

CURRENTS

June/July 2017



Texas Insider Fishing Report
Airs every Thursday, Friday
and Saturday on Fox Sports Southwest




National outdoor show features CCA programs; potential viewership—many millions

CCA Texas has partnered with a new fishing TV show that has come to Texas named "Texas Insider Fishing Report" (TIFR) featuring host Captain Rick Murphy.

This unique show's format has been popular in Florida for over 14 years with the *Florida Insider Fishing Report*. Logo's for CCA Texas, STAR and BCT (Building Conservation Trust, CCA's National Habitat Program) will be promoted throughout the show. In ad-

dition, CCA will have an educational script in each episode that will reach a potential viewership of 11 million people. Our hope through this exciting opportunity is to continue branding CCA, as well as educating more people about the great work your organization is doing.

The show runs through September 28, and airs every Thursday on Fox Sports Southwest at 11pm-12am and repeats each Friday and Saturday from 7am-8am. 

Partners in Conservation



CCATexas.org



TexasInsiderFishingReport.com

Now airing, but on view in a city near you: watch for 36 billboards on state highways near Beaumont, Orange, Vidor, Weimer, Schulenburg, Austin, San Marcus, Pflugerville, Spicewood, Bastrop, San Antonio, El Campo, Bay City, Port Lavaca, Edna, Victoria, Rockport, Tivoli, Kingsville, Corpus Christi and Brownsville.

Shaking Things Up

By Ted Venker

For recreational anglers, good news is often hard to come by in federal fisheries management.

For many years, anglers have been frustrated by federal policies that seem to favor commercial harvesters, despite the fact that recreational angling is the largest economic engine in many of those same fisheries. While our opportunities have shrunk, and our access to some

fisheries has almost disappeared entirely, schemes that literally give private ownership of public marine resources to a select few commercial harvesters have boomed.

As challenging as these times have been, lately there have been some encouraging signs of the pendulum swinging back in the direction of anglers. For the first time in recent memory, a candidate who truly understands recreational angling is in the running for the post of Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries. NOAA Fisheries is the agency charged with managing the nation's marine resources from the

Lately there have been some encouraging signs of the pendulum swinging back in the direction of anglers.

seaward boundary of state waters out to 200 miles. It was originally created as the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and the bias in favor of industrial harvest has been ingrained in the agency ever since. Having someone like Robert Barham, who was most recently secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and has successfully managed both commercial and recreational fisheries, in charge would be a game-changer. Appointment processes are always an inexact science, but we are certainly hoping (and working) for the best.

Additionally, the governors of three Gulf states have made their recommendations for seats on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council that are up for appointment. The Gulf Council is the entity that sets regulations for federal fisheries and is com-

prised of 17 voting members who serve staggered three-year terms. For many years, it has suffered from a significant under-representation of anglers and the predictable result has been an onslaught of regulations unfavorable to recreational angling. The governors of Texas, Florida and Alabama have all submitted slates of candidates that would go a very long way toward leveling this playing field and establishing a true balance on the Gulf Council.

Finally, and most importantly, the recreational angling community has come together as never before to back legislation that addresses critical challenges facing saltwater recreational fishing at the federal level. The "Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017" (Modern Fish Act) would improve public access to America's federal waters, promote conservation of our natural marine resources and spur economic growth. Current federal law was designed almost exclusively to manage commercial harvesters and is hopelessly incompatible with recreational angling. The Modern Fish Act will bring parity to fisheries management and get anglers back on the water.

All of these developments represent a tremendous potential for America's recreational angling community and all are sorely needed. The federal fisheries management system has been dominated by commercial fishing interests for far too long, and it is certain that that sector will feel threatened by this multi-front progress. The recreational angling community should not be surprised to see a flurry of attacks using all the old tricks - indignant rebuttals, dramatic innuendo and vilifications - from industrial harvesters desperate to protect the status quo. As the saying goes, you know you're over the target when you start taking flack.

When the target is unraveling a historically biased system and finally achieving a level playing field for anglers, a little flack is a small price to pay. 🦀

ADVOCACY By Shane Bonnot Texas Oysters: Foundation of Texas Bays

Native Eastern Oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) and their subsequent reef systems play critical roles in our coastal ecosystems. They provide habitat for a variety of aquatic species, serve as organic biomass for coastal food webs, stabilize shorelines, reduce coastal erosion and sedimentation and improve water quality by serving as filter feeders.

With the ability to filter more than 50 gallons of water in 24 hours, one could say that oysters are the premium vacuum cleaners of our bay systems. While there are other filter feeders in the water, oysters are by far the most efficient and most valuable - both commercially and environmentally. They remove organic matter, inorganic particles and other suspended solids from the water column, and then package them into bundles and release them in the form of pseudofeces, which are utilized by other organisms for food.

As generations of oysters settle on top of each other and grow, they form reefs that provide structured habitat for many fish species and crabs. In a sense, oyster reefs are the foundation of our coastal ecosystems.

Texas oysters have been the subject of much discussion for many years. The compounding effects of hurricanes, tropical storms, droughts, flood events and unscrupulous actions by some within the commercial oyster industry have resulted in unprecedented destruction and loss of our public oyster reefs.

During the 2016-2017 oyster season, there was an observable shift in harvest tactics utilized by the commercial oyster industry. Appalling measures were taken to harvest oysters with little regard for the impact on our fisheries, sensitive habitat, personal property and public resources. Some tactics employed include: walking



Random sample dredging by TPWD in Galveston Bay. Caliper measuring determines a legal oyster, and one sack of oysters is headed for market.



the dredge up to the shoreline to harvest shallow water reefs, dredging under (and hitting) docks and piers, knocking down channel markers, dredging and cutting channels to venture further back into bay systems (St. Charles Bay), hand-picking oysters from shorelines, operating 4-wheelers in sensitive areas (spartina marsh and bird rookery islands) to retrieve harvest sacks and harvesting oysters from closed waters (e.g. Swan Lake, Drum Bay and Bastrop Bay).

One of the bay systems that suffered the consequences of such actions is Christmas Bay, a shallow

waterbody within the West Galveston Bay system measuring approximately 5,700 acres at mean high tide. Until this past March, Christmas Bay had not been negatively influenced by human activity and was generally considered a unique, high quality secondary bay system and - because of its abundance of oyster reef systems and seagrass - one of the most ecologically productive bays of the Galveston complex.

Christmas Bay also happens to be one of 24 coastal preserves under the Texas Gulf Ecological Management Site (GEMS) Program. Sites within the GEMS Program are considered high priority for protection, restoration and conservation by both state and federal governments. By March of this past year, with nearly 70% of the public harvest areas closed by TPWD, a significant

—Continues on page 6



28th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo

Be the envy of the ramp!

You open your wallet, and a check addressed to you for \$80,000 blows out. Do you chase after it or do you let it blow away? You chase after it of course!! So why would you let a tag on a redfish worth \$80,000 get away without chasing after it?

As you are reading this, there are currently dozens of these specially tagged redfish just waiting for YOU to catch one and take home a brand new Haynie 23' Bigfoot, Mercury motor and Coastline trailer! You may be thinking, "Well, that's great but I have no way to tow it." That's why you will also receive a brand new Ford F-150 to tow home your new rig!

Don't think for a second just because you fish such and such area that you don't have a chance at this awesome prize! CCA Texas STAR started the tournament off by releasing sixty of these fish from border to border. Get out there and claim your prize!

Do you remember that slime covered gafftop that you threw back? Well, that gafftop could also land you a brand new Shoalwater 19' Cat, Mercury motor and McClain trailer! You can win this boat with the largest flounder, sheepshead, or gafftop! If you need an excuse to take a young person fishing this is it! Kid's (age 6-10) can win one of three \$50,000 scholarships and youth (ages 11-17) can win one of six \$25,000 scholarships.

Even if they don't make it to the water, they are still automatically entered into a drawing for another \$25,000 scholarship! That's \$325,000 in free college this year alone!

Check out the story from Dillon Peltier who at age eight landed a gafftop worth \$50,000!

"I was raised on a family rice farm in Danbury, Texas. This is where I first fell in love with the outdoors. My paradise was sitting in the old Kenner at the 'gafftop hole.' I don't remember much from that age, but those nights of grinding for that one fish for the STAR Tournament is something I will never forget. So many gafftop, so much slime, and so many mosquitos! The STAR

has always been a great bonding opportunity for my father and me. Every year there are folks who catch a fish that would have won them a boat or scholarship, but they weren't registered in the tournament. My dad always made sure that never happened to us. He would tell every one of his friends along with mine, that they couldn't touch a line on the boat if they weren't entered in the Tournament. I now tell my buddies the exact same thing. Fishing is unpredictable, and one cast could change your life.

I am now 25 years old and fishing continues to be a huge part of who I am. Thanks to CCA Texas STAR, I graduated from Texas A&M University- College Station in 2015. After graduation I worked as a brand ambassador for GoPro, where my passion for filming and documenting the outdoors reached a new height. It inspired me to fire up my own apparel brand called "Paradise Pursuit." I recently acquired a commercial drone pilot's license through the FAA. I am now pursuing a career in the drone inspection/photography industry.

Sharing mine and other people's outdoor adventures through short films is something I truly love. It inspires others to get outdoors and spend some time in paradise, and we all need that." Thanks & Gig 'em." — **Dillon**

Check out some of Dillon's great work at www.paradisepursuit.com. Be on the lookout too for new STAR redfish release media by Dillon!

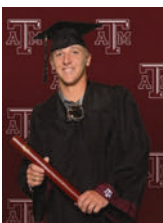
As Dillon pointed out, to be eligible to WIN one of \$1,000,000 in prizes being offered in Texas' largest, richest, summer-long fishing event, you must be a CURRENT member of CCA, in addition to being registered in the 2017 CCA TEXAS STAR tournament. CCA membership is \$30 annually and the 2017 STAR Tournament fee is \$25, for a total of only \$55.

Remember though, YOUNG ANGLERS FISH STAR FOR FREE. Anglers between the ages of 6-17 can register for STAR for free with a \$10 CCA "Youth" annual membership. We want to help get all young people out on the water and we wouldn't be able to offer our CCA "Youth" members the chance to win one of \$1,000,000 in prizes for FREE if it wasn't for our great sponsors. To be eligible to fish STAR for free, "Youth" members MUST BE at least 6 years of age in 2017 and under age 18. 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 make your plans to head off to stock up on gear and register for STAR if you haven't already, head on over to our great sponsor Academy Sports+Outdoors, where you can find any gear you might need and **register in person** in one quick stop.

MEMBER BONUS DRAWING- Think that you won't have time to fish? Lucky for you, we will be giving away another Dargel 210 Skout, Mercury outboard, and McClain trailer to one lucky participant, just for entering!

CCA TEXAS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS- On top of helping to make this event what it is our amaz-



Dillon Peltier the STAR winner, and Dillon, the CCA STAR college graduate.

ing sponsors continue to add value to your CCA Texas Membership. Remember to take advantage of the following benefits our sponsors provide you with your CCA membership!

- 🚩 Ford X-Plan Pricing (see details below)
- 🚩 \$10 gift card courtesy of Academy Sports + Outdoors
- 🚩 Texas Fish & Game Magazine online subscription (see details below)
- 🚩 \$1,000 worth of free upgrades with your purchase of a new Tilson home (see details below)
- 🚩 CAT generator with qualifying MustangCAT purchase (see details below)

- 🚩 Whataburger coupons in this issue!



BEST IN TEXAS

Ford X-Plan Pricing- CCA Texas members will again have the great honor from Texas Ford Dealers of using X-Plan pricing. For just a \$30 membership any CCA member can purchase (or lease) a Ford vehicle at Ford employee pricing!!! Our Ford Partner Code # is CCA61; go to www.fordpartner.com, if you are considering a purchase.



A SPECIAL BONUS FROM ACADEMY SPORTS + OUTDOORS- Just one of many great reasons to register for STAR is that Academy Sports+Outdoors will be mailing a \$10 gift card later this year just in time for dove season!! Thanks again to Academy Sports+Outdoors for this great benefit...and sponsoring **THREE \$25,000 SCHOLARSHIPS!!**



TEXAS FISH & GAME MAGAZINE "BONUS ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION!"- Not many people

can say no to free stuff and "Texas Fish & Game Magazine" is back again this year offering a FREE one-year (12 issues) online subscription to all 2017 CCA Texas STAR participants. This subscription gives you access to the latest and most in-depth outdoors information anywhere. Whether you are lying in bed or sitting in the office, you will always have access. So be sure to include your email address on your registration form to receive your free subscription! If you prefer the print version don't worry! You can still receive a print version, along with your online access, for only \$8 a year (vs. \$17.99). Be on the lookout in your email or mailbox for details on how to activate this offer! If you have any questions regarding your past or current subscriptions, 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 \$1,000 in free upgrades such as ceramic tile, hardwood floors,



cabinets and more. See their ad in the CCA Texas Currents newsletter for more details or call 1 (888) 540-6705.



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

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*, created by renowned artists David Drinkard and Sam Caldwell. We hope you love these prints as much as we do! Your CCA Texas Platinum 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 only \$125! These are one-of-a-kind-prints worth this price alone. If you are considering 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.

CCA Texas is pleased to announce Mustang® Cat has joined our family of sponsors. As the authorized dealer for Caterpillar, Mustang Cat is a Houston-based, family-owned business that has been active in the community since 1952. The company has recently invested in the region to upgrade its footprint. These enhancements include Mustang's headquarters on U.S. 290 and a facility expansion in El Campo that will serve the company's customers for years to come. As lifelong Texans, they also recognize the value of investment in the great outdoors of the region they are proud to call home. CCA Texas is grateful to welcome Mustang Cat as a partner in our mission to ensure our marine resources are available for the enjoyment of future generations to come. They are offering a free Cat RP 5500 portable generator with the purchase of new or used compact construction equipment models May 1 through July 31.



college scholarships in the following categories:

Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division- Texas Ford Dealers continue to make this division the "Best in Texas"! The first five registered STAR participants who catch a tagged redfish will receive a tough 2017 Ford F-150 Texas Edition truck to tow their awesome Haynie 23 Bigfoot, rigged with a Mercury ProXS OptiMax sitting on a Coastline trailer. The next five anglers will receive the same boat, motor, and trailer package. Registered young anglers not of legal driving age who land a STAR tagged redfish, will receive the boat package plus a \$25,000 college scholarship, in lieu of the truck.



BEST IN TEXAS



Trout Division- Again this year, upper, middle, and lower coast region winners will each drive home with an awesome Mowdy 22' V boat, 150 HP motor and Coastline trailer. (Eight pound minimum weight, please release all fish under 27")



Offshore Division- Hoffpauir Auto & Outdoor Store is back again providing anglers who land the heaviest Kingfish, Dorado, and Ling an awesome Polaris Ranger Crew 570 EPS UV in Polaris Pursuit Camo on top of a Big Tex 35sa trailer to cruise around in when you're back on shore!

Inshore Division- Registered anglers who turn in the heaviest flounder, gafftop and sheephead will get to drive off into the sunset pulling a new Shoalwater 19' Cat boat with a 115 HP motor, all on top of a McClain trailer.



StarKid Division (ages 6-10, \$150,000 Total):

- ✦ **Flounder Division-** \$50,000 scholarship for heaviest flounder!!
- ✦ **Gafftop Division-** \$50,000 scholarship for heaviest gafftop!!
- ✦ **Sheepshead Division-** \$50,000 scholarship for heaviest sheepshead!

StarTeen Division (ages 11-17, \$175,000 Total):

- ✦ **Academy Sports + Outdoors Trout Division-** \$25,000 scholarship for heaviest trout in upper, middle, and lower coast divisions!! (Minimum weight requirement of six pounds for entry)

- ✦ **Gafftop, flounder, and sheepshead-** Anglers with heaviest fish in each category will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship!!

THE PRIZES DON'T END THERE!

The 1st through 4th runner-ups in all division will receive various gift cards from our longtime partner ACADEMY SPORTS + OUTDOORS!!

Youth Member Drawing- All youth STAR participants (age 6-17) are eligible for a bonus drawing for a \$25,000 college scholarship, even without wetting a line!!

Member Bonus Drawing

One lucky STAR entrant will also take home a brand new Dargel 210 Skout, 150 HP motor and McClain trailer simply for registering!



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 Beer, KTRK-abc13, Haynie Boats, Mowdy Boats of Texas, Shoalwater Boats, Dargel Boats, Texas Fish & Game Magazine, Coastline Trailers, McClain Trailers, Chris's Marine, Mt. Houston Marine, Costa

For more information, go to www.startournament.org.

Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament!



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.

2017 Prize Line-Up- Our goal has always been to keep STAR fees as reasonable as possible. We would not be able to do this without our great sponsors! In 2002, we were able to begin offering youth (ages 6-17) the opportunity to fish the tournament for FREE! We have been blessed for 28 years to offer members of all ages amazing prize packages and college scholarships. This year's tournament will be no different, as we will be offering another spectacular prize line-up! This includes over 100 prizes such as trucks, boats, motors, trailers, and \$325,000 in

portion of the commercial oyster fishery was deployed to Christmas Bay.

Christmas Bay suffered greatly; seagrass was trampled, marsh-edge habitat was destroyed, shoreline reefs were decimated and litter was left behind. Christmas Bay has become the rallying cry by concerned anglers, conservationists and even some within the oyster industry for our state to do more to protect this public resource and the ecosystems it supports. CCA Texas has been working with state officials for some time now to develop additional protections for our public oyster reefs. There are several options on the table, two of which will be discussed in this article.

Establish Oyster Sanctuaries - This simple idea has several key benefits. First, a sanctuary will offer protection for oyster broodstock. The larvae produced by broodstock within these sanctuaries will be carried by currents and tides to surrounding areas, seeding nearby public waters and serving as a source for sustainable oyster harvests in the future. Because these reefs would be off limits from commercial harvest, they would be able to grow in their complexity.

One of the main arguments against oyster sanctuaries is, "If you don't work oyster bottoms with rakes, sleds, tongs and dredges, they quickly will be silted over by sedimentation." This is a misleading statement. It is true that our landscape has changed dramatically over the past century, and we do have more sediment washing downstream into our bays and estuaries.

The real problem, however, is that we continually work our existing reefs down to the bay bottom, which results in little to no vertical relief. If we would simply allow our reefs to build and increase their 3-D structures, complexity and height, there would be little concern about them becoming covered in silt.

Take the Sabine Lake reef complex for example: Measuring nearly four square miles (~2,500 acres), the oyster reef complex within Sabine Lake is potentially the largest natural reef in the United States, simply because we have not allowed harvest for over the past seven decades. In a bay system that receives substantial runoff and sedimentation, this is a remarkable occurrence.

Another claim against this process is that if oysters are not harvested, they will die from predation (crabs, oyster drills, black drum) or become covered in mussels. No successful predator or disease will kill all of its prey, and again, we need to look no further than Sabine Lake to refute this argument.

Sanctuary areas also serve as attractive locations for fishery managers, researchers, biologists and conservationists to conduct restoration projects.

CCA Texas has dedicated over \$6.2

million dollars in restoration efforts in the past 10 years, and the notion that we could embark on future efforts with guaranteed protection from commercial harvests is an attractive one. TPWD made significant investments to restore Dollar Reef in Galveston Bay after Hurricane Ike, only to have it decimated by the commercial oyster industry a few years later. Restoration projects funded by public monies should not be vulnerable to commercial harvest, plain and simple.

Oyster Sanctuaries: *Because these reefs would be off limits from commercial harvest, they would be able to grow in their complexity. The larvae produced by broodstock within these sanctuaries will be carried by currents and tides to surrounding areas, seeding nearby public waters and serving as a source for sustainable oyster harvests in the future.*

Protect Shoreline Reefs - Numerous scientific studies prove that oyster reefs on and adjacent to our coastal shorelines serve a unique function for our bays' ecology. Researchers in Florida have found that oyster reef habitat supported nearly 4.5 times the aquatic biomass found in seagrass beds and roughly 11.5 times the aquatic biomass found in marsh edge habitat.

Dr. Greg Stunz, Director of the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies in Corpus Christi, and his team of marine biologists have made similar discoveries here in our coastal ecosystems and are worried about the fate of our oysters.

"We specifically have become concerned with the recent intensive harvest of very shallow reefs (less than three feet) that have, up until recently, been generally released from commercial harvest," said Stunz. "Not only are destructive fishing practices used, but these reefs are likely a reserve for oyster spat and are particularly beneficial to our bays and estuaries. We have conducted numerous studies on the importance of shallow subtidal oyster reefs in Texas over the past several years. Our findings have shown that these areas support extraordinarily high densities of ecologically and economically important fisheries."

Moreover, the juxtaposition of these areas within the habitat mosaic—typically surrounded by other habitat types and free of harvest—cause these areas to be unusually productive. These areas are much more productive than deeper open water reefs. Thus, the intensive harvest of these shallow reefs is alarming and raises concerns."

Consider this: We, as a state, take extreme measures to protect our seagrasses and spartina marshes on our

coastal shorelines. We establish state scientific areas to protect seagrass and maintain fish habitat, and we require that spartina marsh be restored if any is disturbed by coastal development. Why would we not offer similar protections and considerations for our oyster reefs, which have been proven to provide unique services for our coastal ecosystems?

We are fortunate to have these incredible organisms provide essential fish habitat, stabilize shorelines, prevent erosion, remove carbon from the aquatic environment and make our water cleaner, yet we do so little to ensure that these critical areas are protected from commercial harvest.

The time has come for the State of Texas to take additional measures to protect this public resource and reverse these current trends. CCA Texas members are encouraged to speak up and share their concerns for our oyster reefs. If you haven't already, voice those concerns with your state representative and senator. In the meantime, check our blog (www.ccatexas.org/blog) and your email inboxes for updates and opportunities to speak up for our oysters.



New oyster habitat reef in place, courtesy of Galveston Bay Oyster Recycling Program—and your favorite oyster bar.



Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR TEXAS MARINE HABITAT

Keeping it Wild reef out of Port O'Connor now a reality

By John Blaha
Photos by Kim Philippi

Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT), CCA Texas's habitat program and Building Conservation Trust (BCT) continue to make progress in the restoration and creation of marine habitat along the Texas coast.

Most recently, the Keeping it Wild reef out of Port O'Connor became a long-awaited reality. The partnership with CCA Texas, BCT, Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation and Texas Parks and Wildlife Artificial Reefing Program recently deployed 500 pyramids in the nearshore waters just off the coast of Port O'Connor.

In addition, Shell Oil Company funded an additional project that deployed 200 more pyramids within the 381 acre reef site as well.

CCA Texas/HTFT has been involved since its inception, pushing and paying for the nearshore permit. With tremendous support from BCT and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, the recreational anglers fishing out of Port O'Connor will now have a nearby and easily accessible area to fish for red snapper and other species.

BCT has also funded Harte Research Institute to do a five-year study that will focus on the best configuration methods of these reefs, the abundance of marine species before and after and the overall impact of these nearshore reefs.

As this issue of Currents is hitting the newsstands, the Rio Grande Nearshore Reef will receive an abundance of reefing materials that include cinder blocks, rubble and some pyramids. CCA Texas/HTFT and BCT have partnered with Friends of Rio Grande Valley Reef to help create this unique reefing site that will create habitat for the full life cycle of red snapper and other species.

This project epitomizes the term "Grass Roots Effort" through the continuous and

tenacious efforts of the Friends of Rio Grande Valley Reef, and CCA Texas and BCT are excited to be a part of this project now and in the future.

CCA Texas/HTFT and BCT are excited for what the year holds and have approved \$530,000 in habitat work for 2017 already. With more opportunities on the horizon, we will remain committed to habitat restoration and creation along the entire Texas coast.

For more information about this habitat work, please contact John Blaha, CCA Texas Habitat Director, at jdblaha@ccatexas.org or Sean Stone, BCT Executive Director, at sstone@buildingconservation.org.



CCA Texas Social Happenings

In April, the “Keeping it Wild” Reef was deployed out of Port O’Connor. This long-anticipated habitat project is a partnership between the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, CCA Texas and Building Conservation Trust (CCA’s habitat program), along with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. An in-depth video highlighting the day, is up on our YouTube channel—check it out!

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 and keep following along on our blog and podcast, “Social Advocacy Adventures,” for real-time advocacy updates! 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 kphilippi@ccatexas.org for consideration!

Facebook:

CCA Texas recently partnered with Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program to restore 2,300 acres of marsh on Matagorda Island. CCA Texas contributed \$70,000 to the project that had an overall cost of \$770,000. This Project removed 4 levees, repaired 2 culverts and installed 1 new culvert. These efforts restored critical water flow and circulation, improved water quality and increased wildlife abundance and diversity. Thank you to our dedicated members and partners in conservation who make Texas coastal habitat work like this possible!

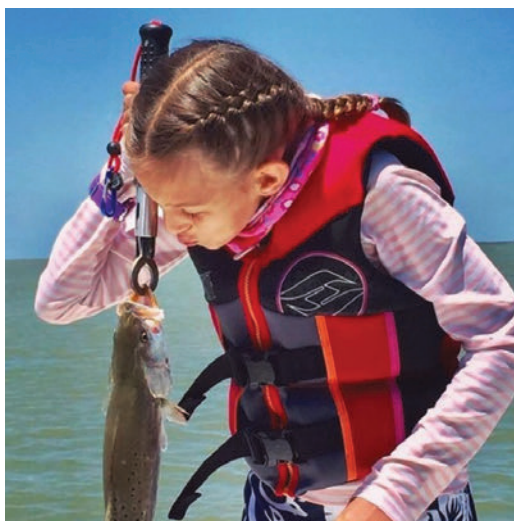


Instagram:

@cca_texas: Have you registered your kiddos for the 2017

@startournament yet? Entry is free with a \$10 CCA youth membership, and your kids could win thousands of dollars in scholarships as well as come close to kissing a fish, like our friend Karli here!

#ccatexas#joincca#takeakidfishing



Facebook: facebook.com/CCATexas

Twitter: twitter.com/CCA_Texas

Instagram: instagram.com/cca_texas

YouTube: youtube.com/ccatexasprojects

CCA Texas blog: ccatexas.org/blog

Twitter:

@SunshineKidsOrg:
#SunshineKids have gone fish-
in' with our friends from
@CCA_Texas! #fishing #fishing-
trip #thegreatoutdoors





Upper Coast

By Capt. Vincent Garza

Summer School is in Session!

A variety of schools are getting started as we begin the summer months! In June, be ready to beat the lines at bait camps and boat ramps. As for myself, I will be focusing my time on deep reefs, blind drifting in East Galveston Bay, keying in on active bait, slicks, or birds working with any kind of tide movement or sign.

I suggest drifting with soft plastics: Down-South Lures (limestruse) (Chicken'C) on 1/8- 1/4 ounce head. You can cover a lot of water and work different depths with one lure. You will be targeting speckled trout, redfish and flounder over shell and open water structure.

Once July is here, heat is in full swing, so make sure you pack plenty of water and sunscreen. The 'tide runners' as I call speckled trout, will be stopping at the deeper reefs and spoil bank areas on their way up the Houston Ship Channel toward Trinity Bay.

The winds will start to calm as we move into summer, so soft plastics will still be our main focus, but live bait can be deadly this time of year!

And with this mild winter we've had, the surf will begin to get green quick. No matter if you are a wader or like fishing from the boat, the surf can be epic this time of year, so keep an eye out for green water and null winds. The Upper Texas Coast has a wide range of game fish to target but nothing compares to the fight of a silver king jumping five feet out of the water off the beachfront on light tackle.

Please take the time to get kids outdoors to experience this great state we are so blessed to live in! Remember, safety comes first. Keep what you need, and release the rest.

—Capt. Vincent Garza

NPursuitGuideService.com (832)-221-0889

Middle Coast

By Capt. Danny Goyen

Shell reefs and grass, thanks to rain

Water temps have now reached 80 degrees on the mid-coast and will slowly climb as we get into the middle of the summer. Because of abnormally early warm weather, April trout are eating in full summer time mode. I cannot say enough about the positive impact that the fresh water which spilled into our bays the past two years has had on our middle coast bay area.

It might get tougher to catch trout on artificial baits as the water gets warmer, but the past two summers and this early time have broken all the rules. Thanks to all those rains, trout and red fishing has been excellent on artificial baits.

The average size of the trout we've recently been catching is way above average. We have had numerous trout in the 19-23" range. Many of our fish have been caught above all the new grass that has grown on shorelines that never had grass. This is, of course, due to those great recent rains. So, target grass next to sand whenever you can—this is a perfect ambush zone for trout and reds. Use a chart, because there are now an abundance of areas to fish on the middle coast.

In the early weeks of June, as the water warms, you will change over to fishing on, and next to, the shell reefs that are so numerous on the mid-coast. Because of the little critters that depend on oyster shell for their livelihood, trout will flood these reefs because of the constant food source. You will do the same. With what? Your choice, but over grass next to sand, I'll be using the new 5" Down South Keylime swimming bait or blue-back chrome top water by MirroLure. No action? Try a Cajun Thunder Mauler, tipped with a Gulp Nuclear Chicken.

You will look after your crew, practice conservation and remember that the next person you aid on the water just might be the one who comes to your rescue later. —Capt. Danny Goyen (361)-564-7471 cell goyenfishing@yahoo.com

Lower Coast

By Capt. Sally Black

Baffin Bay, Upper Laguna Madre, Land Cut, 9-Mile Hole

June brings high payouts with great early morning top water action along the shorelines for trophy trout. Then, moving out a little, mid-morning quality trout are available with soft plastics along edges, potholes and sand bars. When the sun hits the right angle (around 10:30am or so), get set for some super skinny fishing and an all-afternoon adventure of sight-casting to redfish and black drum.

Get an early start and be on the water at the "change," from dark to light. Fish love to feed on the change and will be found in the very shallow waters and shorelines, ambushing bait. Watch for trout "slicks" along the shorelines and fish where they originated. As the morning wears on, drop down along sandbars, grass edges and deep potholes to find good eating speckled trout. Saltwater Assassin 4" Sea Shad paddle tails or straight-tailed SW Shad in dark or light colors, depending on the day.

Cloudy weather, off-colored water, try a Morning Glory, Chicken on a Chain or a Texas Roach color, Plum (SW), or Rootbeer/Red Glitter (SW), all dark colored plastics. Bright, nice weather and clear water, try Mighty White, Sugar and Spice, Fried Chicken, all light-colored plastics.

Fishing with soft plastics demands a "natural presentation." The lighter the jig head, the easier it will be to fish any plastic with a natural motion. Try using "Black's Magic Jig Heads" in the 1/32oz, #1 hook size. Anglers are astounded at the increase in fish "catching" with this little piece of fishing dynamite. It has revolutionized many angler's fishing! The 9-Mile Hole is perfect for sight casting and fly fishing. A gigantic, shallow grass flat, the "Hole" takes a little time to crack the code of how to fish it. The 9-Mile Hole fishes more like a lake than a grass flat. The fish there like to hang out in 6-8 regular places. Mark those spots and the pattern of fishing there will emerge on the GPS. If drifting super shallow with clear and productive water is a goal, all anglers will love this spot.

Early summer fishing is so diverse! After the winds and changeable conditions of the spring, it's almost like taking a deep breath and a sigh! Fly fishing is always an option as the sun is high, the winds are low and the fish are shallow. Sight casting is a fun challenge and walking a long, long shoreline is cathartic and exciting all wrapped into one. Plus, it's great exercise and the shoreline provides lots of interest with a cadre of birds, deer, quail, turkey, coyotes and even nilgai gracing anglers with their presence. The lack of any development from Baffin Bay and south into the Upper Laguna Madre, Land Cut and the 9-Mile Hole provides a glimpse into the natural land of the last 100 years. It's unchanged and will remain so for a long time.

Baffin Bay Rod and Gun's Lodge is a great place to stay for your adventure of a lifetime! We have the best guides on Baffin Bay and a fantastic staff, including Chef Adam, who produces some very delicious food. BBR&G sleeps 20 people and we can't wait to show you how beautiful everything is at "The Last Best Place on the Texas Coast!" See you on the water! —Capt. Sally Black
Baffin Bay Rod and Gun (361) 205-0624
Sally@CaptainSally.com
www.BaffinBayRodandGun.com

Adam Gilvarry, a frequent photo contributor, sent this Great Photo with a note: "How 'bout Miller Bassler with this over-sized redfish release?"



Caught Redhanded!

Reports from TP&W Game Wardens

Texas Game Wardens uncover massive illegal seafood network

CCA Texas congratulates Texas Game Wardens who recently issued more than 200 Class C misdemeanor citations in a "sting" operation. Reminiscent of 1980-era undercover operations, the citations allege an array of violations, including unlawful purchase of aquatic products by a restaurant, sales and purchases of protected finfish, operating without a wholesale fish dealer's license and related commercial fishing-related issues. Additional cases are anticipated.

Based on evidence gathered during an extensive two-year investigation, Texas Game Wardens believe the illegal network has been ongoing since at least 2013 and could be the largest of its kind in Texas history. The illegal catches were made by a web of about a dozen unlicensed commercial fishermen and sold to the restaurants. Their catches consisted primarily of highly-regulated red snapper, along with other protected game fish species, including tuna, amberjack, grouper and red drum.

"This is a big deal, and exemplifies the critically important work our Texas Game Wardens do to protect the state's natural resources," said Col. Craig Hunter, TPWD Law Enforcement Director. "Not only did these unscrupulous actors violate recreational fishing regulations at an extreme level for personal profit, but they also circumvented restrictions and rules governing the possession, safe handling and sale of commercial aquatic products



intended for human consumption. That is not something we in law enforcement will tolerate and we are confident these individuals will be prosecuted to the fullest extent the law allows."

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) special agents and the U.S. Coast Guard provided assistance in the investigation. NOAA also filed felony charges against two recreational anglers in Freeport in connection with the case.

**Texas Game Wardens,
Serving Texans since 1895**

**Law Enforcement Off
the Pavement**



The Keeping it Wild Reef out of Port O'Connor will soon provide a superb nearshore area for red snapper and the anglers who seek them. Here are a few of the 500 concrete pyramids recently deployed by the partnership of CCA Texas, BCT, Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation and Texas Parks and Wildlife Artificial Reefing Program. Photo by Kim Philippi



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Editor, Sam Caldwell
sam@samcaldwell.com

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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

The 2017 Alvin/Pearland Chapter Annual Banquet will be held on June 15 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Pearland! Banquet planning is in full swing. We have Corporate Tables and our new Sportsman Raffle (12- prizes, 12-winners) tickets on sale now! Come out for a great steak dinner, drinks and a fun night of raising money for the fish. Do not miss out on this fantastic event!!

Our monthly General Meetings (Anglers' Nights Out) are held at 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of the month at Spring Creek BBQ, located at 9005 Broadway, Pearland, TX 77584. Check out our webpage for more info:

www.ccatexas.org/alvin-pearland. We will have a raffle at each meeting!

2017 Chapter Meeting schedule

May 2 – Speaker: Capt. Caleb Harp, Harp's Guide Service

June 6 – Speaker: Capt. Mike Lauret, Lauret's Saltwater Guide Service

July/August – GONE FISHING

September 5 – Speaker: TBD

October 3 – Speaker: TBD

Our board is always welcoming new members! CCA is based on great volunteers, and getting involved is what makes this organization so awesome. Come out and make new friends, and even bring your young outdoorsmen to show them what being part of CCA is all about. If you have any question at all about getting involved do not hesitate to call or email us. – **Emery Sadler**

Aransas Bay

Bud Kittle 210-279-7309

ernestkittle@gmail.com

Aransas Bay Chapter's 18th Annual Banquet is August 12, 2017 at the Paws and Taws Convention Center in Fulton, Texas. Come join us for a fun-filled evening consisting of: a live auction of trips, sculptures, art, etc.; a raffle; door prizes; and a silent auction. The Title Sponsor for the banquet is **Ron Hoover RV and Marine**. You may purchase tickets by contacting **Carrie Cox** at (432) 230-9060, or by going online at www.ccatexas.org/aransas-bay and clicking on the "Banquet" tab. For any questions concerning sponsor opportunities, donations or any other matters contact **Michelle Green, Banquet Chairperson**, at jeepgirl.green@gmail.com or **Bud Kittle** at (210) 279-7309.

Members from the Redfish Bay and Aransas Bay Chapters joined forces to staff a booth at **Rock the Dock Boat Show in Aransas Pass** to sell CCA and STAR memberships. Thanks for everyone's

support!

Babes on the Bay XVIII is now history, and the Aransas Bay Chapter would like to express our thanks to all of the entrants for their participation. A big thank you goes to all the vendors, volunteer TP&W Game Wardens who conducted the weigh-in, and the dedicated chapter volunteers for their support. A special thanks goes to **Karol Scardino, Tournament**

Director, for her continued dedication and commitment to making Babes on the Bay the world's best all women's fishing tournament. A donation on behalf of CCA Babes on the Bay, Aransas Bay Chapter, will be made to the **"Go for Fish, Not Drugs"** kids fish event sponsored by the TP&W Game Wardens. We hope that all of you had a great time and will join us again next year! Catch 'em up – **Bud Kittle**

Austin

Josh Cook 512-656-2964

As I write this, we are less than two weeks from the **38th Annual Austin Chapter Banquet**, and I am optimistic we will set records again this year. I am continually amazed at the dedication of our volunteer board in preparation for this event. Specifically,

I would like to thank officers: **Barron Johnson**, our Banquet Chairman; **John Kane**, Assistant Banquet Chairman; **Jason Magdalena**, Assistant Banquet Chairman; **Scott Sanderson**, Live Auction Chairman; **Dan Appling**, Membership Chairman; **Steven Benton**, Treasurer; **PJ Todd**, Community Relations Chairwoman; and **Dennis Blain**, Secretary; for their tireless efforts throughout the year in preparing for our banquet. I would also like to thank **Blake Masters** for his continued outstanding job as Boat Wrangler; **Mike Frisch** for managing the Silent Auction again this year; **David Ripka** and **Grant Kinchen** for handling all things Merchandise and Raffle; **Dan Alderman** for taking on the Chalkboard Auction; **Jeff Beck** for his continual help with logistics; **Jeff Kyrish** and **Paul Cox** as masters of all things 4X4; and **Cheryl Smith** for her ongoing amazing job at procuring donations. **Maureen Appling**, you are without question the master of all things ticket sales, and we couldn't do it without you. An enormous thank you also to **Covert Chevrolet** and **Independence Title** for their continued support that allows us to hold this flagship event every year.

Next up on the calendar for Austin is **Angler's Night Out at Abel's on the Lake on July 19, 2017**. Like the banquet, ANO is a blast, and 200 or so gather with us for fun, festivities and a free meal, compliments of **Smokey Denmark's**. A big thank you to **Dan Appling** for his ongoing lead role in managing Angler's Night Out! We always have a guest speaker, admission is free and you don't have to be a member to come. **SO BRING A FRIEND AND ASK THEM TO JOIN CCA!** We have awesome raffles with all kinds of great prizes. See you there!

Be sure to "Like" Coastal Conservation Association Austin Chapter on Facebook to keep up with everything our outstanding chapter has going on. If you want to join a fun group of folks and help raise money for CCA, send me a note about joining the Austin board. Now it's time to go fishing! – **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

The 25th Annual Brazos Valley Chapter Banquet was once again a tremendous success! Corporate

and Reserved Tables were at an all-time high, and attendance was outstanding. As always, our volunteers were ready and willing to do whatever it took to put this event together. We would like to thank our CCA Assistant Director **Drew Adams**, who is a key contributor to our success, and his team of workers who help to put on this event. Our sponsors and supporters in and around the Brazos Valley were one again there for us, and we sincerely thank you!

Our members were treated to dinner and drinks, supplied by **C&J Barbecue**, **Hilliard Distributing** and **Luke's Bartending**. Auctioneer **Nick Hinze** and his team of spotters did an excellent job, along with the lovely ladies selling the raffle tickets. Live and silent auctions, raffle baskets, games and the sportsmen's raffle drawing were again well supported.

Now that the banquet is over, we can shift our focus to what we enjoy most, which is fishing. Hopefully the weather will cooperate, and we will have lots of fishing stories for our meetings. Be sure to "like" CCA Brazos Valley on Facebook, and send us any pictures you might want us to share!

Brenham

Brandon Marth 979-277-0151

The 2017 Brenham Chapter Annual Banquet was held on Thursday, April 27 at Silver Wings Ballroom. Thank you to all of our sponsors, volunteers and attendees for supporting a fun night of fundraising!

In May, we will have a Chapter Meeting to recap our banquet and start planning our Chapter Tournament, to be held on August 4-5, 2017.

Our Monthly Meetings are at 6:00 pm at Mike Hopkins Distributing in the meeting room on the fourth Thursday of each Month. – **Brandon Marth**

Brush Country

Brenda Ballard 361-296-4037

To keep up with upcoming chapter events please follow our new Facebook page:

[facebook.com/CCATexasBrushCountry](https://www.facebook.com/CCATexasBrushCountry). For more information or questions, please contact Brenda at (361) 296-4037 or brushcountrycca@gmail.com.

Thank You – **Brenda Ballard**

Centex

Wayne Webb 254-405-1300

sheyhunt@aol.com

Central Houston

Todd Buster 713-545-1897

The 41st Annual Central Houston Chapter Banquet was held on Thursday, April 27, 2017. Blair Burnside won the raffle for the **2011 Hell's Bay Waterman**. Congratulations, Blair! We would like to thank everyone who sponsored and donated to our banquet, and everyone who bought sponsor tables.

A special thanks to **David deRoode** and **Fred deRoode** for their extremely generous donation of the 2011 Hell's Bay Waterman, and to **Lockton Marine & Energy** for being the Title Sponsor of the 41st Annual Central Houston Chapter Banquet. We are gearing up for the 2018 Banquet, so if you're interested in being involved please contact **Todd Buster** (tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com) or **Ian Beliveaux** (ibeliveaux@donatominxbrown.com).

Colorado Valley

Eugene Ulrich 979-249-7425

Greetings from the Colorado Valley! Well, if you didn't make our banquet, you missed a great one! This was our chapter's **17th Annual Banquet** – We had a full house again this year, and everyone enjoyed a very fun night. CCA is celebrating its 40th birthday, and we also are celebrating a victory for doing our part in contributing to our great cause.



The hard-working Colorado Valley banquet committee

Our banquet board members **Rusty and Trish Kubena, Bo and Gary Janda, Dave Fehlker, Danny Olenick, Kenneth LeFrance, Kendall Rhode, George Gold and Eugene Ulrich** worked very hard and did a tremendous job of selling tables and raffle tickets, securing sponsors, decorating the hall and planning our banquet to make sure the night's events went well. Of course we could not have accomplished everything without our banquet assistants **Laurie and Connie Janda, JK and Karie Brandt, Brenda Fehlker, Verlene Ulrich, Matthew and Stephen LeFrance and Mike Petras.**

Our chapter would like to send out a special thank you to our long time sponsors **Academy Sports + Outdoors, Brown Distributing, Capitol Wright Distributing and Ozarka Beverage Company** for their continued support throughout the year. We would also like to thank all the other sponsors who help make our program so great and beneficial to CCA Texas.

Thanks goes out as well to the **Knights of Columbus team** who prepared and served our delicious ribeye steak and shrimp meal. Many many thanks also goes out to all those who purchased tables for the first time and/or our returning friends. Thank you to those who donated items and/or supported our live auction, silent auction, bucket raffle and other fun games. Thanks also goes out to our Koozie Sponsors **M-G Farm Service Center and Dart Frog LLC; Miller NRG, Inc.** for being our Tumbler Sponsor; **Murphy's Steakhouse** for our door prize; **First National Bank Bastrop/Smithville, LaGrange Ford, National Bank and Trust, Power-screen Texas, Inc. and Round Top National Bank** for being our Print Sponsors; our Cap Sponsors **J&J Metal Works, Inc., Lakeview Glass and Mirror and Oviedo Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram;** and Live Auction Purchaser Cap Sponsors **Joe Rogers' Dozer Service and We Stitch LaGrange.**

We certainly enjoyed hosting everyone at the event and sincerely hope that everyone enjoyed themselves enough to come visit us again next year. Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all! – **Eugene Ulrich**

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

Good Day Fellow CCA Members, First off, another thank you for all of those who made our **39th Annual Corpus Christi Chapter Banquet** a huge success! Our chapter would also like to extend a sincere good luck to all the other chapters that still have fundraising events on their calendars. Our chapter is looking forward to the remaining events on our 2017 calendar.

On **September 9**, we are welcoming back our **Poco Rojo Kid Fish Tournament** at the newly renovated **CCA Marine Development Center in Flour Bluff.** The Corpus Christi Chapter would like to extend a great thanks to **Dr. Robert Vega** and his

crew for agreeing to host the event. **We would also like to thank the folks at the hatchery** for their continued efforts to sustain the game fish populations in our beloved bays.

Shortly after Poco Rojo the Corpus Christi Chapter will be hosting our annual **Babes on Baffin All Ladies Fishing Tournament on Friday and Saturday, October 6-7.** For those who have participated in Babes on Baffin, please spread the word, as even we onlookers can attest this is not an event to be missed! Additional details on these events will be blasted via email and social media.

One last thing – Save the date for the **40th Annual Corpus Christi Chapter Banquet on February 22, 2018 at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi, Texas.** Add the date to your calendar, and help us celebrate our chapter's milestone.

As the fog lifts from a hectic spring of chapter meetings and fundraising events, there is a motto that floats around our chapter, helping remind us that at the end of the day we are all in this for one reason – “it's for the Fish”. **Yours in Conservation – Jake Herring, (361) 244-0258, jakecherring@hotmail.com**

Dallas / North Texas
Bill Graswich
214-226-2118
wbgraswich11@gmail.com

Before you set out for that 5-10 hour “run to the coast” to go fishing, do you look at the “Whether” Reports (i.e. whether or not I should go fishing based on the expected weather) and the Tide Charts for the particular area you want to fish? Sometimes it really comes down to just wanting to get away, and this

is the only available time slot – But even then, we most likely check these reports to help formulate some sort of game plan, because nature changes! It is this “Nature” we enjoy to immerse ourselves in figuratively (and hopefully not literally) when wade fishing – Oops, pothole!

We look for predictability in an environment that is always different today than it was yesterday. But it is this ebb and flow exchange of water that weather and tides provide that supports a healthy coastal fisheries environment. It is interesting that the CCA magazine is called *Tide*, and the CCA Texas magazine is *Currents* – and probably no accident that both names relate to the same phenomenon.

We want that ebb to pull out the old, stagnant, dirty waters, and the flow to bring in fresh, nutrient-rich, clean waters. When you think of the scale of this natural process in an area the size of the Texas coast, it is humbling and awesome to think how small we really are and how vast and complex this “design” is. And how we, as part of CCA Texas have the opportunity to be stewards and helping hands of making the Texas coast a healthy environment; playing our parts in this life of being “givers,” not just “takers.” **Thank you Dallas Area CCA Members** for supporting CCA Texas.

The 2017 Dallas Chapter Annual Banquet was held on Thursday April 20, and you attendees really came through for CCA Texas. Thank You to our guests and donors. We really enjoy putting on this event for you each year. A special thanks to **Mr. Rick Pope, of TFO Rods**, who was the **2017 Dallas CCA Sportsman of the Year** awardee. If you haven't fished with a TFO fly, casting or spinning rod – you



Rick Pope of TFO Rods was the 2017 Dallas CCA Sportsman of the Year. On stage are John Hansen, CCA board member and former president Dallas CCA, Billy Kinder and Bill Graswich, President of Dallas CCA 2016-2017.

The Frontiers of Flight Banquet Hall was filled for the Dallas 36th Annual event.



are truly missing out. These rods are designed by great fishermen for fishermen, and are very affordable. The funds raised at the banquet go directly to our state organization to support those projects and programs that are making a positive change in the waters we love.

The 2nd Annual Dallas "Hooked on Clays" sporting clays event will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2017 at Dallas Gun Club (so ask for time off that day from el jefe – whoever el jefe is in your life) and join the rest of us for a great afternoon of clay busting, food, prizes and more at this wonderful facility! Info is on the CCA website and Dallas calendar.

We will be holding General Membership Meetings throughout the year, which we hope you will find time to attend. Again, please look on the CCA website and Dallas calendar.

Before closing I would like to mention that **Matt Scherer and Greg Resnansky** are now the Dallas Chapter President and Vice President. These guys are truly a great team, and each of them did an outstanding job this past year in putting together our April event. With any luck, they will lead the chapter for the next few years! They bring great experience and enthusiasm for CCA Texas. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have been the Dallas Chapter President this past year, but like the pull of the tides, it is time to bring in a fresh chapter leadership team. The waters are calling, my friends. Best Regards – **Bill Graswich**

East Texas

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

Fort Bend

Donnie Powers 281-850-9023

Fort Worth

Hunter Baird 817-437-8351

The Fort Worth Chapter experienced a record number in attendance for our Annual Banquet held each year at the famous **Joe T Garcia's** restaurant. Thank you to each one of you who were there to support a cause we are care so deeply about. For those that didn't make it - know that you are missing one of the best nights of being a part of the local CCA organization.

These funds go a long way to addressing critical needs and supporting our rights. **Joe White Tank Co.** were sponsors and donated to our live auction which was action packed and fun filled. Numerous trips from the upper coast to the lower coast and some international were fervently caught in back-and-forth bidding. As you so often read during this time of year, your board is taking a break to relax and head south for some of our own fishing trips. Keep an eye out for updates for the Fall General Membership meeting and fish fry.

We would love to hear from you if you have any ideas or suggestions. I'll end with a quote from Donald Trump, Jr. "Hunting forces a person to endure, to master themselves, even to truly get to know the wild environment. Actually, along the way, hunting and fishing makes you fall in love with the natural world. This is why hunters so often give back by contributing to conservation." (Forbes 2012)

Thank you to our members! —**John Black** on behalf of our Fort Worth Chapter Board of Directors.

Galveston

Dr. Ken Ellis 713-962-7731

Hello to all. As we look forward to many fishing trips this summer, let's resolve to preserve the fish we love: 1) Land them quickly, using tackle that is heavy enough to swiftly land your fish. Fighting a fish for too long can greatly diminish its chance for survival; 2) Keep them wet, and catch and release your fish quickly, without removing them from the



Win Galveston's great banquet Haynie 23' boat, and have dozens of new best friends.

water, if possible; 3) Handle your fish with care, with wet bare hands. Never use a towel, as it removes the fish's protective slime coat. 4) Pack it out, and take all trash and all leader/monofilament. Discarding can cause harm or death to fish, turtles and birds. 5) Clean it up – Commit to a local waterway cleanup program this year. We will be having a **West Bay Cleanup** later this fall. Clean water for all...

The 2017 Galveston Chapter Annual Banquet will be held on July 29 at Moody Gardens. We have tickets available now for tables of 10, at 4 different levels, as well as individual tickets. **Only 500 tickets will be sold for our Haynie 23' boat.** Please contact myself or any of our board members for tickets.

Tight Lines – Dr. Ken Ellis

Golden Triangle

Jason Kuchera 903-780-8618
jlkuchera@yahoo.com

Greater Sugar Land

Robert Bailey 713-819-5534
rbailey@robertbaileypc.com

The 2017 Annual Greater Sugar Land Chapter Banquet on April 6 was a huge success, thanks to our many wonderful volunteers! **Pam Canavan**, Chair of the Banquet Committee, put together a great event that was enjoyed by all. Thank you, Pam! Thank you also to **Jeff Flasiak** for the great graphics, putting the print program together and running the Grand Slam fishing wheel contest and bean bag toss, among other things. Also, unsung heroes now sung: **Joel Canavan, Robert Copeland, Ginger Truan, Michael Lindley, Paul Lawson, Buford and Sharon Jurica, Tara Jurica, JoAnne Jurica, Judy Kveton, Bob & Barbara Hilliard, Gary Blanchette, Mike Spero, Conrad Kerr, Lynda Breland, Steve Meyer, Sherry Wolf and Mike Bracikowski.** Finally, a special thanks to **Matt Still**, our AD, for working so hard to make the banquet a success. We raised substantially more than had been budgeted and had a lot of fun in the process!

Thank you also to our sponsors, your support is greatly appreciated: **Academy Sports + Outdoors, ACME Truck Line Inc, Alarich Wines, All Alaska Outdoor Lodge, Bob & Marcie Zlotnik, Sugar Land Skeeters, Brandani's Restaurant & Wine Bar, Capt. Danny Neu, Capt. Glenn 'The Hammer' Hammond - Coastal Connection Guide Service, Capt. Kyle Partridge - Get Bent Charters, Capt. Mark Salazar-Tides and Tails Guide Service, Capt. Martin Tunon - Strictly Artificials Baffin Bay Guide Service, Capt. Mike O'Dell - A Fishing Fantasy Guide Service and Outfitters, Capt. Richard Cabrera - Reel Hook Guide Service, Capt. Scott Reeh - Assault the Salt Guide Service, Capt. Stan Sloan - Fantastic Coastal Charters, Capt. Tom Hans, Cheesecake Factory Sugar Land, Chickenboy Lures, City of Stafford, Court Hardware, DermaGlo Skincare - Chanel Bermudez, Disneyland Resort, Duffelbags.com, Engel Coolers, Fishing Tackle Unlimited - Sugar Land, G&W Production Company**

LLC, Gary & Gerry Blanchette, Greater Sugar Land CCA Chapter, Hackberry Rod and Gun, H-E-B, Hotel Buenavista Beach Resort, Houston Astros, Judy Kveton, Lasagna House III-Westheimer, Les McDonald, MVPscreenprint.com, Next Level Urgent Care, Nothing Bundt Cakes - Sugar Land, Pam and Joel Canavan, Quail Valley Golf Course, Reel-Em Inn on the Bay, Regis Platek, Republic Service, Sienna Wine & Spirits, Silver Eagle Distributors, Six Flags Fiesta Texas, Soto's Kitchen, Sporting Adventures International, Sports Marine - Richmond, Sturdi Enterprises, Sugar Land Drybar Salon, Target, The Home Depot - Sugar Land, Vincent Ford Custom Clothiers and Waterloo Rods.

Our next General Meeting is May 3, 2017 at 7:00 pm at Otto's BBQ in Stafford. This will be our last General Meeting before the summer break. Meetings will resume in September. Our speaker will be **Urs Schmid, President of Saltwater Recon**, which provides real time conditions in Galveston Bay and area beach waters. The website is www.saltwater-recon.com. Its partners include CCA Texas and Galveston Bay Foundation. Please join us to give Urs a warm welcome!

Last, but certainly not least, **we are looking for volunteers for our Kid's Fish in The Meadows, the morning of May 20, 2017.** Please call or email me, **Bob Bailey**, at (713) 819-5534, rbailey@robertbaileypc.com, if you would like to help out. We'd be more than happy to have you. We supply everything but the kid. It's a lot of fun and the kids love it! – **Bob Bailey**

Greater Woodlands

Charlotte O'Dell 832-368-8263

We had our 2017 Greater Woodlands Chapter Annual Banquet two months early this year, and it is on track to be a huge success! Since the timing of the deadline for this article is a few days before our event, I'm very optimistic about our roster so far. So I'd like to thank most of our sponsors for contributing to our 10th Annual Banquet: **Academy Sports + Outdoors, VCC, Gullo Ford, Rock Materials, Premier Yamaha Boating Center, Capital Farm Credit, Reddico Construction, CDM Resource Management, Jeff Burton Insurance, WPI, Texas Marine, Professional Resources Group, Inc., Dalton Trucking, Thadd Tomchesson Insurance, Silver Eagle, Cajun Thunder and Michael Matlock Agency - Farmers Insurance.** If I missed anyone, I'll catch you in the next article.

I'd also like to give a shout-out to **Crisp - The Woodlands** for hosting our chapter meetings in their banquet room and our board meetings in their private dining room. We had a great group of guys from Saltwater-RECON speak at our **Angler's Night Out meeting in February.** They came all the way from Galveston! Check them out on Facebook.

We should be having a **General Membership Meeting in July** this year, so check our CCA website calendar for the date to be posted soon.

As always, send me some photos of your "catch of the day" so I can make you famous in our

banquet video. Be safe this summer and good luck to everyone in the **STAR Tournament! Tight Lines!** – **Charlotte O'Dell**

Guadalupe Valley Chuck Howard 361-275-9464

chuck.howard@att.net

The Guadalupe Valley Chapter would like to thank **Ana and Bill Bruce, Michael and daughter Alysa Johnson, and Judy and Walter Bruce** for putting on an absolutely wonderful crawfish boil for the chapter on **April 20 at the Anna Koch Pavilion in Cuero**. Bill and crew brought over from Houston a first class set of three cookers that took care of 200 pounds of mud bugs, sausage, shrimp, potatoes and corn in short order. Bill learned the fine art of boiling crawfish while stationed in New Orleans and serving in the United States Marine Corps. All 50 members who RSVP'd and attended had access to all they could eat and more. If you RSVP'd and didn't attend, we ask that in the future you let us know ahead of time if you cannot come, so we can respect the time of the volunteers, and of the cost involved. If we continue to have no-shows at our events, we may have to start charging admission, and we would rather not do that! Those who attended can attest to the great time we had, and we want to keep holding fun events like this in the future.

Guadalupe Valley will be raffling off a new **Polaris Ranger 570 Crew ATV** at the **2017 Guadalupe Valley Chapter Annual Banquet to be held on November 2 at the Venue in Cuero**. Tickets are \$100 each, and sales are limited to the first 200. The raffle ticket will be drawn during the event, and you do not have to be present to win. Sales have been brisk from the results I have seen so far. I know one board member who couldn't get out the door before he was tackled and forced to sell four tickets! If you would like to purchase a ticket before they run out, contact **Chuck Howard at (361) 275-9464** during business hours.

Fishing has been really good for our members, even with the excessive winds howling at the end of April and into May. Grassy shorelines with sandy bottoms have been holding both trout and reds in good numbers all over the middle coast bay systems. Croakers have returned, and that has also made a few people very happy. Those of us who first throw artificial before bait have been having some really great days using some really old standbys. Thank you **Tony Acetta**. **Yoakum area members and the Knights of Columbus Chapter 1582** put on the **5th Annual "Hook'em and Cook'em" fishing tournament** on May 5-6. **The Lamar Volunteer Fire Department** hosted the event in their new facilities, and from what I understand, they cooked 'em too. This was a great time had by all with good conditions, good sportsmanship and good food.

The CCA Texas Inter Chapter Challenge will be coming up on **June 9-10, 2017**. GVC will field a team and give it a good shot.

The next chapter General Meeting will be held sometime in late July or early August, 2017. Details to come at the end of June. For more information contact **Chuck Howard at (361) 275-9464**. – **Chuck Howard**

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

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

Hill Country
Miles Engelke 210-260-8968

Houston Homebuilders
Mack Davis 832-381-6130

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Lee County
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Live Oak
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Lower Colorado Stephen Zapalac
972-244-6633
stephen.zapalac@capitolfarmcredit.com

Mainland
Eric Minor 409-370-7379

tact a board member or go to the chapter webpage to get your table. **Dargel Boats** has gotten us a great boat this year, so stop by **Prasek's** to check it out and get your raffle tickets, or you can contact any of the board members to get them.

We look forward to a great 2017, and hope to see you all on June 29! – **Chad Hensley (979) 541-3239**

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

Welcome Midcoast Chapter CCA members and board members! We held our **2017 Annual Chapter Banquet on Friday, April 28 at the Victoria Community Center**. Thanks to all of the hard work of SO MANY this event was a huge success! We not only set records in table sales but also in several other areas as well. There were over 850 people in a packed house. This year, and for the past several years, one of the main reasons that this event has been profitable for CCA Texas is because of our Banquet Chairman **Curt Allison**. Not only has he looked over the final drafts of everything, but he is also a very gifted salesman. Thank you Curt, and also a big thanks to our Assistant Director **Coleman Todd**. Congratulations to **Allen Strelac** who won the 22' 6" Mowdy! Next up is the **CCA Texas STAR Tournament starting May 27**, and the **Inter Chapter Challenge on June 9-10**. – **Capt. Danny Goyen**

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

Northwest Houston
Alan Massey 281-414-6341

At press time, our **June General Meeting Speaker will be Bryan Slaven, "The Texas Gourmet"** – an outstanding wild game chef! He will be demonstrating by video how to make a seafood gumbo, so I hope everyone will join us for a taste of this great dish!

We would like to give a HUGE thank you to **Chickenboy with Chickenboy Lures** for being our guest speaker during our **April Fish Fry Membership Drive!** It was, as usual, highly entertaining and informative. We had stellar attendance come out and enjoy some fantastic catfish with all the fixin's! Our **board members** were in full force that night prepping and cooking for this event – thanks guys and gals! And thank you to our **amazing sponsors** for the night! **Brad and Ping Alpin with Blue Water Seafood** – Thank you for your generous donations! A big thanks also to **Houston Distributing** for hosting and providing the refreshing beverages.

Our next General Membership Meeting will be **August 1, 2017**. Our guest speaker will be **Shane Bonnot, Advocacy Director, CCA Texas**. He has 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, he was employed by Texas Parks and Wildlife, where he served for over 10 years as a hatchery biologist and hatchery manager – He will be discussing CCA's Advocacy, the hatcheries,



Matagorda Bays' 25' Dargel Kuda powered by a 250 Yamaha SHO.

Matagorda Bays
Chad Hensley 979-541-3239
Planning is well underway for the **2017 Matagorda Bay Chapter Annual Banquet**, and we look forward to another great event this year. It will be held on **Thursday, June 29, at the El Campo Civic Center**. We have begun selling tables and tickets so be sure to get yours early before they sell out! You can con-

migration patterns and a few other conservation issues. It will be held at **Houston Distributing, 7100 High Life Drive off Cutten Road in the Stein Room starting at 7:00 pm**, so please come enjoy beverages and some great information.

Lastly, PLEASE mark your calendars for Thursday, August 10, 2017 – We are holding our 28th Annual Northwest Houston Chapter Banquet! Preparation has been underway, and we are excited for another successful year of raising funds for our precious coastal fisheries and habitats! The banquet will be held again at the **Raveneaux Country Club**. We have sold out the last few years at this venue, so get your tables or tickets early. If you would like to sponsor a table or need individual tickets, you can contact our Banquet Chairman, **Rob Sziy** at sziy@sbcbglobal.net or (832) 971-1989. Or you may contact our CCA Assistant Director, **Drew Adams** at dadams@ccatexas.org or (713) 626-4222 for tickets. Pre-Sale Raffle Tickets for our Banquet are available. We are offering the Sportsman Raffle of 15 prizes, which – if you have bought these before – you know that they include some great guns, rods and reels, coolers and this year a \$500 Academy Gift Card. They are \$20 each or six for \$100, so get your tickets! You can purchase these from any board director or Drew Adams.

If you wish to help with our Annual Fund-raising Banquet, then become a director, and join us for every first Tuesday of an ODD month. Our next BOD meeting is June 27, 2017, which is our first Banquet Planning Meeting. And don't forget to "Like" Us on Facebook!!! – Alan Massey

Orange County Scott Bandy 409-988-3667

scottbandy77@yahoo.com

The 2017 Orange County Chapter Annual Banquet will be held on August 10, and preparations are in full swing! If you would like to join us for the event, see a Banquet Committee member, or **contact us on Facebook – Orange County CCA Chapter.**

Don't forget to sign up for the CCA Texas STAR Tournament – You never know when you "Might Hook the BIG ONE"! If you have any questions, please contact **Scott Bandy**, scottbandy77@yahoo.com; **Louis Moore**, louis_moore@yahoo.com; or **Davis Dixon**, dcdixon149@yahoo.com. Good luck, and Tight Lines – Scott Bandy

Port O'Connor Bill Moore 361-983-4690

The chapter is in the process of planning for the 18th Annual Port O'Connor Chapter Banquet, which is slated for Saturday, October 21, 2017. As usual, your participation and ideas on how to improve this banquet are always welcome. **The first meeting will be on July 20 at the Lippold House.** If you want to get involved, give us a call!

Also, many of you reading this will be in the POC area in July for **Poco Bueno**, or trying to catch that tagged redfish. Come by and be sure to visit many of our banquet donors. See you at Poco in POC, "Where it all began." – Bill Moore

Prairie Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103

We held the 2017 Annual Prairie Chapter Banquet on April 6 at the Cat Spring Hall. This year we celebrated the chapter's 20th anniversary, and we had a lot of new games. The cap and card game was a big hit – For \$20 you received a cap with a card attached, and if your card was drawn you won the gun it resembled. There were six guns in the game: **22-250, Remington 870 12ga, 308 Savage, 22lr Henry, Ruger a/r500 and a Howa 270.** Thanks to **Fat Dog Firearms** for providing the guns. Thanks to all the Sponsors who donated the Caps and Tumblers.

This year for a \$1 we raffled off a .243, and we also had a football square game – For \$40 you got two chances to win a **Henry Golden Boy 22 mg or a Remington 870 20 gauge.** We had a silent auction with some great items that went out to the highest bidder – A big thanks to **CCA, Academy Sports + Outdoors** and to everybody who donated gifts.

The main event was our live auction. Thanks to **Mark Switzer of Switzer Auction Services** for



RGV's Majek boat from Ron Hoover RV & Marine

being the auctioneer, and to his spotters for helping him. The auction consisted of hunting trips, fishing trips and prints. One of the biggest auction items was the **Bull Red Table**. It was for 8 people, and they were served their meals and drinks. The highest bidder was **Diamond H Ranch**. There were many more great items on the auction program. Thanks to all who bid. All of the winners received a 20th Anniversary cutting board and towel as a gift. Thanks to **Miskaka BBQ and Chessdale Acres** for the donation. The meal was a great hit as usual – Thank you to **Mikeskas BBQ** and his staff for catering the meal of prime rib and shrimp.

Thanks to the girls from **High Profile Promotions** for selling the raffle tickets. Bucket raffle tickets were \$5 each, and a \$300 packet consisted of raffle tickets for the **Polaris**, pick of the stringer and several tickets for the bucket raffle. The **Polaris** winner was a man from Oklahoma. I also would like to thank **Mark III** for donating the koozies (20-year sponsor). And a special thanks to **Wittenburg Printing** for the donations and all of their hard work. Thanks to **Pat and Frances Sechelski** for the artwork framing, **Visual Promotions** for their donations and to everybody who donated and helped. A big thank you goes to all the board members who helped to make this a great success! Also thanks to **Snuffy Garrett and Ivan Menke** for being our security for the evening. Thanks to **Brian Weaver** and all of the CCA staff for their help in making this Banquet successful. Hope to see everybody next year! **Thanks – Ron Chess, (979) 525-9254**

Redfish Bay Norman Oates 361-758-0266

I want to recognize our Redfish Bay Chapter Board, John Blaha, Chris Marine, and all of our sponsors and donors for making the 2017 Banquet a huge success! Of special note was a grant from the **Harry Michael Dudte Trust**, which made our revenue the highest ever – A very special thank you to **Robert**

A. Gilliam, P. C., and Debbie Bell! To the many attendees, we hope we made the evening an enjoyable one. We always try to have a variety of raffle and auction items that have value for everyone. Because of the larger than expected turnout, the caterer was just able to get everyone served, and they did a fantastic job! It was a great event with a great turnout – What more could anyone ask for?

Our next event is **Take a Kid Fishing at Woody's Sports Center in Port Aransas on June 2 and 3. Come Friday evening around 5:30** for a shrimp boil where the kids get a rod and reel. **Fishing is Saturday morning until noon**, with the awards ceremony, trophies and hot dogs happening shortly after noon. This is a great event for young fisherpersons! For the \$10 entry fee, they become members of CCA and are automatically entered in the STAR tournament. Bring the young ones – This is for them. The only rule is that there are no rules! – **Norman Oates**

Rio Grande Valley Louis Zimerer 956-373-0799

Lmz01@yahoo.com

Thank you **Ron Hoover RV & Marine, Majek Boats, L&F Distributors** and the chapter for making this year's **Rio Grande Valley Chapter Boat Raffle** possible! Only 500 tickets are being sold for \$100 each and are available at **Glick Twins in Pharr** and **Johnny's True Value Hardware in Harlingen**. For more information contact me at (956) 373-0799. – **Louis Zimmerer**

Sabine-Neches Darin Johnson 409-790-9855

Sam Houston Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908

I know everyone is waiting on this summer heat wave. Fish have been biting, and I personally just took a trip to Matagorda and caught a few nice fish. Once you get out, the next trip isn't soon enough!

Here's a save the date reminder for the upcoming **2017 Sam Houston Chapter Annual Banquet on Thursday September 7**. This will be a great time to trade fish stories and come support your local Sam Houston CCA Chapter! The evening will include a great meal, silent and live auctions, and multiple raffle items. For information on sponsorship opportunities and ticket sales, please feel free to contact us. **Watch our Facebook page for more information. Get out on the water – Brandon Kolaja**

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

A huge THANKS to all our Sponsors, Chapter Members and Salty Volunteers who helped make the **38th Annual San Antonio Chapter Banquet on May 4, 2017** another record-setter in many ways! Banquet Chair **Rick Neitzel** and staff knocked it out of the park. Past President **Johnny Rayburg**, now Catering Chair, hit a grand slam with his **Don Strange Catering** menu. Buy your tables and tickets early next year, as there were several people turned away after another sell-out. **Steven Mafrige of the Y-Bar Ranch** bought his table along with 125 others before the Early Bird deadline, and took home a **Smith and Wesson M&P AR-15** for doing that.

Katy CCA Chapter member **Doug Beckner** and his wife came over by themselves because he heard the San Antonio Banquet was "huge fun". He went home with his wife and the **Haynie 21' Super Cat**. **Ian Whitney** took home the **Ford F150 Super-cab XLT** from **Jordan Ford**. **Dan Witters** took home the **Lone Star Kawasaki Mule**. 200 others left with art-to-kayaks or a **Surfango**, or huge grills. All went home winners, as did CCA Texas!



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Phone 713.626.4222 | afritchman@ccatexas.org | www.CCATexas.org



San Antonio: A Marine Guard presented the colors to a standing, full house. Chapter President Mike Sarosdy presented a trophy to the Marine in charge.



Save the Date of **Friday, September 29** for the 2nd Annual "Hooked on Golf" Tournament. This year, after getting four weeks of dove hunting out of your system, join us at **The Quarry Golf Club** as we welcome the cooler days of the end of September. It was a near sell-out last year as a first time event, so mark your calendar and watch for info soon on registration here and in your emails.

To keep the juices and story-telling going through the dog days of summer, remember **AND MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for the new **CCA Happy Hour/Liars Club** that will meet on the 2nd Tuesdays of June, July and August at the **Barn Door Restaurant** at 6:00 pm. Owner and Chapter member **Randy Stokes** has extended his Happy Hour prices later for us. Send your recent pics or photo-shopped stuff to **Liz Hewitt** at lizhewitt@qb3mfg.com, and we will spool those on the overhead. We might toss a speaker in somewhere, but this will be more about story-tell-

ing than factual recounting.

Finally, remember that it's not about us. It's about the CCA Mission, the kids and the fish, so take a kid fishing! – Mike

San Bernard

Ross Kutach 281-330-0135

rosskutach@yahoo.com

The San Bernard Chapter has closed the books on our banquet, and now it is time to fish and enjoy all of the hard work put in by our volunteers! Thanks to all the committed board members who assisted in the banquet for all of your hard work and generosity. It is truly appreciated.

Our chapter – and particularly **William Wilcox** – has put together three functions to be spread out over the summer and early next spring, social events called **The Speaker Series**. We will be providing a meal and a speaker to educate all attendees on requested topics, from breaking down your reel and learning maintenance tips, to fishing guides and what's hot on the water. These will be casual gatherings of friends that we are having to celebrate our accomplishments throughout the year and to have FUN! The first event is scheduled for **June 1** at **S-Curve** in **East Bernard**. The cost **\$10 per ticket** and limited to the first 60 attendees, with all-you-can-eat crawfish to be served as the meal. Our first speaker will be CCA Advocacy Director **Shane Bonnot**. He will be speaking about the oyster systems in the bays and CCA's efforts to maintain them for years to come. Ask your local chapter member about the event!

Fishing is heating up on the coast with unseasonably hotter than expected temps. Fish have been active in the bays and have started to occupy the surf. Whether you own a boat or not, fishing is accessible on the Texas coast, and it is time to take advantage! And don't forget to "Like" our Facebook page at [facebook.com/SanBernardCCA](https://www.facebook.com/SanBernardCCA) for all the latest chapter news and event info! Tight lines and safe travels – Ross Kutach

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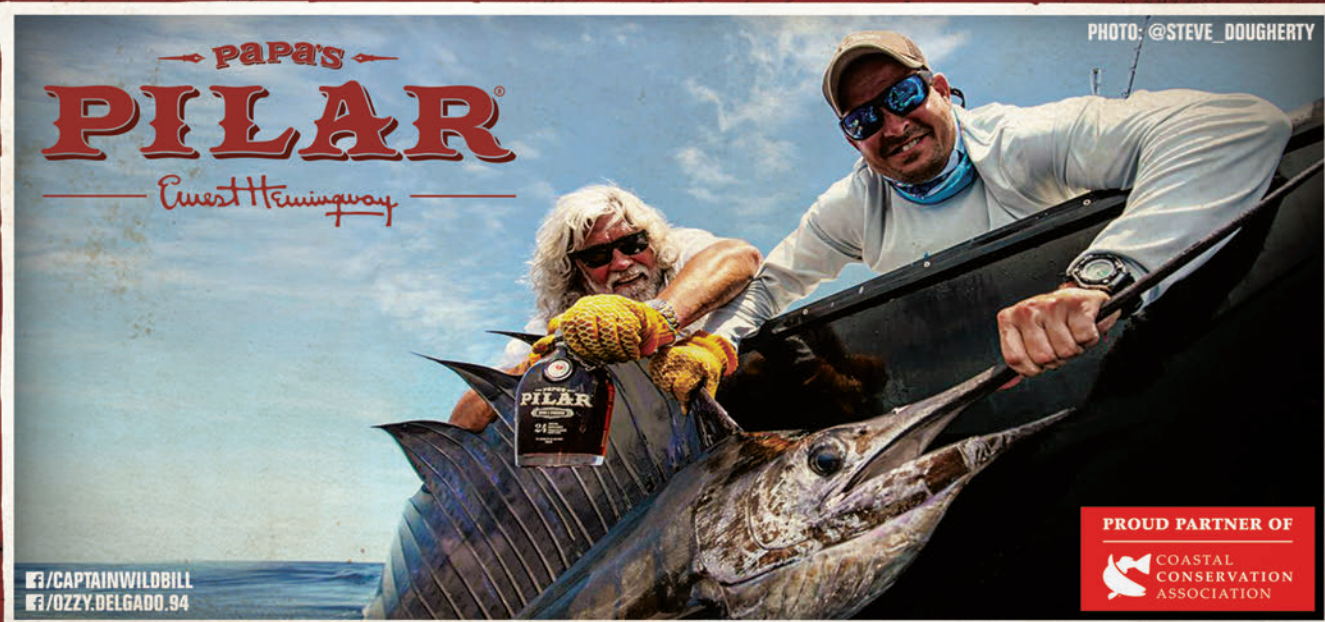
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San Gabriel

John Melnar 512-497-8284

We are busy planning the **15th Annual San Gabriel Chapter Banquet**, and it is heating up to be a success! We have had a great response thus far from our loyal and supportive donors in early reservations for our **August 3, 2017** event. **Doors will open at 6:00 pm** at our new facility, the **Sheraton Conference Center** in **Georgetown, Texas**.

Seeing all of the early donor/sponsor interest is exciting and proof that CCA is doing some great work for our habitat. Looks to be another year of a sold-out event. We encourage those who are interested to reach out early as possible to lock your spot!

We promise this will be a fun-filled night, with an awesome selection of games and auction items to choose from. Contact me or one of our board members directly to lock in early and join the fun. Please continue to look at the upcoming *Currents* magazine to see how San Gabriel is making this year's banquet better with new trips and prizes for those who attend, as more information is coming!

This year, San Gabriel is excited to thank all of our wonderful top tier Game and Auction Sponsors with an early **VIP Reception party starting 5:00 pm**. Please contact me directly to find out how you can join and have early access.

We are extremely grateful to have back with us again: **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, Cornerstone Site Services and Allied Electric** who consistently and generously step up efforts each year to support CCA.

So grab ahold of your fishing and hunting buddies, and commit early to save your spot at our 15th Annual Banquet; you're going to have fun and enjoy what San Gabriel puts together! **Sincerely, Darryl Hanson (Darhans@aol.com)**

San Jacinto

Jim Wilson 713-828-7639

The 2017 San Jacinto Chapter Annual Banquet will be held on Thursday, June 22 at the Bay Area Community Center. Cajun Country Cookers will be providing our annual shrimp and sausage boil with all the fixings. Our fundraising event will consist of great bucket raffles and a live and silent auction. We are looking forward to another great fundraising year with the help of our continued donors and sponsors!

For more information or to reserve your table for the upcoming banquet, please contact **Steve Wilson** at (713) 320-1847, steveww52@yahoo.com, or CCA Assistant Director **Brian Meuth** at bmeuth@ccatexas.org. – **Jimmy Wilson**

Southwestern

Veronica Oliver 830-765-6228

TAMU

Ian Kocher Mays Business School

512-632-9222

ikochoer12@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

We had a great turnout at the 2017 Tri-County Chapter Annual Banquet! There was an active crowd willing to support CCA, good food and beverages, and excellent fellowship was had by all in attendance.

On behalf of the entire Tri-County Board, we thank the community for their support, we thank our sponsors for their donations and I thank all the Board Members for their time and dedication to make this banquet a success. Due to some conflicts, we had to schedule the event for Thursday this year, but we are back to Friday for 2018.

2017 is in the books, but if you have a 2018 calendar put a star on Friday, April 20, 2018 for our 21st Annual Banquet.

Tri-County Fishing Tournament is Saturday, July 22nd in Port Mansfield. Rooms fill up fast so make arrangements ahead of time. If you would like a flyer, like to register or have a question about the tourney contact Steven Mafrige steven@ybar-ranch.com <<mailto:steven@ybar-ranch.com>>. Hope to see you there! – **Christian Hildebrand**

Trinity Bay

Gerald Payne 281-728-6278

Well, here it is summertime already, and that means us folks here on the Upper Gulf Coast in Southeast Texas are feeling the humidity and temperatures rise. In addition, that means the 2017 Trinity Bay Chapter Annual Banquet is right around the corner!

Don't wait – Mark your calendar for this premier event taking place on Friday, August 25, 2017 at the Nuevo Leon Event Center, located at 1000 Park Street, Baytown, Texas 77520.

We anticipate another sellout crowd, and for 2017 to be yet another record setting year. We look forward to seeing all of our dedicated sponsors for an evening full of food, drinks, raffles and games!

The Trinity Bay Chapter meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. If you would like further details on becoming a member or sponsor, please contact us. We'd be glad to hear from you! – **Gerald Payne (281) 728-6278**

Trinity Valley

John Hebert Jr 936-334-2528

We had our 2017 Trinity Valley Chapter Annual Banquet in February, and it was very successful! We had an amazing turnout, great food and everyone had a great time. We want to thank all of our sponsors and guests!! We couldn't do it without all of you, and we cannot wait to do it again next year.

By the time this is printed, we will have had our **4th Annual Trinity Valley CCA Fishing Tournament** and look forward to reporting about the winners and how much fun everyone had. If you'd like to join us, or just want more information on our chapter, then please contact our Chapter President, John Hebert at (936) 334-2528. – **Jennifer Creel**

West Houston

Ruben Delgadillo 281-808-1434

West Texas

Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499

Greetings from the Permian Basin West Texas CCA Chapter! **The 14th Annual West Texas Chapter Banquet** was the biggest yet. I'd like to thank: Our cooking team, **EnviroResources, Tim Macaluso, and Vance and Jacob Landry** for the shrimp and crawfish; **Rusty Smith**, our pit master for the prime rib and pork; and **Reece Boudreaux and Tyler Smith** for all their help. Thank you to all of our table sponsors who made this event possible. As usual, our CCA Representative **Brian Meuth** along with his father **Glen** did an excellent job running the banquet! **Tight lines, Craig M. McDonnold**



*Great Foods Recipes sponsored by **Costa Del Mar**
Liz Hewitt, Editor*

CHEF TRAVIS'S SMOKED FISH DIP



- > 2 gulf coast fish filets
- > 1 cup mayo
- > 1/2 cup minced green onion
- > juice of 1 lemon
- > 2 celery stalks, small diced
- > 1 yellow onion, small diced
- > 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- > Salt and pepper to taste
- > 3 dashes Tabasco

Smoke the fish in smoker with salt and pepper for 2 hours at 225 degrees. Once cool enough to handle, shred fish and place in a mixing bowl. Mix all other ingredients together and then combine with fish. Season with salt and pepper serve with crackers.

*Courtesy of Chef Travis Lenig of
Field and Tides Restaurant Bar, the
Heights in Houston.*



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The Great American Lager



Silver At the Pass

This is a study for the Port O'Connor Caldwell painting. Come to POC for the big event, October 21. A *Change of Tides* book will be signed by authors Fred Carr and Sam Caldwell, and Sam will do a color tarpon remarque while you watch. *Bid 'em up in the Live Auction.*



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Texas Insider Fishing Report: A new way to connect with the CCA outdoors



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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
www.tpwd.texas.gov
To focus on fishing and boating, visit
www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish
www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat



Current size, bag and possession limits
are now available through the Texas Parks
& Wildlife website: **TPWD has a number to
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A partner with CCA in aiding Texas game
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NEW TIDE: \$10 _____ Tide newsletter, decal.

NEW TIDE / Star: \$10 _____ **Members 17 and under only** Age: _____ Date of birth: _____
Same as above, plus "FREE" STAR Tournament entry. Age: _____ Date of birth: _____

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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