

CURRENTS

February / March 2018



Your CCA contributions at work

Army Corps of Engineers Planning a Coastal Wall

Initial recommendations for a massive coastal storm surge barrier to be released in May 2018

By Advocacy Director Shane Bonnot

In 2015, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) partnered with the Texas General Land Office (TXGLO) to conduct a 5.5 year-long \$20 million study to evaluate several alternatives which are designed to minimize risks associated with hurricanes.

In a meeting in early January, the USACE – Galveston District briefed a group of non-governmental organizations on the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study. According to the USACE website, this study focuses on providing for the protection, conservation and restoration of coastal resources from the impacts of coastal storms, hurricanes, erosion and subsidence.

Lately, however, much of the discussion has been centered on protecting

If the project is funded and completed, it will likely be the largest engineering feat in the 21st century.



Netherlands Storm Surge Barrier

the upper Texas coast from rising sea levels and storm surge impacts, as highlighted in recent news releases using the catch phrases “Ike Dike” or “Coastal Spine.”

For the upper Texas coast there are five different alternatives currently being evaluated for cost-benefit ratios, engineering requirements and protections achieved for both livelihood and the petro-chemical industry.

Also discussed in the evaluation are ways in which each of these alternatives impact natural resources. To that end, the USACE and TXGLO have coordinated with federal and state resource agencies for their input in the development of this study.

A tentatively selected plan will be released in May, and then the public will have a 45-90 day comment period to provide their input before the release

of a “draft feasibility report,” which is essentially the guiding document moving forward.

The result of the study will be an implementable project that has been coordinated with resource agencies, meets federal guidelines and is ready for Congressional authorization. If the project is funded and completed, it will likely be the largest engineering feat in the 21st century.

There are variations of different structural and non-structural improvements for each of the alternatives including, but not limited to: construction of new levees, raising highways, building a complete seawall around Galveston, gates at the entrance to Clear Lake, gates at the entrance to Dickinson Bayou, coastal restoration projects and beach re-nourishment.

Much of the discussion has been centered on protecting the upper Texas coast from rising sea levels and storm surge impacts, as highlighted in recent news releases using the catch phrases “Ike Dike” or “Coastal Spine.”

Three of the proposed alternatives include a series of navigation and environmental gates across Galveston Bay or the Bolivar Roads Channel. If it is difficult to envision a series of gates from the Galveston seawall to the Bolivar peninsula, conduct a

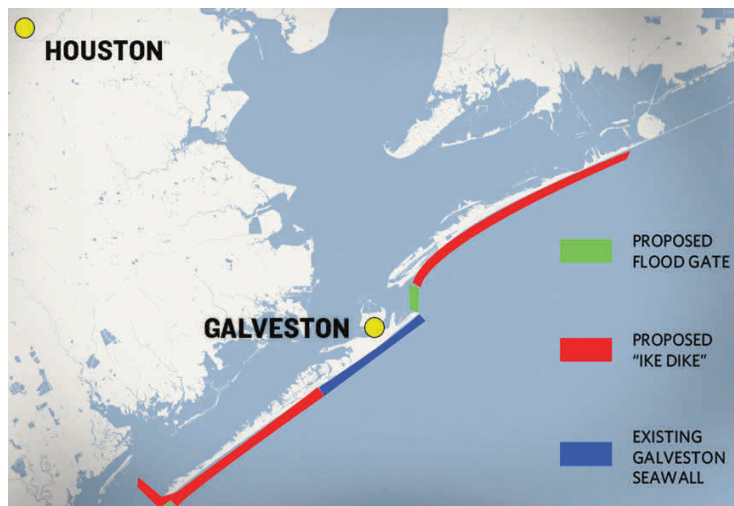
web search of “Netherlands Storm Surge Barrier.”

Much of the technology that has been Mused by the Dutch is being considered for the purpose of this study. The gates would normally remain open, but during a storm surge event these gates would close, completely isolating Galveston Bay from the Gulf of Mexico - No water in or out of the bay.

The obvious concern is that once the gates are closed, this fundamentally changes natural biological processes that

ON THE COVER:

Your CCA contributions at work during the January deep freeze: TP&W Warden Captain Johnny Rios, at rear of the CCA-funded airboat, holds two of the roughly 1,000 cold-threatened sea turtles saved during the January cold front. See *Caught Redhanded*, page 9.



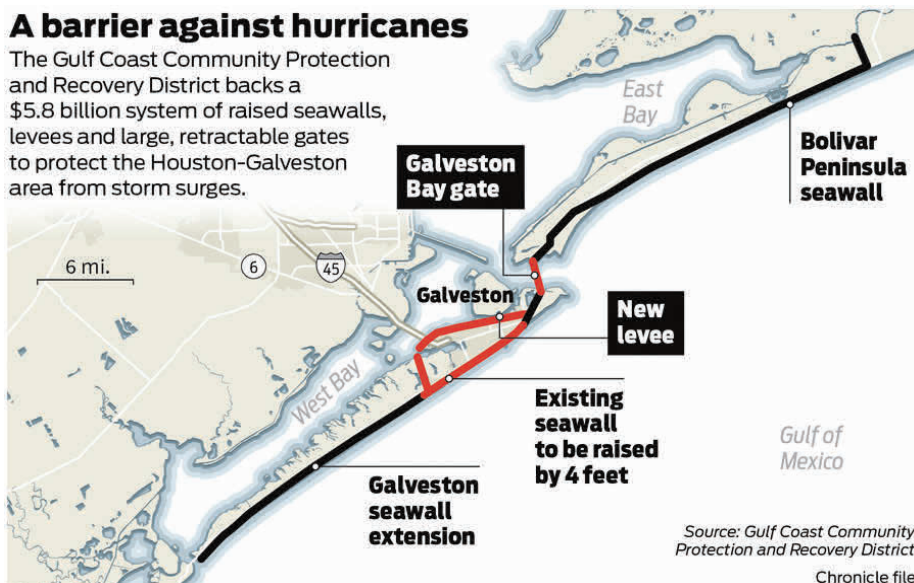
When the tentatively selected plan is released in May, we will be able to analyze the document and determine what actions are required so the fishery impacts associated with the construction and operation of this proposed coastal infrastructure are minimal. In the

occur during a storm event. The permanent structures in the water needed to support these gate systems could also have impacts on the flushing ability of Galveston Bay, water exchange rates during normal tidal events, increases in water velocity through the channel, transport of larval fishes and migration patterns of adult fish.

meantime if you would like to learn more about the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study, follow the study's progress on the USACE website or send an email CoastalTexas@usace.army.mil. Also, feel free to contact us at the CCA Texas office, and we will provide you with the latest information regarding this study. 🐟

A barrier against hurricanes

The Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery District backs a \$5.8 billion system of raised seawalls, levees and large, retractable gates to protect the Houston-Galveston area from storm surges.



The USACE – Galveston District is evaluating five different alternatives for a massive storm surge barrier. Considerations are cost-benefit ratios, engineering requirements and protections achieved for both livelihood and the petro-chemical industry.

Hurricane Ike in 2008 caused a 19-foot storm surge into Galveston Bay, causing more than \$28 billion in damages, and resulted in some 500,000 gallons of spilled crude oil. Because of that disaster, Professor William Merrell of the Texas A&M Galveston Campus began considering engineering designs that could protect the region from future hurricanes of Ike's magnitude. One of Professor Merrell's inspirations stemmed from the Dutch response to a 1953 flood that killed more than 1,800 people. The Dutch solution is a network of coastal sea walls, levees and dikes.

Professor Merrell proposes a system of flood-mitigating structures that would prevent a storm surge from entering the bay system. Merrell's barrier was first proposed in 2009. The system would require constructing some 50-plus miles of sand dune barriers along the Galveston and Bolivar Peninsula. Some of the dunes would be natural, while others would consist of concrete reinforcement beneath the dunes. Major elements would include 17-foot-high sea walls and a system of retractable 800-foot-wide gates at the mouth of the Ship Channel. An example of the gates is Rotterdam's huge Sea Gate, constructed in the 1990's to prevent incursion of storm surges from the North Sea.

The Coastal Wall In Brief

The "Ike Dike" concept was originally conceived by Professor Bill Merrell of Texas A&M University - Galveston, after he witnessed the devastating damages from the storm surge associated with Hurricane Ike.

Engineers are modeling hundreds of hypothetical storms to determine probabilities of various impacts and using that information to help develop a tentatively selected plan, which will be released in May.

Some suggest that without a coastal barrier, a Category 5 Hurricane making landfall on the western end of Galveston Island would result in a 20-30 foot storm surge up the Houston ship channel, resulting in over \$100 billion in damages and causing crippling effects on the United States economy.

Initial estimates indicate that a coastal barrier could cost in excess of \$8 billion.

Environmental and Navigation gates across the Bolivar Roads (between Galveston Island and Bolivar Island) could have negative effects on the fishery, including: increasing water current speeds at the pass, reducing flow area, increasing residence time of water in the bay and possibly altering adjacent habitats.

CCA Texas will be monitoring and reporting on all aspects of the plans.



The 29th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo Early Bird Registration Deadline is FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018

The holidays have slowly faded away and we are finally seeing some warm ups between the cold fronts. Many of you are busy out on the water chasing a new personal best speckled trout whenever the weather allows. While it may seem like a distant thought, this year's STAR Tournament is just a few casts away. The 2018 tournament kicks off at sunrise, May 26 and runs until 5 pm, September 3 (Labor Day).

Yes, you can register at any time before, or during the tournament, but why would you want to miss out on a brand new Dargel 210 Skout, Mercury Outboard, on a McClain trailer or twenty other great prizes?? You don't have to miss out as long as you register by Friday, April 27!! You can go home with a beautiful new boat without even having to wet a line! Although, we highly encourage it for your own sake. Don't believe us? Just look at what Juan Hernandez Jr. left with this year!

If you get busy and wake up April 28 kicking yourself for not getting entered into the



Juan Hernandez Jr. and his Early Bird Dargel 210 Skout.



Cole Moore, \$25,000 STAR Scholarship Winner

Dear CCA Texas STAR:

Thank you for my awesome \$25,000.00 college scholarship from CCA Texas STAR Tournament. We enter this tournament every year. Also thank you for my plaque for my scholarship. It is hanging in my room so I can see it every day. I can't believe I won this. I had a lot of fun at the banquet where I was awarded my scholarship and plaque on stage. I let my dad wear the hat because he really likes it a lot. My brother wanted the hat but my dad got it first. Thank you again, and I will put it to good use for my college education.

Thank you,

Cole Moore

Cole Moore,
\$25,000.00 Scholarship Drawing Winner

Cole Moore's Thank You letter to CCA and the STAR Tournament.

Early Bird drawing, don't fret! You can still win the same boat in our Member Bonus Drawing, just like Michael Polasek did this year!

A new Dargel may help your fishing situation, but what about the kiddos? Well, we've thought of that too. Any young angler between ages 6-17 can win a \$25,000 scholarship in our Youth Scholarship Drawing, simply for being entered! Sounds pretty sweet doesn't it? What if we told you that it gets even sweeter? These young anglers can enter STAR for absolutely free, with their \$10 CCA membership! This year's winner was a great young man by the name of Cole Moore. When we called Cole's father to inform him, it took some convincing to believe that this was truly real.

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 2018 TEXAS STAR tournament. A CCA membership is \$35 annually, and the 2018 STAR Tournament fee is \$25, for a total of only \$60. Remember though, YOUNG ANGLERS FISH STAR FOR FREE. 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 2018 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, be sure to be on the lookout for a very special bonus from our great sponsor Academy Sports + Outdoors, where you can find any gear you might need and register in person in one quick stop.

2018 Early Bird Drawings! See a list of some of the other great "Early Bird" prizes that we are offering on page 5!

Early Bird Grand Prize
Dargel 210 Skout, Mercury 150 hp ProXS OptiMax, and McClain Trailer (must be 21 or over to win boat package)
PLUS 20 More Great Prizes
9.9 hp Mercury Kicker Motor
Three (3) rod and reel combos
Thermo-Electric Travel Cooler & Warmer
Fifteen (15) CCA Special Edition Posters)



CCA TEXAS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS- On top of helping to make this event what it is, our amazing 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 (see details below)
-  Texas Fish & Game Magazine online subscription (see details on following page)
-  \$1,000 worth of free upgrades with your purchase of a new Tilson home (see details on following page)
-  Whataburger coupons in the June/July issue of *Currents*



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 \$35 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.

SIGN-UP EARLY AND RECEIVE 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 in May just in time for fishing season!! Thanks again to Academy Sports + Outdoors for this great benefit... and sponsoring **THREE \$25,000 SCHOLARSHIPS PLUS ALL OF THE RUNNER-UP PRIZES!!**



2018 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT SuperCab with Haynie 23 Bigfoot, the Redfish Division prize.

**TEXAS FISH & GAME MAGAZINE
"BONUS ONLINE
SUBSCRIPTION!"**



Not many people can say no to free stuff and *Texas Fish & Game Magazine* is again offering a FREE one-year (12 issues) online subscription to all 2018 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 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 on *Currents* newsletter page 23 for more details or call 1 (888) 540-6705.



2018 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! This year marks 29 years we have been blessed 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 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 2018 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.



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 28")



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 onshore!



Inshore Division- A registered angler who turns in the heaviest flounder, gafftop and sheepshead 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 Divisions (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)
- Inshore Division- Gafftop, flounder and sheepshead. Anglers with heaviest fish in each category will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship!!



THE PRIZES DON'T END THERE!

1st through 4th runners-up in all divisions 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! For more information, go to www.startournament.org. Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament!!

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR NEW AND EXCITING THINGS FROM STAR!! For more information, go to www.startournament.org. Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament!!

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO CARE ABOUT WHAT YOU CARE ABOUT!



After 2018, STAR will have awarded \$6,500,000 in college scholarships to youth anglers, and continues to offer kids a great reason to grab a rod and wet a line!!



PLATINUM PRINT 2018

"Until We Meet Again"

By SAM CALDWELL

713.626.4222 · ccatexas.org · startournament.org



"Until We Meet Again"
© SAM CALDWELL

"Until We Meet Again"

Sam Caldwell's classic painting of a red being returned for further duty.

CCA Texas STAR Platinum Print Membership Package, Series VIII- We're pleased to announce the new print being offered in the 2018 CCA Texas STAR Platinum package is *Until We Meet Again* by renowned Texas artist Sam Caldwell. We hope you love this print as much as we do! Your CCA Texas Platinum package includes your CCA membership (new or renewal), your 2018 CCA Texas STAR entry, plus one signed, limited-edition print of your choice created exclusively for STAR, all for only \$125!! This is a one-of-a-kind-print 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 Department, call (713) 626-4222.

2018 Abandoned Crab Trap Program

Main Event, Saturday, February 17

The Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program

was created by Senate Bill 1410 during the 77th (2001) Legislative session. Ronnie Luster of Port O'Connor got the CCA involved in 2002. Dozens of CCA members volunteered to help wardens remove derelict traps from the waters around Port O'Connor on a winter weekend. "We had close to 20 boats involved," Luster recalled. "We picked up 800 traps. A few weeks later, we did it again, and picked up another 750. There was not a single legal trap among them."

The cleanup initiative has not only removed thousands of derelict crab traps over the past years, but has saved a tremendous amount of marine life, as well as preventing dangerous collisions by boaters. Each year, CCA members and volunteers from across the Texas and Louisiana coasts band together to remove the dangerous traps.

2018 Crab Trap Drop-Off Site List

SABINE LAKE – Local TPWD coordinator Carey Gelpi (409) 983-1104 (ext. 222)
Pleasure Island Marina Boat Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
GALVESTON BAY – Local TPWD coordinator Glen Sutton (281) 534-0110
Jones Lake State Ramp (Fat Boys) – Facilitated and trap drop-off site
Seabrook SH 146 Bridge Public Boat Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
Fort Anahuac County Par Boat Ramp – Facilitated by Galveston Bay Foundation and trap drop-off site
Chocolate Bayou State Boat Ramp FM 2004 – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
TPWD Dickinson Marine Lab – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
Stingaree Restaurant and Marina (Bolivar) – Facilitated by Galveston Bay Foundation and Houston Zoo, and trap drop-off site
MATAGORDA BAY – Local TPWD coordinator Leslie Hartman (361) 972-6253
Mitchell Cut Boat (ICWW) Ramp @ Sargent – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
Matagorda Harbor @ Matagorda – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
Railroad Park @ Palacios – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
SAN ANTONIO BAY – Local TPWD coordinator Norman Boyd (361) 983-4425
Charlie's Bait Stand - Facilitated and trap drop-off site Port O'Connor
TPWD Docks - Facilitated and trap drop-off site
Austwell Public Boat Ramp – Facilitated by San Antonio Bay Foundation & trap drop-off site
ARANSAS BAY – Local TPWD coordinator Chris Mace (361) 729-5429
Goose Island State Park Boat Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
CORPUS CHRISTI BAY – Local TPWD coordinator Tom Wagner (361) 729-2328
South Conn Brown Harbor Public Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site (Bigelow Street, Aransas Pass, TX 78336)
Ransom Channel Public Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site (Ransom Drive, Aransas Pass, TX 78336)
UPPER LAGUNA MADRE – Local TPWD coordinator Faye Grubbs (361) 825-3353
Bluff's Landing Marina – Facilitated and trap drop-off site (4242 Laguna Shores Road, Corpus Christi, TX 78418)
Kaufer-Heubert Memorial Boat Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site (FM 628 Exd Riviera, TX 78379)
LOWER LAGUNA MADRE – Local TPWD coordinator Jason Ferguson (956) 350-4490
Adolph Thomae County Park – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site Port Mansfield Navigation District
Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
Stingaree Restaurant and Marina

Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR TEXAS MARINE HABITAT

Moses Lake Shoreline Protection Project

By John Blaha

Shoreline erosion is a continuous problem up and down the entire Texas coast.

This erosion often results in the loss of important marsh lands and estuaries, saltwater intrusion into freshwater ponds and lakes, and the degradation of the overall health of affected ecosystems.

CCA Texas has partnered with organizations such as the Galveston Bay Foundation, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program and others to help stop, correct and prevent further shoreline erosion all along the Texas coast.

Some of these past projects include work along the J. D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area, Oyster Lake in West Galveston Bay, Bird Island Cove, Snake Island Cove, shoreline along the San Bernard Wildlife Refuge and Cow Trap Lakes.

Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT) and CCA's National Habitat Program, Building Conservation Trust (BCT), included the Moses Lake Shoreline Protection Project in the 2017 Habitat Plan for the Texas Gulf Coast Initiative with a \$150,000 contribution to the project.

Galveston Bay Foundation is the lead partner in this project that includes a partnership with Texas General Land Office, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Accenture, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)/Shell, NFWF Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund and NRG Energy.

The construction contract was granted in January 2018, and work is anticipated to begin the first week of February. This project

will provide protection for 1.3 miles of shoreline and restore up to 10 acres of intertidal marsh complex within Moses Lake.

This work will focus on the shoreline along the Texas Nature Conservancy's Texas City Prairie Preserve. This area is subject to prevailing wind driven waves from the southeast that impact the shoreline through much of the spring, summer and fall, resulting in vegetation and soil loss, and ultimately habitat conversion.


Construction will consist of hard structure breakwaters which will help reduce shoreline erosion and minimize wetland loss through the process of reducing wave energy. With the construction of the breakwater, roughly 10 acres will then be available for wetland restoration between the breakwater and existing shoreline.

This method of restoration has proven successful throughout the Galveston Bay System and along the Texas coast. This newly protected and restored area will provide critical habitat for fish and shellfish, and it will also improve water quality in the area.

Estuarine marshes are important and high priority nursery habitat for fish and shellfish species including Gulf menhaden, sand sea-trout, Atlantic croaker, spotted sea-trout, and white shrimp. A healthy ecosystem ultimately provides more opportunities to members of the general public such as recreational fishermen and ecotourism.

CCA Texas and BCT look forward to seeing the completion of this project and a strong closure to the Texas Gulf Coast Initiative's 2017 Habitat Plan.

This project is one of six projects funded in 2017 with \$530,000 that resulted in \$4.28 million in habitat restoration and creation along the Texas coast. CCA Texas and BCT are currently putting together the 2018 Habitat Plan and look forward to growing the existing partnership and building new ones. If you or your company would like to contribute to the restoration and creation of habitat along the Texas

coast, please contact Sean Stone, BCT Executive Director (713-626-4234, ssstone@buildingconservation.org), or John Blaha, HTFT Director (713-626-4222, jdblaha@ccatexas.org), for more information and opportunities. 



Unprotected Moses Lake shoreline

Photos courtesy of the Galveston Bay Foundation



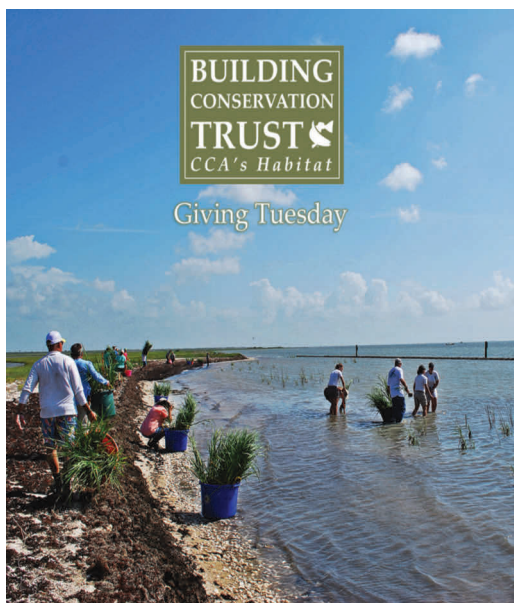
Previously protected shoreline

Galveston Bay Foundation marsh planting, 2012



CCA Texas Social Happenings

Happy New Year! CCA Texas is excited for 2018 and the great year we have planned with banquets, habitat work and – last but certainly not least – fishing! Be sure to follow us on social media, and visit youtube.com/CCATexasProjects to view our habitat video page – It includes footage from a deployment at St. Charles Bay, done in partnership with Building Conservation Trust (CCA's National Habitat Program) and several other great partners.



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

Facebook:

This #GivingTuesday, please consider donating to Coastal Conservation Association's National Habitat Program, Building Conservation Trust. Our habitat projects ensure that future generations will enjoy coastal marine resources

for years to come, and we couldn't do it without support from passionate people like you! #ccabct #joincca #conservation



Twitter:

@TIFRTV: Catching the first sail of the season.

@CCA_Texas @CostaSunglasses @CasaViejaLodge
#CCATEXAS #CostaSunglasses #TIFR #MondayMotivation



Instagram:

@ccanational: Thanksgiving leftovers, fishing, rest, repeat.
#joincca #ccabct Photo: @startournament @cca_texas

Facebook: facebook.com/CCATexas

Twitter: twitter.com/CCA_Texas

Instagram: instagram.com/cca_texas

YouTube: youtube.com/ccatexasprojects

CCA Texas blog: ccatexas.org/blog

Podcast: Coastal Advocacy Adventures





Recently, Calhoun County Game Wardens Ben Bailey, Chelsea Bailey, Jake McMahan and Dillon Eizember have filed three separate cases on a local shrimp boat. The boat has been shrimping at night and keeping only croaker under his Bay Shrimping license. Photo courtesy of Texas Game Warden Department.

Caught Redhanded!

Reports from TP&W Game Wardens



Texas Game Wardens rescued an estimated 500 cold-stunned green sea turtles from Texas bays in wake of the January cold snap. More than 1,000 of the threatened turtles were saved through a cooperative effort that included Texas wardens and coastal fisheries staff, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Parks Service, NOAA and volunteers. Some of the rescues involved use of the new airboat CCA Texas donated to Texas Parks & Wildlife Coastal Fisheries, pictured on the cover. Photo courtesy of Texas Game Warden Department.

Texas Game Wardens, Serving Texans since 1895



Law Enforcement Off the Pavement

The 8th Annual Port Mansfield East Cut and Beach Clean Up Sunday, March 11.

10th Annual Anniversary Celebration dinner at Jan Jones' Pelicans Cove Sunday evening

We will be cleaning the Mansfield Channel (East Cut) as well as several miles of the Padre Island National Seashore. The event will start with a kickoff breakfast at 7:00 am at the PM Chamber of Commerce Pavilion, where we will enjoy a hearty breakfast, distribute sack lunches for each participant, discuss the logistics of the day's activities and review our safety plan (including any weather issues), safe boating practices and designated muster points for departure. The event will conclude at approximately 3:00 pm Saturday afternoon.

We provide: Lodging as needed; Breakfast, lunch and dinner on the day of the clean-up; Sam Caldwell-designed volunteer shirt for each participant. **We Need:** Sponsors, including local lodging and donations to help offset the costs of lodging and meals. We need 4WD volunteers to travel from Corpus to PM jetties to help shuttle workers. **We need boats and captains** for ferrying workers from Port Mansfield to the jetties. We need **YOU!** Volunteers make a difference! Please contact **Kathie Bassler** via email kathieb@basslerenergyservices.com to register and sign up for this event and request housing. Contact **Miller Bassler** via email: miller@basslerenergyservices.com if you would like to be a sponsor. Sponsors will be listed on both the Chamber of Commerce Pavilion banner and also on the Sam Caldwell shirts.

—Kathie Bassler



The 23rd Billy Sandifer Big Shell Beach Cleanup will be held on the Padre Island National Seashore on Saturday, February 24.

Volunteers will meet at the Malaquite Pavilion parking lot and the event will begin at 8:00 am. Admission to the park will be waived for all volunteers. All volunteers will be returned to the pavilion by 2:00 pm. 4-wheel drive vehicles with operators are the backbone of the event; however those with 2-wheel drive vehicles are most welcome. They can leave their vehicles at the pavilion and will be transported down the beach as space becomes available in 4-wheel drive vehicles.

If you have 4-wheel drive and have room in your vehicle, you are welcome. Others can catch a ride with you into and out of the work area. Trailers for hauling trash are much needed but need to be in good condition due to the rough terrain covered.

Dress appropriately for the weather conditions as the event has taken place in all kinds of weather conditions. Long trousers, long sleeved shirts, a windbreaker or slicker top, suitable head wear and a good, sturdy pair of work shoes are recommended.

Food will be available at the Malaquite Pavilion at the conclusion of the event and ice water and light snacks will be available in the work area. Feel free to bring something to eat if you'd like to bring extra food. Event shirts will be given to all volunteers while supplies last. Check back often for more details!

www.friendsofpadre.com





Upper Coast

By Capt. George Knighten

Play the weather, solve the fishing puzzle

When I was a kid we would put fishing gear away in late November and not bring it out again until spring. If I only knew then what I know now.

As I write this, we are recovering from some very cold weather. A few days ago Houston was in the mid-twenties. Social media was lit up with pictures and reports of unbelievable catches of trout. One said "easy limits and released another 200"! I wonder how many of those stunned 200 survived being hooked, handled and tossed back into 40-something degree water?

As evidenced by these reports, if you know where to go and what to do, fishing even when it's freezing can be very good. No, it's not a sure thing, and there will be days you don't get a bite. But sometimes when cold weather concentrates fish into small areas they can be stacked like cordwood and easy pickings.

All of us love to catch fish, and it's easy to get caught up in the moment when they are hitting on every cast, but it should not take TP&W shutting down an area to cause us to practice conservation.

February and March should see some warmer weather, and the fish will scatter out of these deeper holes and guts, but they won't go far. Instinct keeps them close to those cold weather spots. A shell and mud mix close to deeper water would be a good bet.

Texas weather keeps you guessing, seventy degrees one day and thirty the next. The trick is to play the weather, and try to put together the pieces of this puzzle we call fishing.

Of course, you will consider your crew and keep them warm and safe. Send the large spotted ladies back, maybe with a Great Photo sent to CCA's *Currents* Newsletter.

—Capt. George Knighten (832) 310-9146

Middle Coast

By Capt. Mike O'Dell

Tackle serviced? Boat checked? Go!

Now's the time to hit the water! February and March bring the last cold fronts to the coastal bend. Spring wind and warmer weather is on the horizon. It's time to clear out the schedule and head to the water to catch returning flounder, sheepshead, large black drum and that big trout of a lifetime.

Lots of people have retired rods for guns in the fall and winter. Now, most of the hunting seasons are over, and it's time to get back out there and chase the fish with family and friends.

The spring migration of fish returning to the bays will bring enjoyment to all those brave enough to get out on the water. There is no greater enjoyment than seeing a big sheepshead bend a rod and give a lasting and surprising fight to the unsuspecting angler. Plus, they are really good table fare.

Windy days will find lots of folks hiding behind an island for protection and working the deep drops of the ICW and the Corpus Christi ship channel for black drum. Handle carefully to keep them alive to fight again.

The reds will be working back into the flats in numbers as well as the schools of black drum. Trout, as the water warms up, will move from deeper muddy bottoms to the grass flats and shallow water, but as fronts move through they will drop into deeper water.

Hopefully everyone has had their tackle serviced and boats checked, and are ready to enjoy the spring season. The coastal bend is still rebuilding from Hurricane Harvey and will be for a long time, so include an extra dose of patience. Many ramps are lacking in docks, and some ramps are still closed. Please be cautious, as we have new hazards that have not been marked, and some of the channels and drops have changed. Take your time, enjoy the day and take a kid or new angler out to enjoy nature. Wishing tight lines to all of you. —Capt. Mike O'Dell (361) 439-1866 www.afishingfantasy.com

Lower Coast

By Capt. Rene Hinojosa

Topwaters? Hold on to that rod!

During the early January cold spell, thanks to good fisheries management, harbors from Corpus Christi to Brownsville were briefly closed, and tug/barge traffic was voluntarily stopped on sections of the Intracoastal Waterway. Fortunately, we saw no game fish damage as in 1989 and 1995, but many cold-stunned sea turtles had to be rescued. We dodged a bullet this year.

As February gets underway, and the water soaks up sunshine, you will be looking for massive specks holding at deep spots, but right where the shallows begin. Reds will be easing onto the flats as the water warms, so you'll be in your waders as well as drifting on light wind days.

Mid-February, the larger gamefish are now out of their dormant phase and chasing down food fish—as well as your lure offerings. Tie on your favorite plugs, spoons and tails, but don't be shy about chunking topwaters—I like the Skitter Walks and Super Spooks. You won't have as much action on the topwaters, but don't be afraid to work them all day long. And, when a fish decides to go for a topwater lure, hold on to that rod!

Through March, you'll be dealing with wind, but that can be a weapon in your arsenal. Gamefish still have to eat, and drifting in our clear water can put you on some great sight casting moments. Keep that camera handy and send a Great Action Photo to *Currents*.

Please remember to send the big girls back for further duty, keep your crew warm and safe, and watch for others who may need help. Maybe you'll help Miller and Kathie Bassler on the East Cut Cleanup. —Capt. Rene Hinojosa, Jr. (956) 966-0719 shallowcharters_RHJ@yahoo.com

Adam Gilvarry found this fly-hungry red in close quarters. After CPR (Catch, Photo, Release), the red went back to its familiar haunts. Great Action/Humor/CPR Photo by Gilvarry. See Great Photo Contest on page 21.





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CCA Texas | 6919 Portwest Dr., Ste. 100 | Houston, TX 77024
Phone 713.626.4222 | ahoy@ccatexas.org | www.CCATexas.org

CCA Texas Adds a 7th Graduate Scholarship in Marine Science

CCA Texas' Board approved another \$5,000 Annual Graduate Scholarship at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 2017. This will make the 7th CCA Graduate Scholarship awarded to a student studying marine science. Each student is selected by the universities.

CCA funds three scholarships at The University of Texas Marine Science Institute (UTMSI) in Port Aransas, two at Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi and two at Texas A&M University- Galveston. If you are interested in applying for any of these scholarships or know someone who would, the contacts for each University are listed below:

UTMSI
Georgia Neblett
gneblett@utexas.edu

A&M Corpus/HRI
DR. Greg Stunz
greg.stunz@tamucc.edu

A&M Galveston
Jamie Alvarado
alvaradj@tamug.edu

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CURRENTS is a membership benefit of the Coastal Conservation Association-Texas. It is published bi-monthly, alternate months from the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) TIDE Magazine. Address: 6919 Portwest, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77024. Phone: 713-626-4222. FAX: 713-961-3801. www.ccatexas.org

Editor, Sam Caldwell
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This is the issue of February / March 2018
Vol. 36, Issue 2

Chapter Updates

Alvin-Pearland Rex Richards

alvinpearlandcca@yahoo.com

Aransas Bay Bud Kittle 210-279-7309 ernestkittle@gmail.com

Happy New Year to you and yours! 2017 was a very interesting year for the Aransas Bay Chapter. An uninvited guest came to town named Harvey (cat 4 hurricane). Then, three and a half months later there was three inches of snow. **Our 2017 Aransas Bay Chapter Annual Banquet was another sell-out.** Thanks again to all of our sponsors!

As we ring in the New Year, it's time to begin registration for **Babes on the Bay XVIII!** Once again, the event will be in **Fulton, Texas at the park next to Paws & Taws.** The feedback we received from last year was very positive. This year we introduce **Jen Thomasson**, our new Tournament Director. Karol is retiring. Jen has been a longtime participant and knows the tournament well. Get your team together, reserve your rooms, run down a guide/driver and register for the most awesome fishing tournament in the world! Babes 2018 is going to rock right out loud! **The entry fee is \$95 for each contestant, and late registration will be \$125 for each contestant.** Registration includes a CCA membership. **Standard registration is January 1-April 15, 2018; late registration is April 16-April 30, 2018.**

As in past years, registration will be completely online. It will be easier for you and the volunteer group if you have all necessary information together prior to starting the registration process. Go to the website

www.babesonthebay.com to register. My phone is (361) 205-0182, and you can email ccababes@gmail.com. There are some upgrades to the registration application. If you can't register all of your team at one time, you can give the user ID and password to a member to register and pay for themselves. Please have one person start this process to reserve the user ID, and then you can give it out. If you have any glitches with this, just give me a call, and together we'll work it out. My operating hours are 7:00 am EST to 4:00 pm EST. If it goes to voicemail, email me at ccababes@gmail.com. There's only one addition to the rules this year: If you can't get to the kick-off night to pick up your swag bag, please let me know. If you don't, it may not be available to mail or for you to pick up later.

So mark your calendar for May 18 and 19! Get your friends to join the Facebook group Babes on the Bay. Catch'em Up! – Bud Kittle

Austin

Josh Cook 512-656-2964

josh@cookrealestatetexas.com

May 10, 2018 – If you like great food, winning cool prizes and having an unbelievably good time, all the while supporting CCA, **save the date because it marks the 2018 CCA Austin Banquet!** There's simply no event like it, so plan on joining us again. Table and ticket information is available at www.ccaaustin.org. We'll no doubt sell out again this year so get your tickets early and don't miss out!

Our 2018 banquet boat is almost here,



Chris Bird Photography

Great Humor Photo by Chris Bird. Chris says, "That's our miniature Dachsund, Coral. She watched as we caught and CPR'd about 12 slot reds that day in Keller Bay."

and raffle tickets are now on sale! Our most impressive rig to date is a **2018 SCB Recon 23'** fishing machine that will be equipped with an **Evinrude 300!** Sitting on a **Coastline Custom Trailer**, it's a stunningly beautiful rig and ready to explore any water of your choosing. **Check her out at Anglers' Night Out or take a peek at www.ccaaustin.org.**

Sincere thanks to **Denbow Company Inc. and S.WATTSGROUP**, our boat sponsors, Wes at Shallow Sport Boats and Coastline Trailers for making this special rig possible. **Tickets are \$100, and only 900 will be sold.** You have two ways to get one. Contact a board member directly, or contact **Cheryl Smith at (512) 221-7057.** You do not need to be present to win. Every year tickets sell out well before the banquet, so get yours now!

CCA Austin wishes all of you a happy and prosperous 2018. – **Josh Cook**

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Brazos Valley

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Welcome to the New Year! **We are in full swing preparing for the 26th Brazos Valley Chapter Annual Banquet. It will be held on**

March 2, 2018 at the Brazos Center in Bryan, with the doors opening at 5:30 pm. By the time Currents hits the shelf we will be finalizing the raffles, guns, food and everything else that makes a successful banquet. Ours is so successful thanks to our great sponsors, CCA Texas staff and the Brazos Valley people who have been supporting us for 26 years.

We are always looking for new folks to get involved and get to know others who have a passion for the coast and fishing. Now is a great time to do that. If anyone would like to help out with the banquet or come to one of our monthly meetings, look us up at www.ccatexas.org/brazos-valley. We hope everyone made a New Year's resolution to fish more and to take a young person when you go. See you at the banquet on March 2! – **John Ben**

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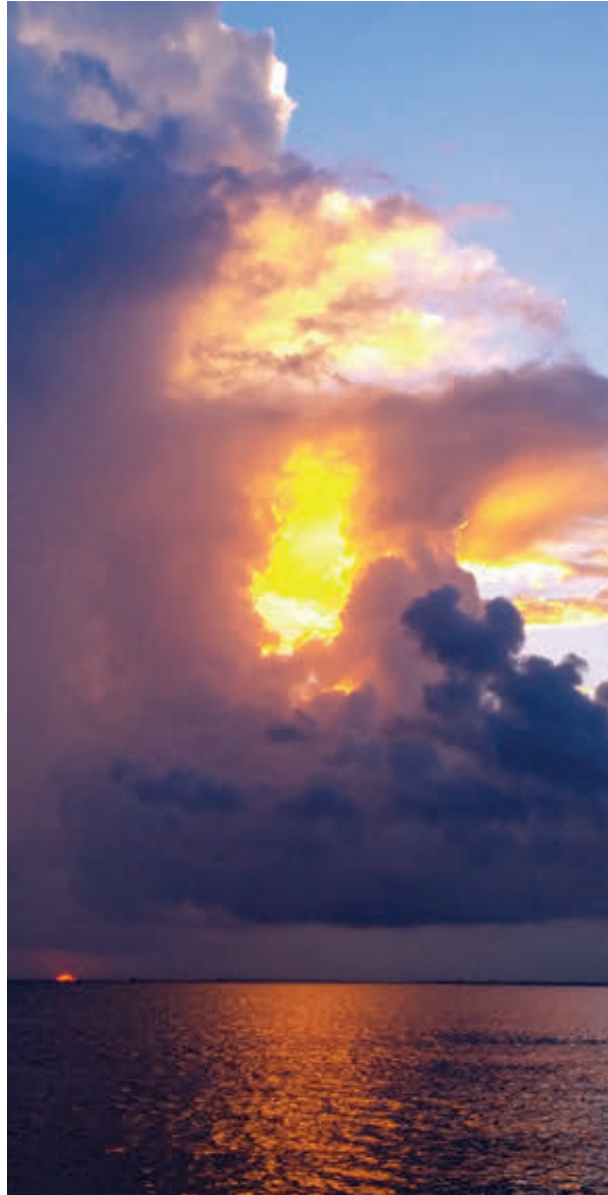
We in La Grange are getting our feet back under us after our community KC hall was flooded by the hurricane. It is currently being rebuilt. Our Annual Banquet is normally held in March, but is now rescheduled for **Friday, May 18, 2018 at the KC Hall in La Grange at 6:00 pm**. For table sales, raffle tickets, and General Admission tickets, please call **Eugene Ulrich** at (797) 249-7425, **Trish Kubena** at (512) 581-2588, **Bo Janda** at (979) 639-1330, **Gary Janda** at (979) 966-2082, **Dave Fehlker** at (512) 468-6782 or **Danny Olenick** at (979) 249-6851. Thanks – Eugene Ulrich

Corpus Christi
Jake Herring
361-244-0258

jakecherring@hotmail.com

Happy New Year, CCA! I'm sure like many of you, I was ready to put 2017 in the rear view mirror. Since our last update, the Corpus Christi Chapter has been hard at work planning for our **40th Annual Fundraising Banquet**. A big thanks goes out to the Corpus Christi board, and especially to our banquet chairs **Judy Arnold** and **Valerie Chilton** for the hours of volunteer time dedicated to organizing such an event. **The banquet is set for the evening of February 22, 2018 at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi, Texas**. We are once again expecting this to be a sold out event, so if you have not reserved your ticket please do so now! Food will once again be prepared by the great folks over at **Saltwater Grill** and will feature a full buffet of all of our favorite banquet foods. Plenty of cold beverages will be responsibly served by **House of Rock**.

This event is not possible without the strong support from our dedicated sponsors. A special thanks goes out to our Gold and



Fireball Sunrise
Great Scenic by Heart of the Hills
President, Randy Plummer

Silver Level Sponsors. Gold Level: **Andrews Distributing, L&F Distributors, Flint Hills Resources, Academy Sports + Outdoors and Autonation Chevrolet Cadillac South Corpus Christi**. Additional thanks go to Silver Level: **Premier Yamaha/Majek Boats and Corpus Christi Cycle Plaza**.

At the banquet we will be featuring our **Bull Red Raffle** by **Andrews Distributing** and **Sow Trout Raffle** **L&F Distributors**. The Bull Red Raffle features a **2017 Majek M2 pushed by a 200 HP Yamaha all bedded on a Coast-line trailer**. Tickets are \$50 per ticket, and only 1,500 are available for purchase. The Sow Trout Raffle features a **Yamaha 6-person Gas Golf Cart with cooler rack and rod holders accompanied by a 14-ft single axle trailer with loading ramp**. Tickets for the golf cart package are \$20 per ticket, and only 1,500 are available for purchase.

To purchase raffle tickets, individual banquet tickets, or reserved tables you can **contact any Corpus Christi Board member, call (361) 882-5199 and talk to Courtney, email ccacorporus@hotmail.com or purchase online through the CCA Texas website at www.ccatexas.org/2018-corpus-christi-banquet**

At this year's banquet we are paying tribute to all of those who paved the way before us. So, thanks to the folks who some 40 years ago established the first chapter of CCA in Corpus Christi, Texas. We would not be where we are today without your vision and actions. See you on February 22! Yours in Conservation, – **Jake**

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Galveston
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drkenellis@aol.com

Happy New Year to all! We will start our new year planning many events for the Galveston CCA Chapter, including our **Galveston CCA Kids Tournament, 2018 Galveston Chapter Annual Banquet, and the Galveston CCA Ladies Tournament**. So be on the lookout for dates to follow! I hope to see you on the water – **Ken Ellis DDS**

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Greater Sugar Land
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Greater Woodlands
Charlotte O'Dell
832-368-8263
choctawcharlie69@gmail.com

Guadalupe Valley
Chuck Howard
361-275-9464

chuck.howard@att.net

Happy New Year to all of our salty Guadalupe Valley Chapter membership! Let's get right to taking care of business – I'd like to thank everyone for working so hard to make sure our **2017 Guadalupe Chapter Annual Banquet held on November 9 at the Venue in Cuero** was successful. **Sharon Bauer**, who ran the ice chest raffle sponsored by **Bob White Energy Services**, was outstanding. Each year she rounds up 50+ ice chests, fills them with prizes and, in a matter of minutes of the doors opening, sells them out! **Bill Hickey, Campbell Weber, Patsy and David Warzecha, Judy and Walter Fisher, Cliff Weber and Shane Simon** rounded up both silent auction and live auction prizes, sold out the ATV raffle tickets, and set up and organized the event from start to finish. They do an outstanding job each year, and the chapter could not function without them. I also want to thank all of the chapter volunteers who ran the door, raffles, set up and take down. We could not do it without your support. THANK YOU!

The chapter raffled a Polaris ATV valued at \$20,000, and **Vonda Sellers** had the lucky number. Congratulations Vonda! I also want to thank the out-of-chapter CCA members who bought ATV tickets. We thank you for your support!

Our custom **Tumbler Cup Sponsor this year was South Texas Air Conditioning & Heating of Yoakum**. The great looking hats this year were brought to us courtesy of the **Rafter 17 Ranch**. **Bob White Energy Services** brought us our massive ice chest raffle. Without these fine dedicated sponsors each year it would be tough to pull off the event.

Table Sponsors who stepped up this year numbered in the low 20s, and we want to thank them for their support. **Hartman Distributing of Victoria** for the beverages is the grease for the wheels.

None of this would be remotely possible without our CCA Texas representative **Matt Still**. Matt and his crew roll up, roll out and make it happen on time every time. Thanks fellas!

There will be a Chapter Meeting late January or early February, location and menu to be determined. As our chapter members have come to know, we do a great feed at each chapter meeting. Standby for the notice. If any members have a menu idea for this meeting, please let us know!

I don't know about you all, but this fall has been nothing but outstanding fishing in the middle coast all the way up to year end. It's been a long time since we've seen our game fish stacked like they are in those special not-to-be-disclosed locations. I don't know if it could be any better this spring or not.

If you don't subscribe to **Texas Salt Water Fishing** magazine, you are missing out on a very well written and informative

publication. Stephanie Boyd writes the "Fishy Facts" column about all things scientific when it comes to our coastal waters. This month she compiled an article called "The Plasticene Era" about plastic. If you have spent any time on the coast in the marshes, bays and offshore you have to have seen mounds of plastic of all descriptions present. I won't allow plastic water bottles onboard my boat and haven't for years. I recommend ditching the plastic and using reusable containers. Nalgene bottles are the best. We're fishing in a plastic soup, and it will only get worse unless one by one we make a change. People who spend time outdoors are the best conservationists I know and usually lead the way. Let's lead. – **Chuck Howard**

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

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

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and got to spend some quality time with family and friends. 2017 definitely had various challenges, and Texans faced those challenges head-on! Our prayers go out to those who continue to recover.

One of the Heart of the Hills Rising Tide members, **Elli Plummer (age 11)**, spent the last afternoon of 2017 hunting in below-freezing temperatures in the Hill Country with her little brother, Marshall, and me. We spent many hours hunting in November and December and she was finally successful in taking her first deer, a 4-point whitetail buck, within several hundred yards of where I in '79, her grandmother in '67, her grandfather in '55 and her great-grandmother took first bucks. May you have a happy and prosperous 2018! Make this the year you share our treasured Texas traditions with a young family member or friend. – **Randy Plummer, (830) 377-0737**

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Houston Homebuilders
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I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and New Year celebrations! As of writing this article, the chapter's **2018 Raffle Boat** is being discussed. The boat should be ordered by the end of January.

I am late posting this, but our **2017 Jim Ehman Memorial Guides Cup** was held down in Matagorda last September. A great time was had by all. The winning Captains were: **1st Place - Captain Caleb Rush with a total weight of 29.10 lbs., 2nd Place - Captain Charlie Paradoski with a total weight of 24.80 lbs., 3rd Place - Captain Kit Kaston with a total weight of 24.70 lbs.** Congratulations to these captains and their teams!

If members of our chapter are looking for a great guided fishing trip, be sure to check out one of these local guides: **Capt. Charlie Pardoski, Capt. Nick Stillwell, Capt. Rob Cummings, Capt. Leighton Keen, Capt. Jimmy Riddle, Capt. Scott Reeh, Capt. Kenneth Hauf III, Capt. Stan Sloan, Capt. Kenneth Hauf II, Capt. Ozzie Arnold, Capt. Troy Keen, Capt. Walt Wendtland, Capt. Floyd Ciruti, Capt. Lee Warmke, Capt. Ken Sabin, Capt. Kit Kaston, Capt. Tommy Alexander, Capt. Gary Mach, Capt. Caleb Rush, Capt. Mike Kubeka, Capt. Kevin Kosik and Capt. Kendall Kersh.**

This group of guides supports the Matagorda Bays Chapter as well as other CCA chapters up and down the coast. Each year we hold the Jim Ehman Memorial Guides Cup down in Matagorda, Texas. The trips can only be purchased at our banquet and would not be possible without the sup-



MidCoast's 22'-6" Seafoam Green Mowdy with a 175 HP Suzuki motor and Coastline trailer.

port of the guides.

We are looking forward to a great 2018, and as mentioned before, a big thanks to all of our chapter members, and to our sponsors for their continued support. For any information about the chapter, feel free to contact me.

– Chad Hensley

MidCoast

Danny Goyen 361-564-7471

goyenfishing@yahoo.com

Wow! 2017 is gone, and we are gearing up for a great year for our chapter and wishing the same for all CCA chapters in Texas. 2017 was an excellent and successful year for us, even after going through Hurricane Harvey. We will be involved in several events this year, including our major fundraiser, the **2018 Mid-coast Chapter Annual Banquet. Our banquet will be Friday night April 27 at the Victoria Community Center. We will be giving away a 22'-6" seafoam green Mowdy boat with a 175hp Suzuki motor and Coastline trailer at this event. There will only be 700 tickets sold, at \$100 each.** You do not need to be present to win this awesome boat that David Jenkins has found for us! I know I mentioned the boat information in the last Currents magazine, but this is too good of deal not to mention again. **Please call Danny Goyen at (361) 564-7471 or David Jenkins at (361) 648-9185 if you would like for us to mail you a ticket.**

Our next event will be helping with the **Crab Trap Cleanup in Port O'Connor and Rockport on February 16-17, 2018.** On another note, the fishing in Rockport and Port O'Connor these past two months has been the best I have seen in many years. The fisheries are in great shape – We just need to pray that we do not have a game fish-killing freeze. God bless! – **Capt. Danny Goyen**

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As the holiday season has come and gone, we are usually putting closure on our annual banquet. Due to Harvey's unwelcomed appearance and the problems it created, the chapter had no option but to reschedule our **Annual Chapter Banquet** and is still working with the date of **Saturday, March 24, 2018.** As always, the banquet will include great trips, a silent auction, a live auction, door prizes, raffles and several other games.

The chapter again wishes to express its appreciation to several POC businesses for assisting in our table/ticket sales. These include **Coastal Boat Services, Coastal Bend Marine, Port O'Connor Rod and Gun, Sonny Marine, and Tigrett Real Estate.** Tickets may also be purchased from CCA Texas Assistant Director **Taylor Rieck, (713) 626-4222,** or from any CCA POC Board Member. **The chapter has another nice golf cart that is being raffled off as well, and it has been on display at Coastal Bend Marine.** Raffle tickets are currently available. Don't forget to support our sponsors, and if you want to get involved, give us a call. So, as we continue to support our coastal resources, pen in Saturday, March 24 in POC, "Where it all began" – **Bill Moore**

Prairie

Patricia Walters 979-885-7464
manager@wpprint.com

I hope everybody had a great holiday! We have a lot planned for 2018, many dates to be announced in later editions of Currents.

On February 9, 2018, at the Cat Spring Tin Building, we will be hosting our Annual General Membership Chili Dinner that will be prepared by some of our board members. There will be a speaker, bucket raffle and drawing, and good fellowship, along with some outstanding chili. Everyone is invited!

We are in the planning stages for our **2018 Prairie Chapter Annual Banquet, to be held on Thursday, April 5 at the Cat Spring Hall.** We have a lot of new items that will be available that night. The meal will be prime rib, shrimp and all the trimmings. Also, that night there will be a lot of great items in the bucket drawing, cap and card game, silent auction and live auction, with fishing trips, prints, etc. If you are interested in being a sponsor, contact **Patricia Walters at (979) 877-5598 or Lori Cruz at (713) 992-7874.** We also are selling presale tickets for some great items – If you would like to purchase a ticket, contact any of our board members.

We are also planning our Annual Kid Fish that will be held sometime this summer, date and location available at a later date. Thanks, and have a great year of fishing!
– **Ron Chess, (979) 525-9254**

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Rio Grande Valley
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Sabine-Neches
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Happy New Year from the Sabine Neches Chapter! We start off 2018 with some of the coldest weather we've seen in a long while, but the good news is **March 1 is the 2018 Sabine-Neches Chapter Annual Banquet, and we will have hot crawfish and cold drinks** – just what we all need! We have all been through a lot since our last banquet, even our venue got roughed up. We are still going to be at the same location, but this year we will be outside in a tent. So here it is: **Thursday March 1, 2018 at the Bob Bowers Civic Center in Port Arthur, Texas, starting at 6:00 pm.** This is a first for us, and we couldn't be more excited about putting this event together for all of our members and guests! Tickets will go fast, so please contact me or Taylor at the CCA office to get your table reserved. Let's make this a sell-out for the 5th year!

From all of us at the Sabine-Neches Chapter, we look forward to seeing you at our "Banquet under the Big Top"! Until then, Tight Lines to All! – **Darin M Johnson**

Sam Houston
Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908
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San Antonio
Rick Neitzel 210-771-7807
tascorneitzel@aol.com

It's time to mark your calendar for our spring events! **Our 5th Annual Hooked on Clays Sporting Clay Shoot at the National Shooting Complex will be held on Friday March 23, 2018. Registration starts at 11:30 am, and the Clay Shoot will start at 1:00 pm** – Food and beverages to follow, along with prizes and awards!

Keep a watch out for emails, or contact **Bob Brumby** at *brumbo@guttc.com* or (210) 862-2421.

Order your tables and tickets now for our **39th Annual Banquet, which again will be held at the AT&T Expo Hall. This year's event will be on May 3, 2018.** You can order tables and tickets now on the CCA Texas website, or contact Joe Eaton at *jeaton@eatoncontracting.com*. If you would like to get involved with our Banquet Committee, we will be having meetings at the **Barn Door Restaurant on the first and third Tuesdays in February, then weekly in March.** I highly recommend that you come join us at a meeting. For more information you may contact this year's **Banquet Chairman Robert Lozano** at *robertlozano129@yahoo.com*.

We are planning another **Chapter Night Out on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at the Barn Door Restaurant at 6:00 pm.** We

will have two speakers for the evening: **Christopher Mace, PhD from TPWD**, who will discuss effects from Harvey, and **POC guide Curtiss Cash**, who will be giving a few new ideas and places to fish. Watch your inboxes for further details!

Thanks again to our loyal sponsors and volunteers who help make CCA San Antonio one of the best fundraising chapters in the country. Finally, remember to wet a line with your family and friends! – **Rick Neitzel**

San Bernard
Ross Kutach 281-330-0135
rosskutach@yahoo.com

The San Bernard Chapter will host our Annual Fundraising Banquet on February 22, 2018 at Riverside Hall in East Bernard. Meal and raffle tickets are on sale now. We are offering a ribeye steak dinner with all the trimmings. Tickets are available and will be sold out by banquet opening. **Contact your local board member today** to reserve your seat and raffle tickets. **For advanced tickets, contact Jarrod Cavness at (281) 541-5684.** I hope to see you all there!

Our raffle contains 11 prizes, with a mixed bag this year. The first prize is a John Deere 54" Commercial Grade Zero Turn lawnmower and trailer package. The second prize is a **custom built and accessorized golf cart.** The third prize is a **\$1,000 Academy Sports + Outdoors gift card.** The remainder is a mixed bag of guns, rounded up with a Mystery Cooler. Live and silent auction items will be available for purchase the night of the event, and, of course, all adult beverages are included at no charge!

Fishing has held steady through the late fall and into the winter months. Solid fish have been caught in East Matagorda Bay on a regular basis. The redfish have been steady as well. Check out the diversion channel and Old River to get out of those screaming 20+ mph north winds. Make sure to bundle those little ones up and get them out there with you. Until then, stay safe, tight lines and fish on! – **Ross**

San Gabriel
John Melnar 512- 497-8284
jmelnar@plateautogroup.com

Southwestern
Veronica Oliver 830-765-6228
ronnimoliver@gmail.com

TAMU
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Texas State University
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rockin_g_payne@yahoo.com

Trinity Valley
John Hebert Jr 936-334-2528
jjhebert@imsday.com

West Houston
Ruben Delgadillo 281-808-1434
ruben@liftpull.com

Goodbye 2017, and bring on 2018! First of all, we want to thank each one of you for your continued support of our chapter. This year our city was devastated by Hurricane Harvey, and by now many of us who got flooded have begun putting our lives back together. The west side of Houston was one of the worst areas hit in our city and it was just amazing to see the community come together to help!

While I am glad to be done with 2017, I am even more excited about the things to come in 2018! As many of you know, for years we have had our banquet at the Houston Farm and Ranch Club. The devastation of Harvey caused too much damage, and they are officially closing.

Our new location will be at the Omni Houston West Side – 13210 Katy Freeway, Houston, Texas 77079. It is located at the corner of Eldridge and I-10. The venue has A/C, marble floors and great acoustics! **We look forward to another great year and hope to have a General Membership Meeting in the first quarter of 2018!** As always, if you would like to get more involved in our chapter, please contact me anytime.
– **Ruben Delgadillo**

West Texas
Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499
Craig@McDonnold.net





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Topwater wade fishing for the first time. Great Action / Kid Photo by Randy Plummer. Heart of the Hills member Marshall Plummer battles his first topwater red.

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Chunky Shrimp Burgers with Old Bay Mayo

Ingredients

1 pound medium shrimp, shelled and deveined
1 egg
2 Tbs chopped cilantro
1 Tbs garlic (prefer fresh)
1/2 cup panko or plain bread crumbs
1/2 jalapeno, chopped and seeded
1 large shallot, minced
1 tsp sea salt
1 tsp black pepper
1/3 cup red pepper, chopped small
3 Tbs canola or vegetable oil
Mayo
Old Bay, to taste
Avocado, optional
Hamburger buns of choice.
(I serve these on a kaiser roll or as sliders)

Directions

Divide the shrimp in half. Coarsely chop one half and set aside. Put remaining half in a food processor and grind to a

coarse puree.

Add egg, shallot, cilantro, jalapeno and garlic to processor. Process until smooth. Sprinkle mixture with breadcrumbs and process again. Transfer contents of food processor to a large bowl. Add coarsely chopped shrimp and red pepper. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste. Mix well. Form burgers and chill for 1 hour (covered). It isn't necessary, but they're much easier to cook.

Heat oil in a heavy skillet. When hot, fry the shrimp burgers until golden, about 3 minutes per side, depending on thickness. Drain on paper towels. Grill or toast buns. Add mayo to both sides and sprinkle with Old Bay. On bottom bun, place lettuce, tomato, shrimp patty and sliced avocado, top off with the top bun and enjoy!

You can modify these burgers however you see fit. I believe they are nearly impossible to mess up. Feel free to make them chunkier or smoother, or increase the spices, it's up to you!

—Liz Hewitt



Silver At the Pass

A surf fisherman gets more than he bargained for on a silver spoon at Pass Cavallo. Bid it up at the Port O'Connor banquet March 24. This new Caldwell classic is now on view, along with old and middle-aged classics. Drop by the website for a visit to the Highlands of Scotland and wolves in the high country of Colorado.



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CURRENTS NEWSLETTER

February / March 2018

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CCA CONTRIBUTIONS AT WORK

TPW Warden Captain Johnny Rios with two sea turtles rescued during the January freeze. The new airboat was funded by CCA Texas for the Coastal Fisheries Division.

U.S. Coast Guard

Air & Sea Rescue

National Response Center: 800-874-2143
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 or 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 report game violations. **1-800-792-4263.**

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



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