAR Platinum Print Membership Package, Series VII - We're pleased to announce the new prints being offered for the 2017 CCA Texas STAR Platinum package are *It's On* and *Scholarship on the Line*. Renowned artists David Drinkard and Sam Caldwell have created two more fine prints to honor CCA Texas members. We hope you love these fine prints as much as we do! Your package includes your CCA membership (new or renewal), your 2017 CCA Texas STAR entry, plus one signed, limited-edition print of your choice, created exclusively for STAR, all for \$125! These offerings

are one-of-a-kind prints worth this price alone. If you would like to consider one, or several, of these limited-edition packages, go to:

www.startournament.org for more details or to place your order with the STAR Dept. call (713) 626-4222.

2017 PRIZE LINE-UP - One of our goals has always been to keep the tournament fee as reasonable as possible and thanks to our wonderful sponsors, we have been able to do so for the last 27 years. In 2002, we were able to begin offering Youth members (ages 6 - 17) the opportunity to fish the tournament FREE of charge. Over the last two and a half decades, CCA Texas STAR has been extremely fortunate to provide members of all ages with some really outstanding prize packages and college scholarships and 2017 will continue to offer the same amazing prize line-up this year! Contestants have a chance at winning over 100 prizes including trucks, boats, motors, trailers and college scholarships in the following categories:

Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division - Texas Ford Dealers continue to make this division the "Best in Texas"! They will again give each of the first five registered STAR participants who catch tagged redfish a brand new truck to get to their fishing destination in a tough, dependable and stylish ride. The first five registered anglers to weigh in a tagged red will receive a 2017 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" truck. Haynie Boats returns with the awesome Haynie 23 Bigfoot rigged with a motor and Coastline Trailer completing this amazing package. The next five weighed in will receive the same boat, motor and trailer packages.

For young anglers not of legal driving age and who reel in the famous tagged red, he or she will receive the boat package plus a \$25,000 college scholarship, in lieu of the truck.

Trout Division - ATTENTION TROUT ANGLERS! After years of requesting a more versatile boat prize in this division, we heard you! This year winners in upper, middle, and lower coast regions will again each take home the awesome Mowdy 22' V boat with a 150 HP motor and Coastline trailer.



Trout Division Prize: Mowdy 22' V boat with a 150 HP motor and Coastline trailer.

Offshore Division - ATTENTION BLUE WATER ANGLERS! Hoffpauir Auto & Outdoor Store

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



Polaris Ranger Crew, the STAR Offshore Division first prize.

STAR continues on page 6



Inshore Division - Shoalwater 19' Cat boat with a 150 HP motor and McClain trailer

Inshore Division - Each winner who reels in the largest flounder, gafftop and sheepshead will be handsomely rewarded with a Shoalwater 19' Cat boat with a 115 HP motor and McClain trailer.

In the past twenty-seven years, STAR has awarded \$5,850,000 in college scholarships to fisher-kids across the state, ranging from 6-17 years of age and 2017 continues to offer plenty of reason for everyone to round up their kid(s), a rod and reel and head for the water.

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

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

Houston Community Newspapers StarKid Sheepshead Division - This division gives entrants ages 6-10 a chance to win a \$50,000 college scholarship for the largest sheepshead caught throughout the summer.

Academy Sports + Outdoors StarTeens Trout Division - This youth scholarship division is open to all Youth members ages 11-17 and awards a \$25,000 college scholarship for each fisher-teen with the largest trout in the upper, middle and lower coasts. **FRIENDLY**

REMINDER... The minimum weight requirement for the STAR Teen Trout is six pounds. For all fish weighing less than six pounds, if there are no intention of mounting a young angler's prize catch, please take a quick picture and immediately release back into the water.

StarTeens Inshore Division - This youth scholarship division is open to all Youth members ages 11-17 and awards a \$25,000 college scholarship for each fisher-teen with the largest flounder, gafftop and sheepshead statewide.

But Wait, There's More...

Runner-Up Prizes - The first through fourth runners-up in all divisions will receive various gift cards from our long time partner Academy Sports + Outdoors.

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

STAR has reached \$5,850,000 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.

"Youth" Member Drawing - The "Youth" Scholarship Drawing will be offered again in 2017. "Youth" STAR participants at least 6 - 17 years old in 2017, are eligible for a bonus drawing that will net one lucky youth a \$25,000 college scholarship even if the participant never wets a line or enters a single fish during the entire tournament.

Member Bonus Drawing - This unique drawing offers STAR entrants a chance to win a fabulous boat prize package even if the participant never wets a line. One lucky contestant's name will be drawn to win a model with a Dargel 210 Skout, 150 motor and McClain Trailer.

Major sponsors for the 28th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament include:

Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Home Corporation, Capital Farm Credit, Mercury Marine, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, LP Building Products, Hoffpauir Polaris, Shiner, KTRK-abc13, Houston Community Newspaper & Media Group, Haynie Boats, Mowdy Boats of Texas, Shoalwater Boats, Dargel Boats, Texas Fish & Game Magazine, Texas Oilman's Charity Fishing Tournament, Coastline Trailers, McClain Trailers, Chris's Marine, Mt. Houston Marine and Shiner Beers

For more information, go to www.startournament.org
Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

2017 Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program

February 18th, 2017 8 am - 12 pm

Come out and make a difference!

Help us remove abandoned, lost or derelict crab traps from our coastal bays. Volunteers will help to collect, unload and count crab traps. Those with boats are also needed!

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/water/conservation/Crab_trap/Crab_trap.phtml

For specific details on collection sites or for more information about the program and how you can help, please contact:

Zack Thomas, Project Coordinator
Austin Headquarters
(512) 389-8448
zack.thomas@tpwd.texas.gov



Bolivar Crab Trap Removal this year

The Galveston Bay Foundation is expanding its crab trap removal efforts to Bolivar this year on February 18th. Volunteers should launch their boats that day and bring their traps in to Stingaree's Restaurant between 9am and 1pm for disposal. We need help from volunteers with unloading. — **Emily Ford**, CVA Volunteer Programs Coordinator
<http://galvbay.org/events/trap> eford@galvbay.org

2017 Crab Trap Drop-Off Site List

SABINE LAKE— Local TPWD coordinator Carey Gelpi (409) 983-1104 (ext. 222)
Pleasure Island Marina Boat Ramp — Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
GALVESTON BAY— Local TPWD coordinator Glen Sutton (281) 534-0110
Jones Lake State Ramp (Fat Boys) — Facilitated and trap drop-off site
Seabrook SH 146 Bridge Public Boat Ramp — Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
Fort Anahuac County Park Boat Ramp — Facilitated by Galveston Bay Foundation and trap drop-off site
Chocolate Bayou State Boat Ramp FM 2004 — Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
TPWD Dickinson Marine Lab — Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
Stingaree Restaurant and Marina (Bolivar) — Facilitated by Galveston Bay Foundation and Houston Zoo, and trap drop-off site
MATAGORDA BAY— Local TPWD coordinator Leslie Hartman (361) 972-6253
Mitchell Cut Boat (ICWW) Ramp @ Sargent — Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
Matagorda Harbor @ Matagorda — Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
Railroad Park @ Palacios — Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
SAN ANTONIO BAY— Local TPWD coordinator Norman Boyd (361) 983-4425
Charlie's Bait Stand - Facilitated and trap drop-off site
Port O'Connor TPWD Docks - Facilitated and trap drop-off site
Austwell Public Boat Ramp — Facilitated by San Antonio Bay Foundation & trap drop-off site
ARANSAS BAY— Local TPWD coordinator Chris Mace (361) 729-5429
Goose Island State Park Boat Ramp — Non-facilitated trap drop-off site

— **Zack Thomas**, M.S. Project Coordinator, Policy and Education Program / Coastal Fisheries Division Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (512) 389-8448 / zack.thomas@tpwd.texas.gov

Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR TEXAS MARINE HABITAT

CCA Texas Projects

1. Building Conservation Trust's Texas Habitat Fund	\$1,800,000
2. Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough Restoration	\$1,600,000
3. Oyster Restoration - East Galveston Bay	\$ 500,000
4. Nearshore Reefing - Port O'Connor	\$ 300,000
5. Nearshore Reefing - Matagorda	\$ 200,000
6. Shoreline Stabilization - Oyster Lake	\$ 200,000
7. Shoreline Stabilization - San Bernard NWR	\$ 200,000
8. Nearshore Reefing - Corpus Christi	\$ 100,000
9. Nearshore Reefing - Rio Grande Valley	\$ 100,000
10. Nearshore Reefing - Sabine	\$ 100,000
11. Nearshore Reefing - Galveston	\$ 100,000
12. Bahia Grande Restoration	\$ 95,000
13. Marsh Restoration - Dickinson Bayou	\$ 75,000
14. Oyster Reef - St. Charles Bay	\$ 75,000
15. Oyster Restoration - Aransas Bay	\$ 75,000
16. Oyster Restoration - Copano Bay	\$ 75,000
17. Marsh Restoration - Matagorda Island	\$ 70,000
18. Nueces Bay Delta Water Management Gates	\$ 70,000
19. Marsh Restoration - Bird Island Cove	\$ 53,000
20. Marsh Restoration - Goose Island	\$ 50,000
21. Nearshore Reefing - Freeport	\$ 50,000
22. Nearshore Reefing - Port Mansfield	\$ 50,000
23. Shoreline Stabilization - Cow Trap Lake	\$ 50,000
24. Shoreline Stabilization - J.D. Murphree WMA	\$ 50,000
25. Marsh Restoration - Oxen & Gang's Bayou	\$ 42,000
26. Marsh Restoration - Nueces Bay	\$ 24,000
27. Marsh Restoration - Snake Island Cove	\$ 20,000
28. Oyster Restoration - Deep Reef Sabine Lake	\$ 15,000
29. Weed Eradication for Water Flow Restoration	\$ 15,000
30. Bay Debris Removal - Aransas Pass	\$ 5,600

TOTAL FUNDED BY 2016: \$6,159,600

If you are interested in contributing to our Habitat program,
Contact Sean Stone at ssstone@buildingconservation.org

CCA Texas Advocacy

By Shane Bonnot
Advocacy Director – CCA Texas

Over the next several years, possibly decades, an unprecedented amount of restoration efforts will take place in the Gulf of Mexico. The Deepwater Horizon oil spill in April 2010 and the aftermath effects created a unique set of circumstances for funding Gulf of Mexico restoration projects through several funding streams. This includes National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, Government Trustees Restoring the Gulf Fund and the Restore Act funds.

Approximately \$20 billion will be invested in these projects, with Texas alone expected to receive in excess of \$700 million through 2033. One key component to these restoration efforts will be establishing, collaborating and conducting sound science and Gulf-wide coordinated monitoring to learn from mistakes and build on successes early in the restoration process. The State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit plans to do just that. The Omni Houston Hotel



on Four Riverway near Memorial Park will host this momentous event from March 26-31, 2017. If you are interested in attending, registration is now open at www.sgmsummit.org/.

On another note, we have been receiving a few calls and emails for an update on the San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund Site. Prior to the last publication of *Currents*, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) granted a 45-day extension to the comment period, which just closed on January 12, 2017. In total over 4,000 CCA members sent letters or emails to the EPA demanding that the responsible parties do what is best for Galveston Bay and safely remove the dioxin-contaminated materials from the San Jacinto River.

We thank you for your efforts and appreciate your dedication, passion

and commitment to protecting our coastal resources. Our expectation is that the EPA will make a ruling within the next few months and we will be able to share more information with you at that time. Please check out our blog at

www.ccatexas.org/blog and remember to subscribe to our podcast, *Coastal Advocacy Adventures* on iTunes, Stitcher Radio, SoundCloud, or Tune-In Radio for the latest on this and many other CCA related topics.

Top photo: Warning sign at the San Jacinto River Superfund Site.



Check out Episode 8 of the Coastal Advocacy Adventures podcast for more details!

Caught Redhanded!

Reports from TP&W Game Wardens

On November 11, Veterans Day, Game Warden Austin Pierce checked three men from San Antonio who were in possession of limits of black drum and several red fish. The biggest redfish was 43" long. After inspecting the licenses, Warden Pierce discovered that the man with the 43" redfish held a Texas Active Duty super combo hunting and fishing license which is free to active duty military personnel.

After questioning, the subject admitted he had never been in the military. A history check showed the man had obtained the same free license 5 different years prior to this year. A citation for fishing with an invalid license was issued and the 43" redfish along with five black drum were confiscated. Case and restitution pending. — Ram Coronado / Captain Game Warden, Region VIII, District IV

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





Upper Coast

By Capt. George Knighten

Slow and deep, but keep a topwater handy

As I write this, I pause to look out the window at my decimated back yard. January's freeze left a hibiscus plant brown, but on one small branch is a beautiful orange and yellow flower in full bloom. Texas weather has this guy as confused as can be. Depending on how the rest of this winter goes, our fish may be just as confused.

Ever-changing temperatures and weather conditions can be very challenging this time of year. I have found that in colder weather, it is actually easier to pattern the fish than when we get those warming spells. Cold weather means upper back bays with muddy bottoms, rivers, bayous and deep holes and guts. But cold water can concentrate the fish in certain areas and make for easy fishing. Warming spells can scatter the fish and make them harder to find, but they don't go far from those cold weather spots. Look for a warming shallow flat, and a drop-off or deep water close by.

The time of day can have a major impact on your success. Many days gamefish will wait for the warmest temperature and then feed. No matter what time of year, be looking for any bait activity. A swirl or a flipping mullet on a shallow flat this time of year usually means something is going down.

Slow and deep presentation is usually best, but I have caught some very big trout this time of year on topwaters. Bait activity near the surface will have me tying on a topwater no matter how cold it is. If I am targeting bigger trout, most days I will be wading and throwing slow sinking baits like the Corkys or Mirrolure 51s. My ideal spot this time of year would be a shell ridge that drops off into deeper water and has a break that transitions to mud.

Hope you have good luck figuring out this puzzle we call fishing. Stay warm and safe and on those good days, remember to practice conservation.
—Capt. George Knighten 832-310-9146
gtkphoto@yahoo.com

Middle Coast

By Capt. Danny Goyen

Cold? Head to sloughs off protected shorelines.

Water temperatures have finally dropped and will most likely keep quality speckled trout in the wintertime mode for at least the next couple of months. Trout will continue to be my target as we pursue this very smart and aggressive game fish in the Rockport Arena.

We continue to see positive results from all the fresh water that has invaded our middle coast bays. It is not uncommon to catch and release well over 100 speckled trout between 12 – 14 ½ inches as well as many up to 22 inches in a day. I encourage all trout above 21-22 inches be released.

There are many (weapons) artificial baits that are my top producers (or favorites) that have produced the most fish in or out of the boat and will continue to be effective in February and March. My four top baits I will continue to use the next couple of months are the new Purple Chartreuse Tail Saltwater Assassin, the Plum Gambler with a small portion of the tail dipped in white, the new Mirro-Lure Plum Floating Fat Boy Corkie and the 3" White Chartreuse Tail Berkley Gulp rigged 2' under a Cajun Thunder Mauler.

These four baits have been awesome. When water temps get in the 50s — which they will be as you read this article — we head to the sloughs off the protected shorelines because the water is deeper and the trout will continue to stage there and move onto the shorelines as water temps warm up. This is usually when some of the biggest trout are caught.

If you are not catching fish, switch to the Cajun Thunder Mauler with the Shrimp Tail Gulp underneath. When all else fails, this will usually get a bite.

Remember to keep an eye on the weather, send the big ladies back for further duty, note the major feeding times and go get em'.

—Captain Danny Goyen (361) 564-7470

goyenfishing@yahoo.com

Capt. Goyen is now the President of CCA's Middle Coast chapter.

Lower Coast

By Capt. Bill Sheka

Moving toward another memorable year

As I write this, the lower coast and environs to the north could experience a late freeze, but we are moving toward what should be a memorable fishing year. Of course, 2016 will go down as one of the best trout years in a decade. Without question, the bag limits of 2014 that reduced the trout bag limit to five, had a lot to do with it. From Matagorda Bay to the tip of Baffin, many fisher folks hit the bragging 30-inch mark, and there were even some lengths of 33 inches. Now, the flounder laws are reaping big averages overall.

In February and March, you will take special precautions to know what's coming up before you go out. Warm gear for all on the boat, of course, but also a plan the homefolks know about, just in case.

Day in, day out, I go to my Berkley Gulps, especially the shrimp models in New Penny and White, lures that smell good to fish, along with great colors. I love to work Gulps under an Alameda Rattler about 20 inches from the cork. If you are working deeper water and have a drop-off with very shallow water, use a jig-head of 1/8 or 1/4 oz. I prefer a screw-on jig-head to keep the Gulp in line.

For flounder, barely drag the bait on the bottom with a slow retrieve. For trout, give a slight rod-tip bounce and fall with no reeling; let the lure hit the bottom before you pull the jig tight again and repeat.

I would like to thank all the great people in our outdoors industry, especially those who came to Saltwater Legends in May to attend my induction into the Hall of Fame. I am honored and blessed to have so many folks who have been so kind to me.

Wishing you all great fishing and a fine 2017. May we have the best year ever for our country, our troops, our veterans and our nation's leadership.

—Capt. Bill Sheka www.billsheka.com

Great CPR photo: "Garret's Trout Release."



CCA Texas Social Happenings

Happy New Year!

2017 promises to be a big year, with lots of habitat projects on the horizon for CCA Texas! Be sure to follow along on all of our social media platforms, and subscribe to our YouTube channel to stay updated on the latest exciting coverage! Our most recent YouTube video features the 2016 "Oysters, Blues & Brews" event, a Gulf Coast collaboration at Goode Company BBQ's Armadillo Palace that benefitted the St. Charles Bay Oyster Reef and the partnership between CCA's national habitat program Building Conservation Trust and CCA Texas.

Want to keep up with the many ways CCA Texas is fighting the good advocacy fight? Follow our blog at www.ccatexas.org/blog, and subscribe to our podcast *Coastal Advocacy Adventures*!

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 koqonosky@ccatexas.org for consideration!



Facebook:

Here's a behind-the-scenes shot of a CCA Texas podcast recording session with Jay Watkins! Be sure to listen in by searching for "Coastal Advocacy Adventures" on iTunes, SoundCloud, Stitcher or TuneIn!
#ccatexas #joincca #conservation #advocacy

Twitter:

@CCA_Texas: So grateful for giving members dedicated to conservation!
To donate to CCATX: <http://bit.ly/2fN4c5c>
Photo, Lisa Laskowski #GivingTuesday



Instagram:

@cca_texas: Yesterday we delivered 50 buckets and dibbles to the @nrg_energy EcoCenter! These tools are used in grass plantings, and were funded by CCA Texas, @ccabct, @raestuaries and CITGO. Pictured here are USDA Soil Conservationist Scott Alford with CCA Texas & BCT Director of Communications and Media, Kim Ogonosky. #ccatexas #ccabct #joincca #conservation

Facebook: facebook.com/CCATexas

Twitter: twitter.com/CCA_Texas

Instagram: instagram.com/cca_texas

YouTube: youtube.com/ccatexasprojects



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www.ccatexas.org

Editor, Sam Caldwell

sam@samcaldwell.com

This is the issue of February / March 2017
Vol. 35, Issue 1

Chapter Updates

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:

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 713-501-2778

Aransas Bay

Welcome new president, Bud Kittle
210-279-7309

ernestkittle@gmail.com

Happy New Year to one and all! Karol Scardino was presented with a CCA Life Membership by CCA Texas and the Aransas Bay Chapter for her exceptional support of CCA, advancement/recognition of women's involvement in fishing and 14 years of service as Tournament Director for Babes on the Bay.

In case you are wondering, registration for Babes on the Bay XVIII has begun. A special note: Babes on the Bay XVIII will be held at the Fulton Navigation Park due to a scheduling conflict. 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 tee 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 April 15, 2017. All registrations received after this date and prior to the April 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.

Mark your calendars:

May 19-20: Babes on the Bay

August 12: Annual Chapter Banquet

Tight lines —Carter



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Austin's 2017 Shallow Sport Classic, with an Evinrude E-TEC G-2 175HP outboard.

Austin

Josh Cook 512-656-2964

Save the Date: May 11, 2017. If you like great food, winning cool prizes and having an unbelievably good time, all while supporting CCA, save the date because it marks the 2017 CCA Austin Banquet. There's simply no event like it, so plan on joining us again! Table and ticket information is available at www.ccaaustin.org. We'll no doubt sell out again this year so get your tickets early and don't miss out.

Our 2017 Banquet Boat has arrived, and raffle tickets are on sale! This 2017 Shallow Sport Classic is equipped with an Evinrude E-TEC G-2 175HP outboard, and it has custom casting platforms with tons of aluminum. She has about every option imaginable. Sitting on a McClain Custom Trailer, it's a stunningly beautiful rig and ready to explore any water of your choosing. Check her out at Anglers' Night Out, or take a peek at www.ccaaustin.org.

Sincere thanks to Denbow Company Inc. and S.WATTSGROUP, our boat sponsors, Wes at Shallow Sport Boats and McClain Trailers for making this special rig possible.

Tickets are \$100, and only 700 will be sold. You have two ways to get one. Contact a board member directly, or email Maureen Appling at mbapplingcca@gmail.com. You do not need to be present to win! Every year tickets sell out well before the banquet, so get yours now. **There's even an Early Bird Drawing for a Laguna Custom Rod and Shimano Curado!**

CCA Austin wishes all of you a happy and prosperous 2017 —Josh Cook

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

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! Our chapter is busy planning for several events coming up soon. **We will have a General Membership Meeting in January**, so please check our website for more details.

We also are planning two Fish Fry events, which were auctioned off at our last banquet and purchased by Cecil Delgado and also by Murphy's Steakhouse in Winchester. These events have been a blast in the past, and they promise to be winners again this year!

Also, we have started preparing for our **17th Annual Banquet which will be held at the K of C Hall in La Grange on March 30, 2017.** It promises to be a very entertaining evening again this year! We have sold out the past two consecutive years, so please get your tables/tickets early.

Our chapter hopes that everyone had a very Merry Christmas, and we wish you all a prosperous New Year with full stringers. Bent rods and tight lines to all! —Eugene Ulrich (979) 249-7425, Bo Janda (979) 639-1330, Trish Kubena (512) 581-2588

Corpus Christi

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

Happy New Year, CCA! The Corpus Christi Chapter officially kicked off our 39th Annual Banquet Season with our first meeting at **Dos Comales** on January 4. I want to say a thanks to the folks at Dos Comales for once again agreeing to host all of our chapter meetings.

The 39th Annual Banquet is being held on March 9, 2017 at the American Bank Center.

Doors open at 5:30 pm, and the night will be filled with numerous raffles and will also feature silent, blackboard and live auctions. Hunting and fishing trips from around the world, a 22' Majek Extreme, a 2016 Kawasaki Trans Mule, 20+ firearms, original artworks and premium fishing gear are some of the items that will be featured the night of the event. We are once again expecting a sell-out crowd, so please reserve your table early. Tables and individual tickets are available directly from our local chapter ccacorpustx@hotmail.com or call (361) 882-5199 and can also be purchased online at www.ccatexas.org/2017-corpustx-christi-banquet

Very important to our chapter are the sponsors who make the event possible. Thanks to **Andrews Distributing; L&F Distributing; Academy Sports + Outdoors; Ohmstede, Inc.; AutoNation Chevrolet Cadillac South Corpus Christi; and Flint Hills Resources.** We appreciate the early commitments from these great sponsors, and there are still some sponsorship opportunities available.

I would also like to thank our local board for all the hours that are given to putting on this fundraising banquet. Special thanks go out to **Joseph Briones and Judy Arnold** for their role as the 2017 Banquet Chairs. I look forward to seeing everyone on **March 9 at the Corpus Christi Chapter's 39th Annual Fundraising Banquet.** Yours in Conservation —Jake Herring

Dallas / North Texas

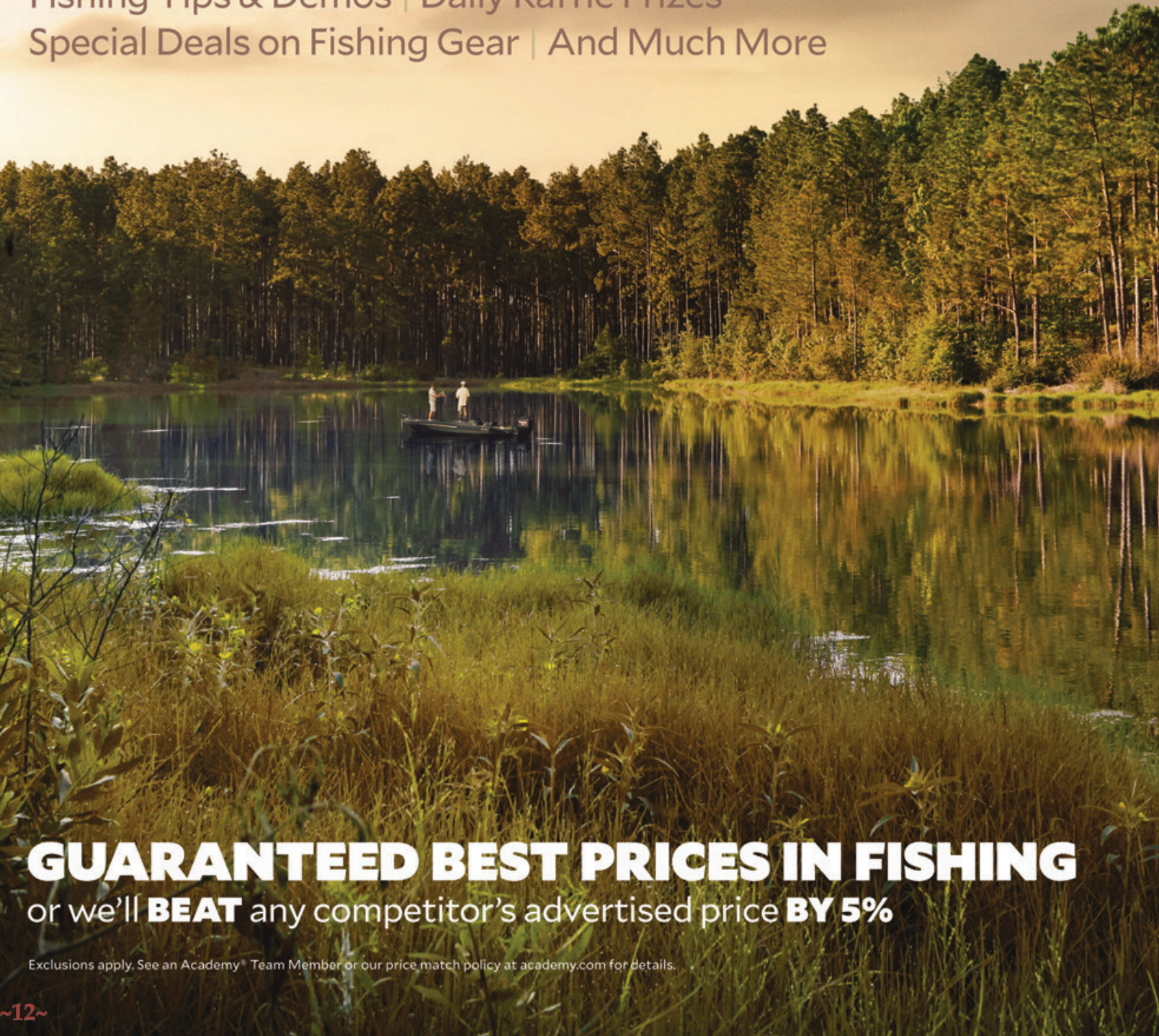
Welcome new president
Bill Graswich 214-226-2118
wbgraswich11@gmail.com

Welcome to 2017, Dallas-Area CCA Members! Wow, I'm glad 2016 is in the history books; that year wore me plum out! How about you? I need to change the oil, rotate the tires and re-charge my "Fun-O-Meter." Let's have some fun together this year. Isn't it great to be part of this CCA Texas "Thing" - a group focused on being care-takers of the amazing coastal resources we've been given. Many of us have salt water in our DNA, and we're avid coastal fishermen/women. So let's get inspired by a few words of wisdom from that great Texas Gulf Coastal philosopher: "Mugil Cephalus." Mugil has lived a long time along the Texas Coast and has seen a lot of fishermen come and go. He has watched us wade fish, kayak and zip across the flats on the dawn's early light.

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Even late nights on some pier when it was just you and the stars and the sound of the tide, you may have not noticed him, but Mugil probably was there with you.

Hear the words he gives us to start the New Year: 1) Spare the rod, spoil the day; 2) One good catch deserves another; 3) This, too, shall cast; 4) To fish is human, to throw back divine; 5) Flats fishing, the 100% natural replacement for sleep; 6) Good things come to those who bait; 7) A reel expert can tackle anything; 8) Things worth having are worth wading for... Feel free to use those one-liners with your fishing buddies. (Not responsible for high speed ejections from flats boats - use at your own risk!)

So for 2017 - here is a sampling of upcoming dates and events:

Wednesday, January 25, 2017, 6:30PM - CCA General Membership and New Member Meeting. Fly Golf, Lakewood Beer, Best Flies for Texas Waters. Location: Tailwaters Fly Shop 1933 E. Levee St. Dallas, TX. 75207

Thursday, February 23, 2017, 6:30PM - CCA General Membership and New Member Meeting. Topic: TBD. Location: Tailwaters Fly Shop 1933 E. Levee St. Dallas, TX. 75207 (Will update via email)

Thursday, March 30, 2017, 6:30PM - CCA General Membership and New Member Meeting. Topic: TBD. Location: TBD (Will update via email)

Thursday, April 20, 2017, 6:00PM - 37th Annual CCA Dallas Chapter Banquet. Dinner, Live Auction, Silent Auction, Raffles. An exceptional line-up of trips, art and other great items. Tickets are \$125 and include membership, or purchase a table for eight for \$1,000. For tickets, contact Drew Adams at dadams@ccatexas.org or (713) 626-4222.

Thursday, June 22, 2017 - 2nd Annual CCA Dallas Sporting Clays Event. Location: Dallas Gun Club. Details to follow.

Please consider joining in the fun. I look forward to seeing you there. - Bill Graswich

East Texas

Brent Rogers 936-554-4866
brent.rogers@merck.com

Fort Bend

Robb Gaston 281-239-9755

Fort Worth

Hunter Baird

817-437-8351

Golden Triangle

Jason Kuchera

903-780-8618

jlkuchera@yahoo.com

Happy New Year, CCA Members! I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas! And just like that, another year has passed; if you're like me, you're probably asking yourself if they are going by a little quicker???

The Golden Triangle Chapter has some exciting things happening this year. **The 2nd Annual Anglers Night Out at The Event Center is on February 23, 2017.** I hope you will be a part of this event, as it will be even bigger and better this year, with added bonuses that you can only take advantage of at this event.

SAVE THE DATE: May 25th is the 2017 Golden Triangle Chapter Annual Banquet.

Good luck with your New Year's reso-

lutions, and I hope "fishing more" is at the top of that list! Once again I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year - CPT Jason Kuchera

Greater Sugar Land

Robert Bailey

713-819-5534

rbailey@robertbaileypc.com

The members of the Greater Sugar Land Chapter wish everyone a Happy New Year! We hope you all had a great holiday season!

We had a couple of great speakers at our December and January General Meetings. In December, **Shane Bonnot, the new Advocacy Director for CCA Texas**, explained the status of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits and why CCA Texas is advocating its removal. He also spoke about the general health of the redfish and flounder fisheries. January's speaker was **Scott Jones, Director of Advocacy for the Galveston Bay Foundation**. Scott spoke about oyster reef restoration projects in Galveston Bay and touched on why GBF also advocates removal of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits.

Please note that the Greater Sugar Land Chapter has a new venue for its General Meetings: **Otto's Barbecue, 11222 Fountain Lake Dr., Stafford, Phone: (281) 313-6886.** Our meetings are still held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. I am working on arranging a guide to speak at our February meeting. Please join us for great speakers, food and a good time!

Also, just a reminder to **save the date for our 2017 Greater Sugar Land Chapter Annual Banquet: April 6 at the Stafford Centre beginning at 5:00 pm.** We now have raffle tickets available. Please feel free to call me at (832) 485-1338, or our Assistant Director, Matt Still, at (713) 626-4222 for details. Thanks and happy fishing - Bob Bailey

Greater Woodlands

Charlotte O'Dell 832-368-8263

Guadalupe Valley

Chuck Howard 361-275-9464

chuck.howard@att.net

Hays County

Tim Young 512-573-7939

hayscountycca@gmail.com

Heart of the Hills

Kelly Parks 210-669-3732

bucksdelucks@yahoo.com

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- > David Drinkard
- > Al Barnes



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281-370-6945

www.charliesgallery.com

Hill Country

Miles Engelke 210-260-8968

Happy 2017 to all chapters! Deer season is winding down, and my focus is on fishing and chapter events.

Our calendar is filling up fast; the following is a list of events we are organizing for the chapter:

April 2, 2017 will be our 5th Annual Social at the Red Barn in Seguin; our first General Meeting will be held in May; our Fishing Tournament will be held in June; our second General Meeting will be in July; **the 2017 Hill Country Chapter Annual Banquet will be held in August**; and we will finish the year with our third General Meeting. Pencil these events on your calendar, details including dates to be announced!

If you would like to get involved with our chapter as a board director, sponsor or vendor for our chapter meetings cast me a call at (210) 260-8968. Treasure the Trips - Miles

Our apologies to Life Member Bill Olson. His name was inadvertently left off the recent Life Member list in the December / January Currents newsletter. Bill, you're a valued CCA Life Member.



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Houston Real Estate
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Gary Mancini 281-850-2212
gman091753@aol.com

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

Lee County
Jake Horne 979-540-6117
Mark your calendars, folks, for the East Cut & PINS Beach Clean-Up on Sunday, March 12, 2017! Miller & Kathie Bassler have been putting together a great event that is celebrating its 9th year giving back and taking care of one of the most sensitive ecosystems in Texas. They are always looking for people to volunteer to help clean up the beach, and boat captains to ferry people to and from port to the clean-up sites. There is also a need for donations to help defray some of the expense that comes with putting this all together. In addition, they need people with 4WD who are willing to drive down to East Cut to shuttle people up and down the beach on the day of the clean-up.

There are lots of opportunities to give to this event! If you're up for the challenge, contact **Jason Seale** at jason@basslerenergyservices.com. Be sure to watch for emails, flyers and other notices in the upcoming issue of *Currents*, and various publications for more details. **If you are interested in volunteering or donating, please contact Kathie** at kathie@basslerenergyservices.com. Looking forward to a great 2017, and I hope everyone has a safe and successful time on the water! – **Jake Horne**, jake@aubainesupply.com

Live Oak
Welcome new president T.J. Harkness
932-723-6723
tandmenergy@gmail.com

Lower Colorado
Welcome new president
Stephen Zapalac
972-244-6633
stephen.zapalac@capitolfarmcredit.com

MidCoast
Welcome new president
Danny Goyen
361-564-7471
goyenfishing@yahoo.com

On behalf of the Mid Coast Chapter, I would like to say it is an honor to be elected President of a great group of gifted and talented men and women who are servants and who are ready to work for the cause. The Mid Coast Chapter elected a new slate of officers for this upcoming year: **President: Danny Goyen / Vice Presidents: David Jenkins, Curt Allison and Dr. Brian Burns / Treasurer: Tracy Jurek / Sergeant of Arms: Perry Rankin / Communications Directors: Gabby Benoit and Tylar Walychow**

With this group of officers and awesome board members, we are looking to have a great **2017 Annual Chapter Banquet in April**. **Curt Allison** will again be our Banquet Chairperson, who has provided exceptional talent and leadership the past few years; we hope to see this year's fundraiser to again be one of the best!

David Jenkins has been our past President the past four years, as well as our Boat Chairperson. He has again helped put together and promote our new boat to be given away at our banquet on **Friday night, April 28, 2017 at the Victoria Community Center**. It is another beauty! As mentioned in the October/November issue of *Currents*, it is a dark tan 22'-6" Mowdy with a 175 Horsepower Suzuki and dual axle coastline trailer. **Tickets are still \$100 each and only 700 will be sold**. If you want to purchase tickets, call **David Jenkins** at (361) 648-9185 or **Danny Goyen** at (361) 564-7471.

A big thanks goes to **Dr. Brian Burns** for putting together a great General Meeting this past November. We had a full house to hear speakers **Chad Peterek** and **Dr. Robert Adami**. Not to mention, the food was great at **Francis Marie's Restaurant!**

Another thanks goes to **Curt Allison** who

MidCoast's 22'-6" Mowdy with a 175 Horsepower Suzuki and dual axle coastline trailer.

put together an over-the-top **Christmas Party Appreciation Dinner** for all the active board members and banquet workers.

I hope everyone had a great 2016, and I'd like to encourage everyone to jump on board and get involved with your local CCA Chapter. We would also love for you to be a part of our Mid Coast Chapter Board. Please give me a call at (361) 564-7471 for information on the time and place for our next meeting. **Thanks – Captain Danny Goyen**

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

Special General Membership Meeting, Tuesday, February 7. As Guest Speaker, we'll have the CCA's new Advocacy Director, Shane Bonnot.

Come out for a great evening of conversation and conservation with your fellow Northeast Houston anglers.

It'll start at 6 pm, at **TIN ROOF BBQ** in Town Center, Atascocita Texas. As part of the door prize raffle, we'll have a couple of art prints from one of the original Northeast Houston Chapter presidents, Texas State Artist **Sam Caldwell**.

Let your voice be heard, meet new friends and get involved with your Northeast Houston CCA chapter. For more information, contact me —**Jason Law**

Northwest Houston
Alan Massey 281-414-6341

We want to thank Capt. Chad Handley with Vitamin Sea Charter who was our Guest Speaker at our December meeting. Contact **Chad Handley** at (832) 309-1029, vitaminseacharters.com to enjoy a great day on the water with Vitamin Sea Charter!

At our General Membership Meeting on February 7, we are proud to have Heather Schiappa from Galveston Bay Foundation as our speaker. Heather joined GBF as the Report Card Coordinator in April 2016. She graduated from Texas A&M University at Galveston with a B.S. in Ocean and Coastal Resources in 2010, and an M.S. in Marine Resource Management in 2012. While in graduate school, she was awarded a Graduate Assistantship to pursue research re-



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garding the current and future state of the Texas Coastline.

Heather also has experience working for multiple non-profit organizations in various capacities, and with the Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District as a Regulatory Specialist. She has an undeniable passion for the environment and looks forward to engaging the community in meaningful discussion about the state of Galveston Bay. As usual, it will be held at Houston Distributing on Cutten Road in the Stein room at 7:00 pm.

Coming up is our Annual Member Appreciation Fish Fry with all the fixin's, so bring your appetites on April 4, also at Houston Distributing. Our speaker will be the lively and entertaining Chicken Boy with Chicken Boy Lures.

As always, we welcome any current or future CCA members to join our Chapter Board of Directors. We have a great group of men and women and are always inviting more hands to grow our chapter! We meet on the first Tuesday of every odd month (March 7 will be our next) at the Houston Distributing facility off High Life Drive in the Stein Room, starting at 7:00 pm. We would love to see you! – 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!

Port O'Connor **Bill Moore 361-983-4690**

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and holiday season! It was relatively quiet on this end, except for the duck hunters, as the pintails finally showed up to go along with the redheads. So the duck hunting really picked up.

We would like to thank all who participated in the 17th Port O'Connor Chapter Annual Banquet and made it a sell-out again. Special thanks to our Table Sponsors – Bull Red Tables: Texcraft Construction LLC, Bates Shack I & II, Moxy/ Saathoff, Gary Littlestar, Texas Energy Concepts, First National Bank/POC, Capital Farm Credit, Salty Dogs, Sam & Stephanie Smolik, Coastal Bend Marine, Fishing Tackle Unlimited, Ray Luster, Fitzgerald, Ron Elkins Guide Service, Freedom Security I & II, Branding Works, Central Drug, Fish Dancers, Matthew May, Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine, Maverick Testing I & II, Mowdy Boats, 5 J Services, AJ Oilfield Services and REB Coastal Property; Trophy Trout Tables: Moody Engineering, Moody's AC & Heating, Mack Rhodes, El Pescador Boats, Mank & Michelle Lippold, Coastline Trailers, Barrett Ross, 4-M Whitetails, LLC, Kneipp POC LLC, Port O'Connor Rentals, Mid Coast CCA, Cindy & Sam Spears, Sonny's Marine, Dublin Real Estate, Capt. Rod & Crew and Dell Weathersby.

If you made any New Year's Resolutions, we hope one was to stay involved in CCA. As the weather warms, the chapter will hold another Membership/Banquet appreciation event. So if you are interested in getting involved, give us a call in POC "Where it all began" – Bill Moore

Prairie **Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103**

I hope everybody had a wonderful holiday! On December 17 we had our Annual Christmas Party at Randy Goebel's Man Cave. We enjoyed food and drinks that everyone brought. After the meal we had a gift exchange; few of the gifts made it around the room several times, and at the end everybody got a great gift.

We are planning our 2017 Prairie Chapter Annual Banquet that will be held on Thursday, April 6 at the Cat Spring Hall. This year marks our 20th banquet, and it should be one of our best ones yet! We are discussing having a special raffle to celebrate the occasion. We still have Corporate Tables available for the evening; if you're interested in purchasing a table, contact Kirk Hoppe at (979) 885-8868. We are also looking for sponsors to donate caps and tumblers, which are great items to advertise your business. If you would like to be a sponsor see any one of our board members.

On Friday, February 24 we will be having our Chili Appreciation Dinner that will be in the Cat Spring Tin Building. The chili will be prepared from scratch by our board members using the famous Kirk recipe. The evening will consist of a raffle and silent auction, and our guest speaker will be Shane Bonnot, CCA Texas Advocacy Director. We will also have 2017 raffle tickets for the Polaris Ranger. If you would like to purchase one of the tickets at the chili dinner see one of the board members. The drawing will be held the night of the banquet on April 6.

We hope to see everybody at the chili dinner and the banquet! Thanks
 –Ron Chess, 979-525-9254

Redfish Bay

Norman Oates 361-758-0266

We on the CCA Texas Redfish Bay Chapter Board welcome all of our members into the new year. We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and will have a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

The Chapter Board is starting to work on our 2017 Annual Banquet. It will be on April 29, 2017. As always, it will be a family event with a sit-down meal, beer, wine, cokes and water. The meal will include salad, entree and dessert. We will have raffle, silent auction and live auction items – many provided by our local merchants so that there are items of interest for everyone. In addition to fishing and outdoor equipment, we will have artwork, jewelry and home decorations. Our board members work hard to have a variety of items for virtually every attendee's taste.

In addition to the banquet, we will have the **Take-a-Kid-Fishing event at Woody's Sports Center the first weekend of June.** This is a great event for young fisherpersons! —**Norman Oates**

Rio Grande Valley

Louis Zimerer 959-3703-0799

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



San Bernard's Polaris Ranger 570 Crew

Mark your calendar for our two big Spring events. **Our 4th Annual "Hooked on Clays" Sporting Clay Shoot at the National Shooting Complex will be Friday, March 24.** Registration starts at 11:30 am, and the Clay Shoot will start at 1:00 pm, to be followed by a Crawfish boil and prizes and awards. Watch for emails, or contact Bob Brumby (brumbo@gvvc.com).

Get your tables and tickets now for our 38th Annual Banquet which will be held on May 4, 2017 at the ATT Exhibit Hall. Purchase those at the CCA Texas website, or contact **Joe Eaton**

(jeaton@eatoncontracting.com). If you want to have some real fun, get involved with the Banquet Committee volunteers, and pitch in. We will be meeting at the **Barn Door Restaurant** at 6:00 pm on the first and third Tuesdays of February and March, and then weekly after that.

Finally, we are planning another **Chapter**

Night Out on Wednesday, March 1 at the Barn Door at 6 pm. The two speakers will include a top CCA planner and a world famous fishing guide to give you pointers right before Spring Break. Watch your emails for further details!

Thanks again to our sponsors and volunteers who make raising money for the fish fun and worthwhile! Finally, remember to take a kid fishing. —**Michael Sarosdy, MD**

San Bernard

Welcome new president,

Ross Kutach

281-330-0135

rosskutach@yahoo.com

With Christmas and hunting season coming to a close, the San Bernard Chapter is looking forward to our **10th Annual Fundraising Banquet and Dinner to be held on February 23, 2017 at Riverside Hall in East Bernard, Texas.** Featured at the event will be a ribeye dinner with all the trimmings, in addition to raffle prizes and drawings. **For ticket sales please contact Jarrod Cavness at (281) 541-5684.**

The grand prize for our presale raffle boasts a **Polaris Ranger 570 Crew**, and second prize a **Club Car Precedent Golf Cart. A Benelli Super Nova .12 Gauge, AR .223, 65-Quart Yeti Cooler and Shimano Chronarch/Waterloo Rod Combo** round out the presale raffle. Tickets are on sale for \$100 per ticket, and you can contact your local chapter representative for details on how to get one in your hand.

After nine successful years in our chapter, we are looking at our 10th Anniversary to be another packed house, with the addition of new VIP seating. **Thanks to Silver Eagle Distributors for**

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providing the refreshments so there is not a dry mouth in the hall. **A special thanks to Hoffpauir Polaris in Goldthwaite and Fairway Golf Carts in Sugar Land** for working with the chapter on our raffle prizes. **Thank you to Mike Grigar at Johnny's Sport Shop in Eagle Lake** for his effortless support of the San Bernard Chapter.

We would like to thank the people who planted the seed for our chapter and grew it into the thriving organization it is today: **Original President Richie Domel and past President Jayson Zahradnik; Treasurers Doug Macha and Kenneth Schatz.** We sincerely thank them for their years of service. Thanks to all the board members that give their time to make this a great event and help to ensure that the fisheries we enjoy today will be available for our children tomorrow – **Ross Kutach**

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 Banquet held in September. Once again, we were able exceed our goals and drive home CCA conservation efforts for San Gabriel.

Special thanks to **Don Hewlett Chevrolet, Morris Glass, PMB Helin Donovan, NAVCON, Aday & Assoc., R Bank, RDO Equipment, Gibson Concrete, Independence Title, First State Bank, CHASCO, Utz Environmental, Tony Bagliore Concrete, and Cornerstone Site Services, and Allied Electric** who consistently and generously step up efforts each year to support make this event great and FUN for all who attended.

This year's banquet was a FUN-filled and exciting event with some great sponsor offerings that allowed us to enhance the experience if 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 was taken care of!

However, 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 likeminded 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. Sincerely—**Darryl Hanson** Darhans@aol.com

San Jacinto

Jim Wilson 713-828-7639

Southwestern

Veronica Oliver 830-765-6228

TAMU

Ian Kocher Mays Business School
512-632-9222
ikocher12@gmail.com

Texas State University
Alex Limon 817-880-4044
arlimon26@gmail.com

Tomball/Magnolia
Matt Maddox 832-571-7638

Tri-County
Christian Hildebrand 830-534-2730

Trinity Bay
Gerald Payne 281-728-6278

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Spring Cleaning

It's become a CCA family tradition: the Abandoned Crab Trap Cleanup, Big Shell Beach and East Cut Cleanups of Padre Island.



For complete Abandoned Crab Trap information— see page 6

The 22nd Billy Sandifer Big Shell Beach Cleanup will be held on the Padre Island National Seashore on Saturday, the 25th of February. Volunteers will meet at the Malaquite Pavilion park-



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Liz Hewitt, Editor



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- > 1/4 cup oil
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- > 1 Bay leaf
- > 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- > 1 small green pepper, chopped
- > 2 celery stalks, chopped
- > 1 medium onion, chopped
- > 2 garlic cloves, minced
- > 2 cups chicken stock
- > 1 teaspoon Old Bay seasoning
- > 1 can (14 ounces) crushed tomatoes with juice
- > 1 cup long-grain rice



Heat oil in a Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add sausage

and vegetables to pot. Cook, stirring, 5 minutes. Add garlic; cook 1 minute. Stir in stock, Old Bay, cayenne, bay leaf, tomatoes, bring to a boil. Add rice, reduce heat; simmer 5 minutes. Cover and simmer for 15 minutes. Remove from heat and let stand until rice is tender and liquid is absorbed, 20 minutes.

ing lot and the event will begin at 8:00 a. m. Admission to the park will be waived for all volunteers. All volunteers will be returned to the pavilion by 2 p. m. 4 wheel drive vehicles with operators are the backbone of the event; however those with 2 wheel drive vehicles are most welcome and can leave their vehicles at the pavilion and will be transported down the beach as space becomes available in 4 wheel drive vehicles.

Complete details at <https://www.friendsofpadre.com/>

9th Annual Port Mansfield Beach Cleanup will be held Sunday, March 12, based in Port Mansfield. We are working on donations of housing and sponsors and hope to be able to accommodate everyone from out of town with free housing on Saturday March 11th and Sunday March 12th. This will all depend upon the generosity of our sponsors and homeowners in Port Mansfield who donate housing. I need for volunteers to sign up via email with me ASAP so we can make plans on the numbers of boats we need and how much housing we need.

If you know you are coming, please sign up now and let me know if you need housing. Also let me know if you have a boat that you can captain. If you own a home in Port M and will not be doing the cleanup and can donate it for housing, please let me know. —Kathie Bassler 979-535-4593

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Port Aransas: 361-749-5217
Port O'Connor: 361-983-2616
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Houston, Galveston: 409-766-5620
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The Texas Parks & Wildlife website is
your starting point for almost anything
you need to know about outdoor Texas,
including links to many areas. Visit
www.tpwd.texas.gov

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