

CURRENTS

April / May 2014



SATURDAY MAY 17TH
at SAM HOUSTON RACE PARK



HANK WILLIAMS JR.



38 SPECIAL

CCASTX
SAM HOUSTON
RACE PARK



WADE BOWEN

TICKETS AVAILABLE
at CCATEXAS.ORG or SHRP.COM

"...a tremendous economic and environmental opportunity for Aransas County and the entire State of Texas."

Cedar Bayou dredging ready to begin

For the first time since they were bulldozed closed in 1979 due to the Ixtoc I oil spill, Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough will return to their historical flow paths.

The contract for construction was awarded by Aransas County in December 2013 and the contractor is poised and ready to begin work on April 15, 2014. With a construction window of six months, recreational fishermen will enjoy the magic of Cedar Bayou in the fall of 2014. This project will once again allow the much needed water exchange between the Gulf of Mexico, Mesquite Bay, the surrounding wetlands and ultimately San Antonio, Aransas and other surrounding bays.

This dream is finally becoming a reality," said Aransas County Judge Burt Mills. "This project will create a tremendous economic and environmental opportunity for Aransas County and the entire State of Texas. Through the hard work of so many partners, we will now push this initiative forward."

Since the early 1900's, Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough remained open approximately 87% of the time until being closed in 1979. There were short term closures during this period and records indicate two dredging events, one in 1939

and another in 1959, but Mother Nature did her job and kept her open.

Since the closure, there have been two attempts to dredge the bayou, once in 1987 and a second time in 1995. Both attempts were short on money and the effort to once again connect Cedar Bayou and Vinson slough fell short. Vinson Slough is a critical part of the project and helps provide the adequate water flows necessary for the pass to keep itself open.

The effort to restore Cedar

Bayou dates back to 1985 with the creation of *Save Cedar Bayou, Inc. (SCBI)*. In 2003 the Aransas County Cedar Bayou Advisory Committee was formed to take a fresh look at the challenges of restoring this critical natural pass. The Committee's report, issued in November 2003, reinvigorated the public and private interest to get the job done right. Between 2006

and 2008, Cedar Bayou, Inc. and the Texas General Land Office spent \$400,000 collectively to study Cedar Bayou and develop a plan to open and maintain the pass. After continuous efforts to obtain the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) permit for construction seemingly stalled and the

"You have a national treasure out here and it needs to be restored back to the way Mother Nature had it..."

—Col. Christopher W. Sallese, US Army Corps of Engineers.

continuous battle for funds, SCBI requested Aransas County to take over the project.

In December of 2009, the permit application was transferred to the county and the effort to open the pass began to

move forward. Aransas County pushed hard to resolve all issues with the USACE permit and on August 3, 2011 the USACE issued the permit to Aransas County to restore Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough.

"You have a national treasure out here and it needs to be restored back to the way Mother Nature had it," said Col.

The gentleman with the 4-wheeler is the contractor doing surveying and marking the center lines of the dredging project.



*On the cover:
A graphic artwork by
CCA's award-winning
Heather Peterek*



Photographs of Cedar Bayou by Lisa Laskowski. For more visuals of CCA conservation projects, see Kim Ogonosky's Project Videos link on page 8.

Christopher W. Sallese, US Army Corps of Engineers.

The next push was to raise the necessary funds to get the work done! CCA Texas stepped forward and partnered with Aransas County to raise the necessary funds and in February 2012, announced that the organization was committing \$500,000 to jump start the process. Over the next 18 to 24 months, CCA Texas and Aransas County worked many different avenues to secure the necessary funds through government grants, private foundations and individual support.

In November 2013, CCA Texas Executive Board approved an additional \$800,000 in match funding to close out the final \$1,600,000 needed to complete the project.

To date, CCA Texas has funded a total of \$1,565,000 to this project. \$1,300,000 through the hard efforts of volunteers throughout the state, secured \$145,000 from private foundations and \$100,000 through the CCA National Building Conservation Trust, and funded another \$20,000 through the Babes of the Bay Tournament held locally in Rockport.

Aransas County's efforts have brought over \$2,735,000 through savings from restructured bonds and CIAP monies secured, while Texas GLO has contributed roughly \$1,400,000 through the permitting and fundraising process. CCA Texas is a proud partner of this project and looks forward to the day when the water flows once again.

"It is not often that there is an opportunity to reopen vital passes like these," said Robby Byers, CCA Texas Executive Director. "It has been a monumental fundraising campaign, but through the partnership of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Aransas County, General

Land Office, CCA and so many generous supporters, the project will begin."

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is another important partner in the project as well. During the 2013 legisla-

tive session, TPWD and the legislature earmarked \$3,000,000 for the completion of the project. Without their support throughout the process of securing the permit and lastly financially, the effort to open this pass would still be ongoing.

—Cedar Bayou becoming reality:
continued on page 8

CCA Texas to hold its 3rd Annual Concert for Conservation on May 17, featuring

Hank Williams Jr.

This year's Concert for Conservation will be held at the Sam Houston Race Park on Saturday May 17, 2014. Headliner **Hank Williams Jr.** will play his first Houston performance in 13 years. Other performers slated for the event are **38 Special** and **Wade Bowen**.

Advanced General Admission tickets can be purchased now for \$35. Day of Show General Admission tickets will be available for \$45. Advanced Reserved Seating tickets can be purchased now for \$125.

All tickets include a CCA membership, but please note: **Attendees will need to fill out a Member Information card at the concert in order to process their CCA Memberships.**

Doors will open at 5:00 pm, with the first performance going on at



6:00 pm. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Concert attendees are welcome to bring their own lawn chairs and blankets, but lawn chairs will also be available for purchase at the event. Get your tickets now, as we are expecting a big crowd! 🍷

Tickets are available online at www.shrp.com, www.ccatexas.org, at participating Houston-area Randalls locations, the Sam Houston Race Park box office, or by calling (800) 211-3381. For more information please contact Executive Director Robby Byers at (713) 626-4222 or robby@ccatexas.org.



25th Anniversary Celebration!

Listen up, Saltwater Anglers! Less than two months to go before the 25th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament begins! Another exciting fishing season is on the horizon and the CCA Texas STAR Tournament is celebrating 25 years with Silver Anniversary surprises! The past twenty-four tournaments have been amazing with many memorable fish stories resulting in huge wins and we can't wait to see what the twenty-fifth brings!

One of our goals has always been to keep the tournament fee as reasonable as possible and thanks to our wonderful sponsors, we have been able to. In 2002, we were able to begin offering New Tide members (ages 6 - 17) the opportunity to fish the tournament **FREE** of charge. Over the last two and a half decades, CCA Texas STAR has been extremely fortunate to provide members of all ages with some really outstanding prize packages and college scholarships and this year we will once again offer participants the same great quality prizes STAR is known for.

Enter early and be on the lookout in your mailbox. Our great partner, Academy Sports + Outdoors, will be sending all current CCA Texas members a \$10 coupon around May just in time for the STAR kick-off! We are pleased to welcome Abu-Garcia into our family of sponsors. Should you be in the market for a new reel this fishing season, be sure and check out Abu Revo reels. Look for more intel on Abu Revo in upcoming CURRENTS issues and Facebook. This writer throws one and can attest the line leaves the reel like a hot knife through butter. And what a drag! We also want to remind you to take advantage of all the other great Early Bird and Member incentives available to CCA Texas STAR participants. Be sure and register now to make the Early Bird Drawing! Please see below for more details. SPOOL UP AND GET READY!

CCA Texas/STAR Platinum Print Membership Package, Series IV - We're pleased to announce the new print being offered for the 2014 CCA Texas STAR Platinum package is *Working the Spoils*. Renowned artist David Drinkard has again honored the CCA Texas member by creating a print depicting a classic wade fishing scene... check out the Great White Herring! This special offer includes your CCA membership (new or renewal), your 2014 CCA Texas STAR entry, plus a signed, limited-edition print created exclusively for STAR, all for \$125! *Working the Spoils* is a one-of-a-kind special



BEST IN TEXAS

2014 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT SuperCab with Haynie 23 Bigfoot, the Redfish Division prize.

2014 STAR Early Bird Drawing

Deadline to enter is May 23

GRAND PRIZE

Dargel 210 Skout, Mercury 150 Pro XS Optimax Motor and McClain Trailer
(must be 21 years old to win boat prize package)

20 MORE GREAT PRIZES

9.9 hp Kicker Motor
Three (3) All-Star Abu-Garcia Revo Reel Combos
Thermo-Electric Travel Cooler & Warmer
Fifteen (15) CCA Special Edition Posters

print worth this price alone. If you would like to consider one, or several, of these limited-edition packages, go to: <http://www.startournament.org> more details or to place your order with the STAR Dept., call (713) 626-4222.

STILL AVAILABLE... CCA Texas STAR Platinum Print, Series I, II & III - STAR Reds, STAR Sightings & School Is In Session are still available. If you haven't purchased yet and would like to begin your CCA Texas STAR Platinum Collectible Series, please contact the STAR Dept. and we can get you fixed up. To own this first-ever commemorative piece, purchase yours today before they're all gone! The proceeds from the sales of Platinum Packages will help us continue to fund the STAR scholarships.

YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN TO WIN! ATTENTION ALL ANGLERS PLANNING TO FISH THE TEXAS COAST THIS SUMMER!

In order to win one of a \$1,000,000 in prizes being offered in Texas' largest, richest, summer-long saltwater fishing event, an angler must be a **CURRENT** member of CCA, in addition to being registered as a **2014 TEXAS STAR entrant**. As usual, the membership fee is \$25 annually, plus \$20 STAR Tournament fee for a total of \$45. In order to win at STAR, an angler must be registered and be a current member of CCA. You know you'll go so might as well do it now! Remember, everyone entered in the STAR Tournament, who will be 6 years old in 2014 and older, is eligible to win the prizes being offered (even the TAGGED REDFISH DIVISION)!!! Get everyone signed up for the **2014 STAR**. Be sure and enter now to take advantage of some great early bird incentives... see details below.

YOUNG ANGLERS FISH FOR FREE!

Speaking of bargains, for young anglers ages 6-17, the "New Tide" membership fee remains \$10 annually and the STAR entry fee is **FREE!!!** Of course, we want **all** kids on the water. CCA "New Tide" members will continue to have the opportunity to win giant scholarships to fund their college education for just the price of a \$10 CCA "New Tide" Membership. We thank our generous sponsors for making it possible for us to offer young anglers this great opportunity. **Keep in mind, signing up as a "New Tide"**

membership **DOES NOT** automatically register member in STAR. "New Tide" Members **MUST BE** at least 6 years of age in 2014 and **under age 18 to enter for FREE**. It is the "New Tide" Member's responsibility to register each year for STAR.

2014 EARLY BIRD DRAWINGS

- We will again offer some great incentives for anglers to sign up before the tournament starts. Don't forget to sign up ahead of time and get

your shot at landing one of the many great prize offerings just for registering early. Your early registration into the 2014 CCA Texas STAR Fishing Tournament qualifies you to win the perfect rig to get you to your favorite fishing spot in style. The Coors Light "Early Bird" Promotion will again offer another awesome "grand prize" boat package! The awesome Dargel 210 Skout with a Mercury 150 motor and McClain trailer - a prize package valued at around \$35,000! Everyone ages 21 and over that signs up **now through May 23rd** will automatically be entered into this special drawing, along with the 20 other great prizes being offered. Everyone age 20 and under that signs up **now through May 23rd** will automatically be entered for the 20 other great "Early Bird" prizes.



Terry Ray was last year's lucky Coors Light "Early Bird" Grand Prize Winner! For the 2014 Coors Light "Early Bird" Grand Prize, one lucky winner will receive a Dargel 210 Skout, Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax and McClain Trailer.

Don't miss "the boat" or "the truck and boat"... register today! You can sign up NOW online at www.ccatexas.org or www.startournament.org!!!

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

- 🔥 Ford X-Plan Pricing (see details, page 5)
- 🔥 \$10 gift card courtesy of Academy Sports and Outdoors (see details, page 5)
- 🔥 Texas Fish & Game Magazine subscription (see details, page 5)
- 🔥 \$1000 worth of free upgrades with your purchase of a new Tilson home (see ad on page 23).

FORD X-PLAN PRICING - The Texas Ford Dealers continue to honor CCA Texas members in a huge way by offering you X-Plan pricing! Every current member can buy (or lease) any Ford product at the *same price Ford employees must pay*. This means we can save up to **\$1,000 or much more**, just by having a valid **\$25 CCA membership card!!!** Our Ford Partner Code # is **CCA 61**; go to www.fordpartner.com, if you are considering a purchase.

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



TEXAS FISH & GAME "BONUS" SUBSCRIPTION!!! -

Texas Fish & Game will again honor this year's STAR entrants with a **ONE -YEAR** (12 issues) subscription to *Texas Fish & Game* Magazine. Please be advised your subscription **WILL NOT be sent automatically**. If you wish to take advantage of this special bonus you must declare on your application form. If you have already signed up for the 2014 STAR, but did not declare that you would like this special offer and/or have questions regarding your past or current subscription, please call (713) 626-4222 or email star@startournament.org.



2014 PRIZE LINE-UP - This year's contestants have a chance at winning over 100 prizes including trucks, boats, motors, trailers and college scholarships in the following categories:

Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division - Texas Ford Dealers continue to make this division the "Best in Texas"! They will again give each of the first five registered STAR participants who catch tagged redfish a brand new truck to get to their fishing destination in a tough, dependable and stylish ride. The first five registered anglers to weigh-in a tagged red will receive a 2014 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" truck. Haynie Boats returns with the awesome Haynie 23 Bigfoot rigged with a motor and Coastline Trailer completing this amazing package. The next five weighed in will receive the same boat, motor and trailer packages.

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

Trout Division - With winners in the upper, middle and lower coast regions, each winning angler will

take home an awesome Shoalwater 22' Legend boat with a Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax motor and McClain trailer. **SPECIAL NOTE:** If you're unsure a trout is large enough to qualify, consider this "easy rule-of-thumb" - if length is less than 27 inches, chances are it won't meet the eight pound minimum weight requirement for the Trout Division. Unless you intend to mount your fish as a personal best, why not think about releasing anything that might not make the cut so she can re-seed the bays.

Offshore Division - ATTENTION BLUE WATERS! Since STAR is a zero-budgeted event the offshore prize budget, unfortunately, can't handle awarding Bertrams, Hatteras, Vikings, etc. and the smaller 21' boats previously awarded as prizes, always get sold. We hear you, and appreciate your feedback over the years on new and different ideas for this division. On that note, we are thrilled to announce a totally new prize offering for this division! Hoffpauir Auto & Outdoor Stores has partnered with us to provide the offshore angler something that will come in very handy after a long trip on the high seas, or anywhere. Anglers who land the heaviest kingfish, dorado and ling will each receive an awesome Polaris Ranger® Crew 570 EPS UVs in Polaris Pursuit Camo each with a Big Tex Trailer, plus a giant standing trophy.



Polaris Ranger® Crew 570 EPS. Photo for representational purposes only.

Inshore Division - Each winner that reels in the largest flounder, gafftop and sheephead will be handsomely rewarded with Blue Wave's 180 SV Southern Skiff boat, Mercury 115 OptiMax motor and McClain trailer.

In the past nineteen years, STAR has awarded \$4,925,000 in college scholarships to 154 fisher-kids across the state, ranging from 6-17 years of age and 2014 continues to offer plenty of reason for everyone to round up their kid(s), a rod and reel and head for the water.

Capital Farm Credit StarKid Flounder Division - This division gives entrants age 6-10 a chance to win a \$50,000 college scholarship for the largest flounder caught throughout the summer. **SPECIAL NOTE:** Besides paying for this mighty \$50,000 scholarship, Capital Farm Credit is paying an all-time record \$65 million cash patronage this spring to stockholders! Unlike most companies, every customer becomes a stockholder and CCA members appreciate Capital Farm Credit financing their "piece of heaven"... WOW!

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

Houston Community Newspapers StarKid Sheephead Division - This division gives entrants age 6-



Trout Division: Shoalwater 22' Legend with a Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax



Inshore Division: Blue Wave 180 SV Southern Skiff with a Mercury 115 OptiMax

10 a chance to win a **\$50,000** college scholarship for the largest sheephead caught throughout the summer.

Academy Sports & Outdoors StarTeens Trout Division

- This youth scholarship division is open to all New Tide members ages 11-17 and awards a **\$20,000** college scholarship for each fisher-teen with the largest trout in the upper, middle and lower coasts. **SPECIAL NOTE:** The minimum weight requirement for the trout is six pounds. For all fish weighing less than six pounds,

if no intentions of mounting young angler's prize catch, please take a quick picture and immediately release back into the water.

Time Warner Cable StarTeens Inshore Division

- This youth scholarship division is open to all New Tide members ages 11-17 and awards a **\$20,000** college scholarship for each fisher-teen with the largest flounder, gafftop and sheephead statewide.

Continued on page 6



NOW AVAILABLE...2014 STAR Platinum Print Series: Working The Spoils.

STILL AVAILABLE... CCA Texas/STAR Platinum Print, Series I, II & III - STAR Reds, STAR Sightings & School Is In Session are still available. If you haven't purchased yet and would like to begin your CCA Texas STAR Platinum Collectible Series, please contact the STAR Dept. and we can get you fixed up. To own this first-ever commemorative piece, purchase yours today before they're all gone!

The proceeds from the sales of Platinum Packages will help us continue to fund the STAR scholarships. Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament!

If you would like to consider one, or several, of these limited-edition packages, go to: <http://www.startournament.org> more details or to place your order with the STAR Dept., call (713) 626-4222.



STAR has reached
\$4,925,000 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.

STAR from page 5

But Wait, There's More...

Runner-Up Prizes - The first through fourth runners-up in all divisions will receive various gift certificates from Academy Sports & Outdoors.

"New Tide" Member Drawing - The "New Tide" Scholarship Drawing will be offered again in 2014. "NewTide" STAR participants at least, 6 - 17 years old in 2014, are eligible for a bonus drawing that will net one lucky youth a \$20,000 college scholarship even if the participant never wets a line or enters a single fish during the entire tournament.

Member Bonus Drawing - This unique drawing offers STAR entrants a chance to win a fabulous boat prize package even if the participant never wets a line. One lucky contestant's name will be drawn to win a model with a Dargel 210TV boat, Mercury150 Pro XS OptiMax outboard and McClain trailer.

Please don't forget to thank our wonderful sponsors for their loyal support... return the favor by remembering them when making your purchasing decisions. They make this wonderful family event possible. Major sponsors for the 25th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament include:

Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Home Corporation, Capital Farm Credit, Mercury Marine, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, Ozarka, Berkley Gulp, Abu Garcia, Rio Ammunition, Hoffpauir Auto & Outdoor Stores, Houston Community Newspapers, Fox Sports Southwest, Time Warner Cable, Haynie Boats, Shoalwater Boats, Dargel Boats, Blue Wave Boats, Texas Fish & Game Magazine, Texas Oilman's Charity Fishing Tournament, Coastline Trailers, McClain Trailers, Chris's Marine and Mt. Houston Marine.

Welcome, new STAR partners!

Abu Garcia  **Abu Garcia**
FOR LIFE™

 **RIO**
SINCE 1896 Rio Ammunition

 **Hoffpauir**
AUTO & OUTDOOR STORES

Kayleigh Ritchey, StarTeen Gafftop Winner. Kayleigh was awarded a \$20,000 college scholarship, sponsored by Time Warner Cable.



CCA Staffers are in Currents news:

Three communicators seize top state awards, a 30-year CCA worker honored

—New Braunfels: Texas Outdoor Writers Association (TOWA) presents statewide communication awards. Full details available at the TOWA website: www.towa.org

And, The Winners Are:

Special Projects - Conservation

First place: Heather Peterek, "Building Conservation Trust Annual Report - 2012," November 2012.

Judges' Comments: ... The Building Conservation Trust 2012 Annual Report... shows what one organization can do to help conserve and preserve the environment. Excellent publications and even a better detail of what this organization [CCA] does.

Outdoor Illustration/Graphic: First place: Sam Caldwell, "Deep Red Structure," Currents Newsletter, June/July 2013.

Second place: Heather Peterek, "Let's Get Reel," TIDE Magazine, September/October 2012. *Judges' Comments:* Beautiful and informative graphics and illustrations, both!



Robby Byers presents Kim Vollentine with a special award. Applauding in the background are CCA Texas President John Carlson and Chairman Mark Ray.

Outdoor Publication – Under 25,000

Second place: "Rising Tide," submitted by Heather Peterek, November-December 2012. *Judges' Comments:*...Rising Tide is just fun. Tracking a shark? Wow. Kids of all ages will like that.

Outdoor Publication – Over 25,000

Second place: "TIDE" – submitted by Ted Venker, editor.

Third place: "CURRENTS" – submitted by Sam Caldwell, editor.

Outdoor Photography, People: Third place: Sam Caldwell, "Personal Best CPR," CURRENTS, October/November 2013. *Cover of Currents Newsletter:* A large speckled trout is released by a lady angler.



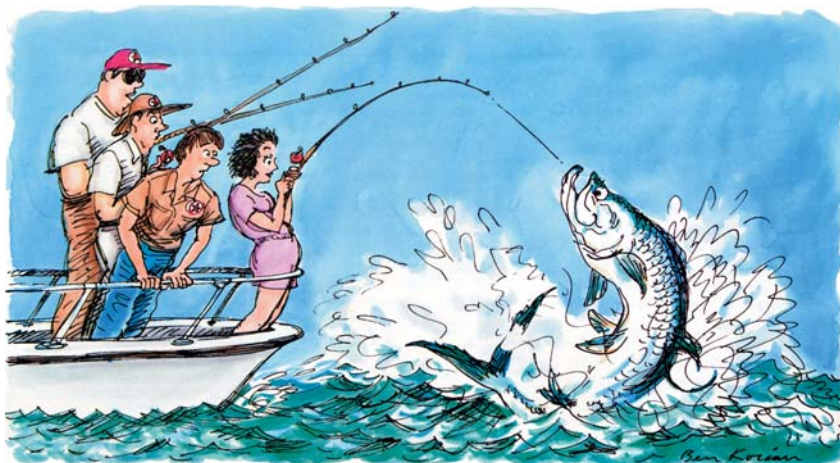
Ted Venker, Heather Peterek and Sam Caldwell.

"Pretty Impressive!"

Kim Vollentine received a standing ovation at the February 5 Director's Board Meeting, when Robby Byers presented the longtime CCA worker with a 30-year award. Always one of the CCA's finest staff members, Kim did not even take the day off.

"Pretty impressive," said Exec. Dir. Robby Byers as he presented the award to Kim.

Below: A scene by Ben Kocian from one of Kim's earliest GCCA banquet trips to Florida. Beginner's luck!



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 / sam@samcaldwell.com
This is the issue of April/May 2014
Vol. 32, Issue 3

Welcome to the CCA Texas Online Auction

Sponsored By Costa Del Mar

*We have some great merchandise
up for grabs this month!*

*Available online 11 am, April 16,
ends April 23 at 11 am.*

*To bid and win, go to ccatexas.org
and click on the link (left hand side)
online auction. Good luck!—Erich
Schneider*

When you think of great sporting wear, what comes to mind? **Simms** is one of the top brands you think of. Here is your chance to get a great pair of **Simms waders**, but branded with the CCA Texas Logo. These waders only come in XL so make sure you know what size you wear in waders.



This rustic Texas flag metal tacker is a brand new custom piece made just for CCA Texas, hand-somely pre-stressed, but with no bullet holes. It would look great in any beach house or man cave. Don't miss your opportunity to be the first to own one.



*Sponsored by our
friends at Costa.*



Great Foods / Food Editor Ellen Ohmstede

CREOLE SHRIMP

3 -4 lbs medium shrimp
2 cups clam juice / 1 cup chicken stock / ¼ oil
3 cups finely chopped onions
2 cups finely chopped celery
2 cups finely chopped green bell pepper / 4 T butter / 2 t chopped garlic / 1 Bay leaf / 1 t Slap Ya Mama or favorite Cajun seasoning / ½ t white pepper
1 t cayenne / 1 t black pepper
1 ½ t Tabasco / 1 t Worcestershire
1 T dried thyme leaves / 1 t dried basil leaves / 3 cups finely chopped tomatoes / 8 oz can of tomato sauce / 2 t sugar / 5 cups cooked rice

Rinse and peel shrimp and refrigerate until needed. Heat oil in Dutch oven or large sauce pan. Add 1 cup of onions and sauté until rich golden brown. Add remaining onions, celery, bell pepper and butter. Cook over high heat until bell peppers get soft, about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add garlic, bay leaf, salt, Cajun seasoning, peppers, stir well. Add Tabasco, Worcestershire, thyme, basil and ½ cup of stock. Cook over medium heat about 5 minutes, letting vegetables brown further, stirring and scraping bottom of the pan. Add tomatoes, turn heat down to low and simmer 10 minutes, stirring and scraping bottom of the pan. Stir in tomato sauce and simmer 5

minutes. Add the remaining stock and sugar. Simmer for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Season to taste.

If serving immediately, turn off heat and add the shrimp, cover the pot and let sit just until shrimp are plump and pink. Serve with rice.



We want you to fish for us!

CCA Texas and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) are looking for volunteers to help with fishing surveys for the East Galveston Bay Reef Restoration project. It's critical to have data before and after. You can be that important Fishing Scientist.



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



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

The fishing periods will be seasonal times during the months of June to August, then September to November, December to February and March to May.

Pre-construction efforts through the end of 2013, and post-construction efforts will take place beginning June 2014 through 2015.

For more information regarding how you can Fish for Science, contact: Bill Rodney, (TPWD), at 281-534-0127, Bill.Rodney@tpwd.texas.gov. Or, Bryan.Legare@tpwc.texas.gov. Or, John Blaha, CCA Texas at 713-626-4222 jdblaha@ccatexas.org.



Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR TEXAS MARINE HABITAT

Cedar Bayou on the way to becoming a reality—continued from page 2

"The Fish Pass at Cedar Bayou has long been a special and storied place for Texas' saltwater anglers and coastal enthusiasts. Re-opening the historic Fish Pass will undoubtedly provide additional high quality recreational opportunities for Texas' anglers to enjoy the bountiful outdoor resources for which this stretch of the coast is so well known," said Carter Smith, TPWD executive director. "Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is proud to be a partner with Aransas County,

Coastal Conservation Association, and all the others who have worked so long to make this a reality."

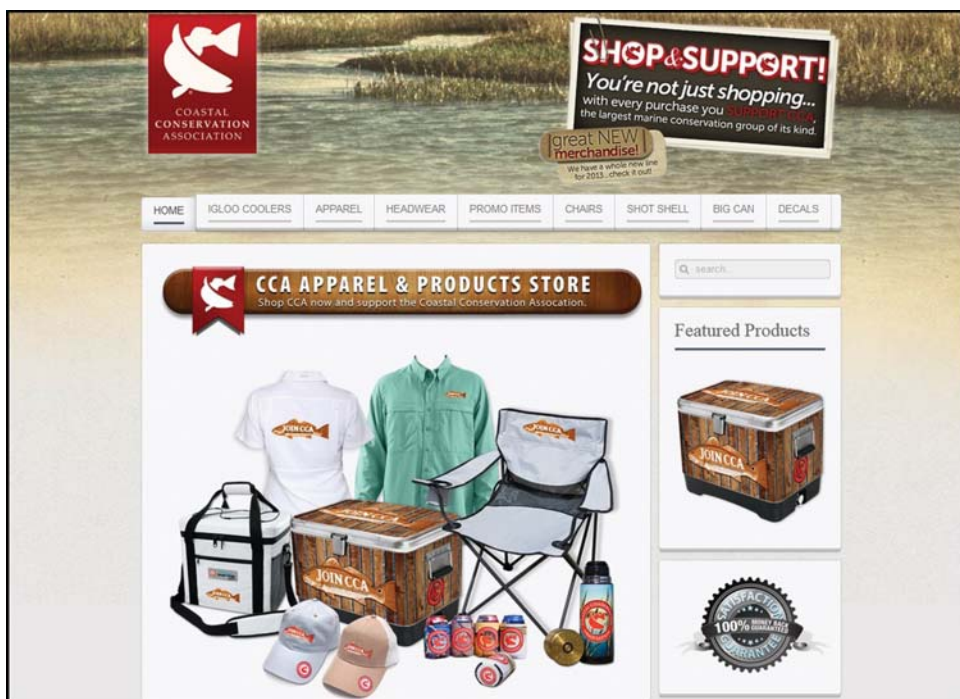
Opening a pass between the Gulf and bay is never easy, and raising the funds to complete it can be even more daunting," said Mark Ray, CCA Texas Chairman. "As the scope of the project and the associated costs have grown, every partner has stepped to the plate again and again to ensure we reach our goal. It is a great day for the Texas coast and the recreational anglers who enjoy our shared coastal resources."



Cedar Bayou 2014, from a limited edition print by Al Barnes

CCA Texas Launches New Online Store!

Visit the CCA Texas Online Store at
joincca.store.com



CCA Texas staff has taken the next step to show its membership and the general public exactly what HTFT is doing. You can now visit www.ccatexas.org and click on the **Conservation tab**. There you will see the "Project Videos" link where you will be able to view all the great work of HTFT.

Now on YouTube— along with Kim Ogonosky's new video footage of Cedar Bayou:

Pre-construction flyover footage on our website: <http://www.ccatexas.org/conservation/habitat/project-videos/>

Press release with a couple of photos on our website: <http://www.ccatexas.org/partners-dig-deep-to-open-cedar-bayou/>

Facebook album with several photos: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a6182475823108610734186249646637075834&type=3>

Next Currents: Nearshore Reefing, advanced

Richard Kline Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Biological Sciences

University of Texas at Brownsville
State of the art in reefing: A look at the ongoing nearshore reefing projects. Difference in fish populations (both in number of individuals and species) between the very dense clusters of culverts vs. ones that are spread far apart with only 3-4 in a group. What do the structures look like at depth? Hopefully, we'll have some visuals by the April/May Currents.

Below: Reef life on just one small concrete reef object.





Special Gift for New LIFE MEMBERS

brought to you by **igloo**
CORPORATION



**CCA Texas and Igloo have
teamed up for a very special
offer to CCA Life members.**

For a limited time, anyone who becomes a CCA
Texas Life Member will receive a custom CCA Life
Member 50qt Igloo Yukon . (Retail value of \$379)

Existing Life Members, please contact CCA Texas or email Kim at kogonosky@ccatexas.org for your special CCA Igloo cooler offer!

Your \$1,000 tax-deductible life membership in CCA will help us continue our important coastal conservation work in Texas. Supporters like you allow our team to work at our State Capitol and on our coast everyday to ensure the long-term well-being of our critical marine resources.

We strive to secure the wonderful fishing we enjoy across our coast today and keep it
available for generations to come. **Thank you for your continued support of CCA.**

CCALifeMember APPLICATION

Name _____

CCA Member ID# _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Method of Payment


☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover

Credit Card Number

Exp. Date

Signature

Or print this form and send to:

 **CCATexas** | 6919 Portwest Dr, Ste. 100 | Houston, Texas 77024
Phone 713.626.4222 | Fax 713.961.3801 | www.CCATexas.org

Upper Coast

By Capt. George Knighten

Now, give topwaters a workout!

Warm balmy breezes and strong warm spring tides will bring with it some great days of fishing. For those who wade fish, this is one of the best times of year. Shore line flats and coves can produce some impressive stringers. Top water action can be at its best.

Wounded mullet imitation lures like Mirro-Lures Top Dogs and He dogs will account for some wall hanger trout. My favorite colors are bone, hot pink, and the chrome sides with a dark back. Remember your conservation ethics and release these big girls to reproduce and keep big trout genes in the pool.

When top waters are not working I switch over to soft plastics like Bass Assassins and Mirro-Lures provoker. Red shad is always a favorite color, if it's sunny and bright I go to pearl, and natural colors with a chartreuse tail.

If staying in the boat, you can't go wrong drifting the reefs. I will use either live shrimp under a popping cork or go to the soft plastics with a quarter or eight oz. lead head. Watch bait action and slicks to key you in to the hot spots. Working seagulls can point you to the fish, but diving pelicans or loons may also be working the same types of bait that trout or redfish will feed on.

Spring brings with it some very strong winds. Remember to check ahead with the marine forecast and don't get caught on the wrong shoreline when it whips up. Fishing is all about fun, family and friends, but you still have to keep safety in mind.

I am looking forward to a great Spring and hope yours is fun and productive also. —Capt. George Knighten 832-310-9146
GalvestonBayGuideService.net



Lower Colorado's 20 foot SVT Tran Cat boat, powered with a 4 stroke 175 hp Suzuki outboard



MidCoast's fully loaded banquet boat



Central Houston's 22' Mowdy powered by a 175 hp Suzuki 4-stroke engine.

Middle Coast

By Capt. Tommy Alexander

Go early, go shallow this spring

April and May are two of my favorite months of the year. These are the transition months where the fish move to hard sand and grass and the water temperature warms up enough for throwing top waters. The good thing about the fish moving means even when the wind howls in the spring, we can fish the South Shore line.

Key on spots in West Bay like Greens, Cottons and the pipeline. Look for grass beds with sand between. Find, mullet find fish. Sometimes, the water will get too clear this time of year, so look for mud streaks or off-color patches of water.

Get out extremely early this time of year; I like to be fishing at daylight. You will usually find me starting off in the morning with a top water, on the lines of a Super Spook Jr or a She Pup. Bone is my favorite all-time color for topwaters. I also throw a chrome when the sun is out or anything with an orange belly. If that is not producing, I will switch to a light jig head so I can float lures over the grass beds; small paddle tails in roach, white or pumpkin seed.

When the wind is down, East bay and the mid-bay reefs are excellent to wade. There, I will do things a little differently; a little heavier jig head and more straight tail baits. I like colors such as plum, opening night, fire tiger and hot chicken.

You can catch some really good trout throwing top waters in Eastbay in that deeper water in May. A lot of people think you cannot throw top waters in five and six foot of water but they will come up and smash it in the month of May. And remember, be safe and wear your kill switches. Till next time thanks—**Capt Tommy Alexander** 979-709-8242 Alexanderguideservice.com



Fort Bend's Outlaw 185X by JH Performance Boats



The Austin Safari Rig: donated by DCA Construction and Twilight Metalworks.

Lower Coast

By Capt. Jeff Neu

Lots of wind, but rewards await you

There isn't a better place or a tougher place to fish than Port Mansfield, Texas in the spring-time. Wind can make for brutal conditions. That being said, fishing can be very rewarding this time of year.

Spring in the Lower Laguna Madre means big trout, really big trout. Not everybody will catch a monster but the potential is always just a cast away. Some impressive fish have been caught lately, including a near double-digit stud by one of my brother's clients in chocolate brown, wind-blown nastiness. She was released in great condition for the next lucky angler to enjoy.

Topwaters, slow-sinking plugs, and soft plastics work great this time of year. Vary your retrieve when working a topwater. Some days the fish will absolutely blast the thing no matter how fast you work it, other times they won't touch it until it stops dead in the water. When the topwater bite ceases, switch to a corky or a soft plastic tail. I prefer the latter. Rig a Norton Sand Eel Jr on an eighth ounce jig head and get after it. I throw three colors: LSU, strawberry and white, and tequila gold. All these colors will work in clear or "trout green" water. In dirty or "off color" water throw LSU.

Remember—there's plenty of water for us all to enjoy. Maintain your trash and please do your part to pick up that plastic water bottle, beer can, or Payday wrapper you see floating along in the distance. If we can do these simple little things it will make it all that much better for the next generation.

And this spring, your next cast could be the cast of a lifetime. —**Capt. Jeff Neu** 979-942-0164
jeffneuarters@yahoo.com



RGV's 2014 210 Dargel Skout



The Austin boat: Sincere thanks to Burt Watts and Denbow Construction, our boat sponsors, and Wes at Shallow Sport Boats and Marty at Coastline Trailers.

CCA Texas Social Happenings

CCA Texas continues to grow its social media presence through various outlets. Be sure to check out the newest addition to our videos, "Texas Gulf Coast Breakwater Projects at J.D. Murphree and Sargent-Matagorda" and "Restore Cedar Bayou Pre-Construction Flyover" on our Project Videos page (www.ccatexas.org/conservation/habitat/project-videos/). The Cedar Bayou flyover video provides us with a unique look at Cedar Bayou from above!

In each issue of *Currents*, CCA Texas will feature a Facebook photo, Twitter Tweet, and Instagram photo from the previous two months. Please "Like" our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter and Instagram to get the latest updates from CCA Texas and become a part of the conversation!

Facebook:

Cassandra Lynn Wallek graduated Friday, December 13th from Texas A&M university-Kingsville, and received a Bachelors degree in Political Science (Pre-law), with a minor in International Studies. She also walked across the stage representing CCA Texas! Cassandra Lynn, who plans to attend the University of Houston for a Law degree said, "I wanted to stand for something and give people something different to talk about and hopefully even question. CCA is something I've become passionate about since moving to Texas from California 2.5 years ago." Congratulations Cassandra Lynn, and thank you for supporting CCA Texas!



Twitter

On the JD Murphree Shoreline Breakwater project: @TxDUbio: @CCA_Texas John Blaha & @DucksUnlimited Dr. Merendino visit Project Site. Partnerships make conservation work!



Instagram

CCA San Antonio chapter volunteers Beth Vacek and Diana Butler working the CCA booth at the San Antonio boat show this past weekend!



CCA Texas on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/CCATexas

CCA Texas on Twitter:
www.twitter.com/CCA_Texas

CCA Texas on Instagram:
www.instagram.com/cca_texas



6th Annual Port Mansfield East Cut & Beach Cleanup Conservation in action

Some 230 volunteers were ferried to the Port Mansfield East Cut, arriving at daybreak in a heavy fog. Families, Boy Scout troops, a group of University of Houston students, individuals of all ages. They left nothing but footprints, and took away a feeling of investment in one of the nation's most pristine environments, the beach and jetties of Padre Island.

A team from Field & Stream magazine's Hero for a Day videoed the event. An extension of Field & Stream's Heroes of Conservation initiative, Hero for a Day highlights grassroots conservation projects in local communities across the country that have goals of restoring or improving wildlife habitat.

Miller and Kathie Bassler began the event six years ago. They were recently named as finalists in Heroes of Conservation, the national awards. The couple join distinguished CCA company: The first recipient of the top award was Ronnie Luster in 2006. Capt Billy Sandifer was a finalist in 2009.

For photos from a previous event, go to the YouTube site below. Music included by Craig Carter! Type this url into your browser: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TX1321HA8vI>



Heroes of Conservation



Kathie and Miller Bassler visit with a volunteer, Capt. Billy Sandifer. Photos by Sam Caldwell.



RIGHT STUFF. LOW PRICE. EVERYDAY!

CCA makes marine conservation a reality. In addition to relentless efforts to educate the public, CCA also partners with organizations like Academy Sports + Outdoors to promote and enhance the present and future availability of coastal resources.



Selection and prices vary by store. Prices good April 1-May 31, 2014.

24⁹⁹
EVERYDAY!



CCA Lip Gripper and Forceps Tool Kit

Style CCA-K2

- Forceps help you debarb and remove hooks
- Lip gripper to hold your catch



34⁹⁹
EVERYDAY!



CCA Tackle Bag

Style FSCSFE0028

- Comes with 2 (medium) or 3 (large) utility boxes
- Made of 600-denier ripstop fabric
- Integrated side-pocket tool sleeve



5⁴⁹
EVERYDAY!



CCA 5-Gal. Bucket

Style CCA 5 GL RED

- Use to hold bait and more
- Made in the U.S.A.



399⁹⁹
EVERYDAY!

GoPro Hero3+ Black Edition Action Camera

Style CHDX-302

GoPro
Be a HERO.

12 MP PHOTOS



FISHING starts here



39⁹⁹ each
EVERYDAY!

ZEBCO

**Zebco CCA
Spinning Combo**

Style CCA40722M,,NS3

- Aluminum spool and 11-in. handle.
- Two-piece design
- Five bearings
- Use with mono or braid

Zebco CCA

**Inshore
6-ft., 6-in.
Spincast Combo**

Style CCA733C,20,NS3

- 11-in. EVA handle
- Two-piece design
- 90 yds./20 lb.

BAIT & TACKLE

Also available: live worms and assorted frozen baits

5⁹⁹
EVERYDAY!

**H2O Xpress
3 or 4-in. Mojo Shrimp
2 Pack**



9⁹⁹
EVERYDAY!

**Berkley Gulp!
Half Pints**



Alvin-Pearland

Welcome new president, Emery Sadler
713-501-2778

We're gearing up for another record breaking fundraising year. We have several great speakers lined up for our "Anglers Night Out" held the first Tuesday of each month at Spring Creek BBQ in Pearland starting at 7:00.

The current lineup is Tuesday April 1st, Texas Parks and Wildlife- **Lance Robinson**, Tuesday May 6th **Capt. Greg Francis** of "Saltwater Assault Guide Service-Galveston and Tuesday June 3rd, **Capt. Jesse Arsola** of "Reel-Life Adventures-Matagorda. We have several other great speakers lined up for the rest of 2014 so keep a look out in the next currents for future updates.

Our fundraising banquet is scheduled for Thursday June 19, at the Pearland Knights of Columbus Hall located at 2320 Hatfield Road, Pearland TX 77581. Doors will open at 6:00. **Joe's BBQ** in Alvin will be providing another great Ribeye dinner this year with all the fixings. We will have a live and silent auction, \$5 raffle, stringer game and a cap raffle for several great prizes. We are currently selling individual tickets and several levels of table sponsorship. The Alvin/Pearland Chapter is also currently selling pre-sale Sportsman's Raffle tickets. Sportsman Raffle items consist of 5 guns and 5 Yeti coolers. For raffle ticket information, banquet tickets and table sponsorship please contact Emery Sadler at 713-501-2778 or Brian Meuth at bmeuth@ccatexas.org. We welcome new board members who would like to get plugged in. Bring a friend, a kid and get plugged in! —Emery Sadler 713-501-2778

Aransas Bay

Carter Crigler 435-830-5984
jccrigler@hotmail.com

A large contingent of Chapter volunteers participated in the **19th annual Billy Sandifer Big Shell Beach Cleanup** and were rewarded with a beautiful day to be at the beach and to enjoy the labors of their effort as they headed back to Malaquite Pavilion. Aransas Bay members also supported the **Abandoned Crab Trap Project** which is most important in maintaining stable populations of blue crabs as well as stone crabs. In addition, removal of the crab pots not only removes a death trap for the crabs, but reduces a potential tripping hazard to waders and damage to boat motor lower units.

Babes on the Bay XV registration is in full swing with **Karol Scardino**, tournament director, and her team of volunteers hard at work to make this year's tournament the best ever. **Reminder**, you will have less than a month to register by the time you read this. As stated in the previous issue **online registration will be used exclusively to sign up for Babes on the Bay XV**. Please visit the site (www.babesonthebay.com) and review the registration process to determine if you have any questions. **The last day for regular registration is 4/15/2014.** All registrations received after this date and prior to the 4/30/2014 cut-off date will pay a late registration fee of \$120.00. If you have questions contact Karol Scardino at 361-386-0028.

Mark your calendars: / **May 16-17, 2014: Babes on the Bay / August 9, 2014: Aransas Bay Chapter Banquet.**
Tight lines—Carter

Austin

Scott Sanderson
512-637-1750

scott@mbsquoteline.com

Fellow CCA Members, the wait is almost over—the **2014 Austin banquet, presented by Covert**

Chapter Updates

Chevrolet and Independence Title, is just around the corner. Mark it down, May 8th, and buy your table now.

Just because we set a fundraising record in 2013, don't think we're done. It's our 35th Anniversary and we have a night planned befitting the milestone! If you haven't been, it's a spectacle you have to see. If you have been, we'll see you again soon. Fine food, drinks, exotic trips, tons of guns, fishing gear, over \$100,000 in raffle items, boats, trucks, Yetis and more—what's not to like at the marquee event of the year in Austin, Texas? Go to www.ccaaustin.org for table and ticket information. But don't wait because we're sure to sell out again.

You think Austin's on the cutting edge? You're right. And how's this for raising the bar? Two months ago this was a 2004 Tahoe. Today it's a 2014 Live Auction item at the Austin banquet May 8th! Luke Anderson of **Twilight Metalworks** took it down to the frame and returned to us this \$35,000 Safari Rig some lucky bidder will own by the end of the night. Twilight donated the time, materials and expertise to make this special vehicle. And **DCA Construction**, Randy Don Carlos and George Allen, generously underwrote the cost for CCA so we can offer it to you! Go to www.twilightmetalworks.com, do your research, and come ready to bid on this baby for your ranch or lease!

We'd like to offer special thanks to all of the generous sponsors that help us put together a banquet like none other. There's simply no way we could do it without them, and we are humbled and grateful for their enduring support. When you go to the website see all the great companies that support the CCA mission. Do business with them and thank them for supporting conservation just like you do.

As of this writing less than 200 tickets for this year's 2014 Shallow Sport raffle remain. This year we have the 21 Sport, with all the upgrades, plus a casting platform and black aluminum work, and it all sits on a Coastline Custom trailer. (See photo on page 10). You can also see a picture and buy a ticket on the website or go see her in person in front of **Cabela's** in Buda. **Tickets always sell out before the banquet so you better hurry.** And congratulations to Jacob Rodgers, the early bird drawing winner. He's the proud owner of a Laguna Custom rod and Shimano Curado reel!

Be sure to "Like" CCA Austin on Facebook and stay up with all the news from our chapter. Spread the word! Gather some friends and come join us May 8th. We can't wait to see you.—**Scott Sanderson** 512-637-1750 scott@mbsquoteline.com

Bay Area

Curtis Anderson 832-421-6377

Bay Area chapter 22nd Annual Banquet! Thursday, April 3 at the Bay Area Community Center, Seabrook, Texas. If you want to have some fun and enjoy good company, crawfish and wash it down with a cold beverage, this will be the place to be. Doors will open at 6:00 pm and we will begin serving at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$45 each or \$80 per couple. All tickets purchased before the event will be eligible for the early bird drawing.

We also have "Trophy Trout" Tables for \$450. These tables include: 6 tickets with memberships, dinner and drinks; Small table gifts; half page ad in the program; and up front table. If you want to kick it up a notch, we have our "Bull Red" Tables for \$800. These tables include:

*Chapter Updates are edited for brevity to allow everyone's voice to be heard. For the full version, go to your chapter's area in the CCA website. Drop by www.ccatexas.org, click on **Local Chapters**.*

8 tickets with memberships, dinner and drinks; 8 CCA "Corporate Sponsor" Fishing Shirts; small table gifts; full page ad in program; banner space at event; table located front and center.
Curtis Anderson at 832-435-0257 or cla1965@att.net
Erich Schneider at 713-626-4222 or eschneider@ccatexas.org

Brazoria County
Wes Dingee 979-299-8245

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

We can start with a big THANK YOU to all our sponsors and supporters in the Brazos Valley. Our 22nd annual banquet was March 6th and the corporate/reserve tables exceeded the past years. Our committee put in a lot of work to make this a great banquet and many thank to them too.

Now the banquet is over and the water is warming we will be lining up trips for spring. We are looking for some new fishermen to join us on our excursions. You can find out where we are going next if you come to our monthly meeting. **We meet every second Tuesday of the month at the Brazos Center Pavilion at 6pm.** As always there is food, beverages, and plenty of fish stories. Give me a call, text, or e-mail if you need more information. Hope to see you there.—**John Ben**

Brenham
Dennis Crowson
979-451-2472

Dennis.crowson@hotmail.com

We held our monthly meeting on February 27th at **Mike Hopkins Distributing**. The chapter heard a great presentation on props and props maintenance by **Darryl Schmidt of Schmidt Boat Repair**. Darryl and his guys answered many questions about props and general boat and motor maintenance and repair.

The Brenham Chapter's annual Crawfish Banquet and Fundraiser will be April 24th. This is our 20th anniversary banquet and we are excited for it to be the biggest and best yet. As a special treat this year, **ammotogo.com** has donated a wrapped and "tricked" out golf cart to be raffled off! Come join us for a great night of fun, crawfish, and fish tales. Tickets can be purchased at **Market Realty in Brenham**, by contacting one of the board members or emailing at dennis.crowson@hotmail.com.

The next General meeting of the Brenham Chapter will be at **Mike Hopkins Distributing** on March 27 at 6:30pm when local angler and current Baffin Bay guide, **Wiley Crowson** of **DueSouthOutfitters.us** will be speaking. Hope to see you all at the next meeting and banquet. The Brenham Chapter is sponsored by many

fine sponsors including Mike Hopkins Distributing and ammotogo.com. —Dennis K. Crowson, Ph.D. (979) 451-2472

Brush Country

Hank Henry 361-215-6803

Centex

Brad Hensel 254-776-3411

Central Houston

Todd Buster

Mobil, 713-545-1897

The 38th Annual Central Houston CCA banquet is rapidly approaching-- Thursday, May 1. It's hard to grasp how fast the past year has gone by. The momentum of the past couple of banquets is still rolling and our table sales are ahead of last year's pace. So if you're interested in getting a table, you better act fast. **This year we are raffling off a beautiful 22' Mowdy powered by a 175 hp Suzuki 4-stroke engine. The boat and engine are sitting on a custom aluminum trailer from Lagoon Trailers in POC.** They are pretty new on the scene, and if you haven't seen their trailers, you need to check them out. We would like to thank everyone at Mowdy Boats and Lagoon Trailers for their help and hard work in putting this package together. The raffle tickets are \$100 each and only 500 will be sold. You DO NOT have to be present to win. If you are interested in purchasing a table or raffle tickets, contact **Todd Buster** (tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com) or Ian Beliveaux (ibeliveaux@donatominxbrown.com)

Colorado Valley

James Loehr 979-250-3958

Corpus Christi

Randy Poelma 361-851-1129

r_poelmacpa@sbcglobal.net

This chapter has an awesome ability to put together a first class banquet annually, this year was no exception. The 36th Annual Dinner Banquet was a great and successful banquet for Corpus Christi Chapter. The Corpus Christi chapter continues to be the "largest banquet" in Texas at 2,000. Thank you for your attendance and support which are critically important to the future of Texas' coastal resources.

Thank you to our **Gold** sponsors: **Academy Sports & Outdoors, Andrews Distributing, Corpus Christi Caller Times, L & F Distributors and Nyati Services.** Thank you to our "Silver" sponsor: **Flint Hill Resources & Ronnie's Marine/Premier Yamaha.** Thank you to our "Bronze" sponsors: **Access Storage, Ainsworth Trucking, Apache Industrial Services Berkeley Eye Center, Borden Insurance, C&S Plating, Center for Sportfish Science & Conservation, Cooper Outdoor Advertising, Environmental Evolution Energy Services, Flint Hill Resources, Gulf Tractor Company, Grunwald Printing, Harte Research Institute, Lamar Advertising, Mattress Firm, Ohmstede, Ltd., Postal Annex+, Ronnie's Marine/Premier Yamaha, Sentinel Integrity Solutions, Southern Technical Control, & Total Oilfield Equipment & Supply.**

Thank you, **Saltwater Grill** for the outstanding food preparation and presentation. The menu was fish, shrimp tenderloin, pork, quail, fajitas, chicken bacon wraps and all the sides. Thank you **House of Rock** for catering the beverage stations at this year's event.

Thank you to our Banquet Chairman – **Jake Herring** and his supporting committee members: **David Harris** - Live Auction, **Judy Arnold** - Silent Auction Chairman, **Troy Adler** - Red/Blue Raffle Chairman, **Barrett Fines** - Blackboard Auction Chairman, **Joseph Briones** - Boat Chairman, **John Fry** - ATV Chairman, **Bruce Laser** - Guides Cup Chairman, **Cliff Johnstone** - Facilities Chairman,

Jay Gardner - Advertising & Banquet Program Chairman. Thank you, **Courtney Johnstone** for being our Corpus Christi Chapter banquet administrator.

As always, if you have an interest in joining our board and being involved in conservation of our coastal resources, contact a board member or myself at 361-851-1129 or r_poelmacpa@sbcglobal.net. —Randy Poelma

Dallas / North Texas

Robert DiCicco 214-799-2369

The 34th Annual Dallas Chapter Banquet is right around the corner! Get your tickets for this year's event by contacting John Hansen at mesalogistics@sbcglobal.net.

The banquet will be at the Frontiers of Flight Museum in Dallas on Thursday, April 17th. We are also very proud to announce that Mr. Lefty Kreh will be our Conservation Sportsman of the Year. Tables are \$1,000 and individual tickets are \$125. Your ticket includes dinner catered by **TJ's Seafood**, all of your drinks and your annual membership to CCA. The doors will open at 5:30p.m. We have some amazing auction and raffle items for you to take home! Our live auction includes a suite at a Cowboys game, Argentina dove hunt, Abaco Bahamas getaway, Off-shore Tuna fishing in Canada, Colorado family cabin in the Rio Grande National Forest, Montana fly fishing on the Bighorn River, the latest and greatest fishing gear, a 12 person Dinner Cruise on a private yacht at Pier 121, RD Wilson Original art and a ton of other great auction items.

We will also have a Rolex and Polaris raffle and plenty of opportunities to win a Yeti! Please make sure to visit our website at DallasCCA.org for a list of sponsors and event updates. If you want a full auction catalog please email me and I will get you a copy. We also welcome anybody wanting to sponsor our event in any capacity. We have a lot ways to support our event. We will see you all on April 17th! —Robert DiCicco robdicicco@gmail.com

East Texas

Dr. Jim Norman 936-554-3165

jnorman7@suddenlink.net

We held our 8th banquet Friday Feb. 21 at Banita Creek Hall in Nacogdoches. Corporate tables were sponsored by **Russell Drilling, R & K Distributors, Dr. Brent Stephens Nacogdoches Dental, Academy Sports and Outdoors, Mike and Pam Lowery, Dennis Coffman, M.D. / Matthew Parker, M.D., Lufkin Creosoting, Denny Oil Company, Clear Springs Restaurant, Watson Funeral Home, Fairchild, Price & Haley Law Firm, Nathan Walston, Tim Badders Painting, MD² Urgent Care Dr. Kelly Moon, Derby Machine Shop, Nacogdoches Rheumatology, Lineman Family Medicine, Herman Power Tire Service, Pineywoods Heart, Nacogdoches Medical Partners, CGH Insurance-Clark Moore, First Bank and Trust, Dr. Jim Norman Orthodontics.**

Special thanks to all these sponsors for helping to make this banquet our most successful yet. We hope to see you all again next year.

Special thanks also to **Kevin White** and **Banita Creek Hall** for the venue and tables, **Jeremy Niuman** and the **Clear Springs Restaurant** bunch for the fantastic catfish dinner, and **Scott Goodrich** and his **R & K Distributors** crew for the cold refreshments.

To officers and board members **Billy Cox, Frank Still, Marty Smith, Dan Hafner, Mark Holl, Harold Derby, Cindy Derby, Mary Ann Derby, Allen Spruiell, Mike Miguez, Bill Kaczynski, Rusty Sanders, and Brent Rogers** — Thanks guys and gals — good job. Tight Lines,—**Jim Norman** jnorman7@suddenlink.net

Fort Bend

Clint Shepard 832-595-5375

Hello All. It's that time of year again, 2014 marks the **Fort Bend Chapter's 28th annual banquet.** We are raffling off a really sharp boat this year. It is the **Outlaw 185X** by **JH Performance Boats**, sitting on a Coastline aluminum trailer and is equipped with a 115hp Yamaha rigged by **Sport Marine in Richmond, Tx.** The Outlaw even has a custom wrap by **AMJ Designs** in Richmond.

We've lined up some really nice items for this year's event as well as catering by **Lonestar Pressure Cookers.**

The banquet is scheduled for April 24th at the Ft. Bend Co. Fair Grounds Bldg. C, in Rosenberg, Tx. Doors open at 6 p.m. to preview auction items and begin silent auction bids, supper will be served around 7 p.m. Contact either myself or **Matt Meyer 832-595-4855**, Banquet Chairman, for details. For table reservations, contact **Ren Davis 281-342-6828** or **George Guest 281-384-7582**, or for raffle tickets contact **Troy Burditt 281-239-8507.**

Just a reminder, in June we will be holding the **annual ladies' tournament in Matagorda, Lingerie On The Bay**, as well as the **Jimmy Guest Memorial Kidfish** at the Matagorda Harbor in July. —Clint Shepard

Fort Worth

Fearn Mastin 817-291-1302

We held our Spring general membership meeting at **Rahr Brewery.** The board graciously prepared a meal of different fried fish and alligator for those in attendance. Thank you to everyone who made it out and thank you to **Rahr Brewery** for being such a great partner in conservation!

Brute Outdoors donated a cooler and custom lid decal for raffle (see attached) that got everyone excited for **the annual banquet, raffle and auction on May 1.** Make plans to join us at **Joe T Garcia's** for a fun night. We have a great event planned for everyone. Table sales and sponsorships are filling up fast so please reach out to us if you are interested in being a partner in conservation. —Fearn Mastin

Galveston

Dr. Ken Ellis 713-962-7731

BREAKING NEWS ! The Galveston CCA banquet that will be held on August 2, 2014 will be moving to the Galveston Island Convention Center. We are very excited about our new venue, and hoping you will be part of this new facility that is on Seawall Boulevard overlooking the beach front.

As always, we will have tables available for you, your family and corporate businesses. We will be raffling off a new 21 foot Dargel boat, motor and trailer.

Our Galveston general meeting was held at M&M restaurant on March 27. **Joey's fishing and rod repair** present gave advice about reel and rod repairs to all our gear. Thank you, and as always, Tight Lines —Dr. Ken Ellis

Golden Triangle

Josh Kaczynski 409-554-1325

Greater Sugar Land

Weems Turner 713-857-8897

wturner@ducommun.com

Our chapter lost a longtime board member, tireless worker and good friend when **John Beffano** passed away a few days after Christmas. He will be greatly missed.

Our March speaker was **Bill Rodney** with **TPWD-East Bay Oyster Restoration Project.** He gave a very interesting presentation on the oyster restoration projects that **TPWD** is working on, as well as planned projects.

Bob Nipper and **Robert Bailey** collected eight crab traps from the Lake Austin area for

the 2014 crab trap cleanup. Other members searching for traps included David Kveton, Fred Howard, and Buford Jurica.

Mark your calendars for our 2014 Annual Banquet and Crawfish Boil, which will be held Thursday, April 3, at the Stafford Centre, Stafford Texas. Information on tables and tickets is available on www.ccatexas.org or by emailing us at greatersugarlandcca@gmail.com. Hope to see you there. Visit our facebook page at Greater Sugar Land CCA.

The chapters President's Cup Fishing Tournament was held Nov. 16 in Sargent. The results are as follows: winner of the President's Cup was **Joel Canavan** who also claimed First Place Red. Second Place Red was won by **Buford Jurica**. First Place Trout was **Guy Sullaway**, with second place going to **Bob Nipper**. First Place Flounder was awarded to **Bill Anderson**, with **Gary Holland** placing second.

Our monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at **Spring Creek BBQ**. 4895 HWY 6 Missouri City, TX. 77459. Phone No. 281-499-8222. Come have some great BBQ and meet some awesome people. —**Weems Turner** 713-857-8897

Greater Woodlands

James Kay 281-363-4417

www.ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands

Hunt for Heroes was a great success! **CDM** generously donated a deer hunt for the fireman injured in the May 31st 2013 fire at Southwest Inn in Houston (**Tony Livesay, Robert**



Yarbrough and Bill Dowling). The hunt was auctioned off at the CCA Texas Greater Woodlands Chapter banquet held in July 2013. The winner of the auction and five friends were able to go on a dove hunt at the **Piedras Parada** Ranch in South Texas. A special Thanks to **Bryon Gardner** of New Waverly, TX who purchased the auction item.

Robert Yarbrough and **Tony Livesay** were able to schedule the hunt January 12-14th in between ongoing surgeries and rehabilitation. We headed down to the CDM lease Sunday morning to be able to make an afternoon hunt. This was the first time since the fire that either one was able to get out of town and spend any time together. Both had been stationed at Rescue 42. They really enjoyed being able to catch up and hang out together without all the distractions of their last 7 months. Robert is a lifelong deer hunter and has hunted in several states for whitetail and mule deer, but has never made it to South Texas and this was a bucket list item for him. We made it out to the blinds that afternoon and saw many great deer up to 12 point, 160" class. Robert went out with his guide CA and Tony and I went and sat in a blind armed with binoculars and camera. We saw 20-30 deer with 5-6 of them being nice bucks to 10 point, 140" class.

On Monday morning, Robert went out with CA again. He harvested a mature 6 point with a 20" inside spread that scored almost 100" (See attached picture). Robert and Tony went out with CA that evening to look for deer and Hogs. They saw several nice deer including one at 450 yards. Robert thought it was the biggest deer he had ever seen and that was without the binoculars. The trip was very relaxing and well deserved for both of them and many great memories were made.

I would like to personally thank **Mr. Gardner** for his generosity. **Robert, Tony, CDM management and CCA Texas Greater Woodlands Chapter**, also thank him for making this a wonderful experience. I would also like to thank **CA, Paul and Butch** for a super weekend and taking the time to show Robert and Tony great hospitality and friendship.

A special Thanks to our very own **Bryant Bennet** for putting this together. Please see the CCA Texas Web Page and go to our chapter for upcoming events. Keep Conserving...to Keep Fishing! —**James Kay**

Guadalupe Valley

Jon Eric Rodriguez 361-243-1017

Hays County

Welcome new president Tim Young 512-573-7939

hayscountycca@gmail.com

We are already hard at work on our next banquet scheduled for July 23, 2014. The banquet will be held at the San Marcos Activity Center. Our 2013 banquet was a smashing success and we are expecting the 2014 banquet to be even better.

A group of Hays County CCA volunteers went to Padre beach on February 22, 2014 to assist with the 19th Annual Billy Sandifer Big Shell Cleanup.

We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm with meetings rotating between Dripping Springs, Wimberley, and Kyle. We are looking for more sponsors and for more volunteers to join a great group of people in helping lead our chapter. It is the generosity of our sponsors and our volunteers that allows us to raise funds and awareness for CCA. Please consider volunteering and come join us at one of our monthly meetings. If you are interested in becoming a Hays County Sponsor, or volunteering with the chapter or just being added to our email list, send us an email at hayscountycca@gmail.com or call Tim Young at (512)573-7939.

Hope everyone had a great holiday season and we look forward to seeing you at an upcoming chapter event! —**Tim Young**

Heart of the Hills

Randy Plummer 830-377-0737

Hill Country

Darlene Cook 800-594-2056 ext 217

The Hill Country Chapter will have a 2nd Annual CCA Social for our Chapter members and guests. Last year we had 167 guests plus the directors. The Social will be at the Red Barn in Seguin, a great venue with a lot of local history and 'hands on' displays.

Tickets are \$10 a person and includes tea or lemonade. You are welcome to bring your adult beverage. There will be games for the kiddos and for adults! Great prizes and raffles! Buy your ticket from any Hill Country Director. For more information call **Dawn Koehler** at 210-573-1143 or **Royce Harborth** at 830-832-7430. We will be announcing the date and location of the fishing tournament soon. Let's go fishing! —

Darlene Cook darlenec@knbt.fm 830-214-306
darlenec@knbt.fm

Houston Real Estate

Dale Couch 281-953-2510

Katy

Clint Hilton 713-515-3991

Things are heating up on the Katy prairie! We've got the first two speakers of the year in the "live well," we've hammered down the big details of our annual banquet, and have her wound out for the rest of the year!

Banquet plans are taking shape rapidly! The banquet will be JUNE 19, at Agave Road. We will serve premium crawfish, catfish, sausage, cold drinks, and all the fixin's. **Tickets** are only \$50 for an individual and will include an annual CCA membership. **SILVER tables** only cost \$500, and the **PREMIUM GOLD tables** are only \$1000. Tables will seat up to 8 people, come with annual CCA Memberships, and other goodies.

Our BIG raffle item is going to include 15 winners! That's right - the **GUN RAFFLE** is going to happen again and **15 guns** will be raffled off. Tickets for the **GUN RAFFLE** are only \$20 each OR **\$100 for 6 tickets**. Make **Uncle Ted** happy...the more tickets you buy, the better chances you'll win. There are only 600 tickets available.

Following tradition, we continue to host guest speakers. In March we hosted **Game Warden Mike Weiss**. Mike is a TPWD veteran and has seen some shenanigans in his years enforcing the law. It's always a proud moment to be thanked by the TPWD officers that use the equipment CCA funds for them, and it's even more fun to hear stories about chasing bad guys. Texas Game wardens do more than check limits, and the Katy Chapter has been fortunate over the years to have a relationship with Mike. From the waters of Freeport to the aisles of Academy these guys are there to help. If you stay on the right side of the law, getting to know our State Game wardens is really enjoyable.

The Katy Chapter will have Speaker Series meetings in May, August, and October. In April, July and September we meet to discuss "chapter business" that includes banquet planning, chapter trips (did you fish POC with us?), and other 'important' stuff. We meet at **Red River BBQ on South Mason Road** at 7pm-ish, and will host our annual banquet in June. If you are interested in becoming an active member or just want to hone your fishing skills please come to a meeting.

Give me a holler if you need a bunch of raffle tickets or banquet tables. I'll see ya at Red River! —**Clint Hilton**
Clint_Hilton@yahoo.com

Laredo

Jesse Martinez jmartinez@bushlan.com
956-763-5555

Lee County

Welcome new president, Jason Seale 979-412-0270

jason@basslerenergyservices.com

We will be having a general membership and business meeting on Tuesday, April 22 at 6:30pm at the **Lion's Den**. We will be electing officers for the 2016 chapter year and will have a speaker for that night as well. Check your email inbox in the coming weeks for the meeting flyer.

Also mark your calendars for our 4th annual Lee County CCA chapter banquet on Thursday, October 16 at the Sons of Herman hall in Giddings, TX. Wishing everyone a safe & successful time on the water! —**Byron Kalbas**

Live Oak

Brad Kotrla 979-732-1669

Lower Colorado

Tim Munos 979 332-2876

Spring is just around the corner and soon we will be making plans for a well-deserved fishing trip. Winter has been incredibly rough for us this year and thank goodness it is almost behind us.

Our 4th Annual Lower Colorado Chapter Kid Fish will again be held on a Saturday in May. The exact date has not yet been set. As it gets closer, my April and May monthly minutes will provide details as well as the local newspaper. We will invite kids from Bay City and surround-

ing Matagorda County to come enjoy a morning of fun and fishing. Afterwards, its hotdogs and fixings, trophies given, and 10 lucky kids will go home with a brand new rod and reel combo. It's all for the kids, and for some, this is their only opportunity. We have been fortunate to have great sponsors every year to cover the expenses, but we need chapter members to volunteer safety reasons, help them remove fish from their lines, give them encouragement, and be a role model. If you can help, call **Tim Munos** at 979 332-2876, **Ronnie Bose** at 979-429-0457, or **John Kubecka** at 979-245-9571.

Our 6th Annual Lower Colorado Chapter Fundraiser Banquet is set for August 15th at the Bay City Civic Center. We are excited to present our new **20 foot SVT Tran Cat boat, powered with a 4 stroke 175 hp Suzuki outboard, on an aluminum Coastline trailer.** It's a great looking boat and we have 4 sponsors to thank for putting it together. They are **Transport Boats of Palacios, Busha Boat Works of Bay City, Suzuki, and Coastline Trailers.** We are busy selling raffle tickets. For tickets or information, contact **Tim Munos at Busha Boat Works (979 245-3369) in Bay City.** Put a reminder in your calendar for August 15th and we hope to see you there.

Our chapter meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6 pm. Lately, we have been meeting at **Richardo's Mexican Restaurant in Bay City.** If you are not on my monthly minutes email list, watch the local newspaper for location, or call **Tim** or myself for information. We would be glad to have you come. **John Kubecka**, Secretary, 979 245-9571 or jkubecka@yahoo.com.

Lower Laguna Madre
Travis Flanagan
956-207-6391

Mainland
Eric Minor
281-534-6242

Matagorda Bays

Linc Lutrick 979-541-9901

The 29th Annual Matagorda Bays CCA Banquet will be held on Thursday June 26th at the El Campo Civic Center. This year's boat raffle will feature a fully rigged **23ft HDX Dargel KAT w/ 200HP Yamaha motor, McClain Tandem Aluminum Trailer.**

This year's live auction will feature a Customized Golf Cart from B&D Carts, Argentina Dove Hunt, Stainless BBQ Pit from Multi Fab Metals, and much more! Don't forget about the **Matagorda Bay Guides Cup to be held at Harbor Bait & Tackle** in September, this event is made possible by the support of our local guides and sponsors **Duckett, Boulligny & Collins LLP, Harbor Bait & Tackle, and El Campo Sheet Metal.** Be sure and get your tickets early, the banquet has sold out the past four years. You may contact **Wesley Smolik** at 979-543-2753 for more details.

The 9th Annual Matagorda Bays CCA Lil' Salties Fishing Blowout will be held on May 10 at the Matagorda Harbor. This is a **FREE TOURNAMENT FOR KIDS** between the ages of 3 and 14. This event has averaged over 230 kids for the past 8 years and it is only possible because of the generous donations of our sponsors. Thank you again to all of the sponsors who make this event a huge success. See the next Currents Publication for more details on this event. For more information on the tournament or to be a part of this great event, contact **Chad Hensley (979-541-3239).** Thanks—**Linc Lutrick**

MidCoast
David Jenkins 361-578-5580
jenkins12@sbcglobal.net

Our first CCA Texas Executive Board meeting was held in February with some very good

news. **First, the Cedar Bayou Project is now ready to get started, (April 15), and scheduled to be finished September 15th, 2014.**

Second, **Headlining the CCA Texas Concert for Conservation will be Hank Williams Jr.** This should be a fantastic show. I hope to see you there!

Upcoming events; **Anglers Night Out**, our General meeting, will be held on March 27th. Our guest speakers will be **Dr. John McNeill and Captain Danny Goyen.**

Our annual Banquet will be help on Friday, May 9, 2014. This event will be again at the Victoria Community Center, doors opening at 6:00 P.M. **Uncle Mutts Bar B Que** will be catering this event. Sponsor tables are still available and can be purchased from any board member. You can also contact our table chairman, **Hector Mendieta** at 361-571-1239. We are also selling individual tickets for \$100.00, which will come with the meal, drinks, CCA Membership, and Star Tournament entry. These tickets can be purchased at **The Tackle Box** of Victoria.

Thank you again to **Jimmie Burns, Waterloo Rod Co. USA, and Eric Simmons, Simmons Custom Boats, from the Mid Coast Chapter.** If you want a chance on our SCB Stingray, give me a call. Thanks and Tight Lines! —**David Jenkins**

Northeast Houston

Jason Law 713-898-8594

Get your tickets now for the 26th Annual N.E. Houston Crawfish Boil, held at the Humble Civic Center Arena on Saturday, April 12th. Tickets are \$40 pre-sale, \$45 at the door. Table prices (8 seats) start at \$350 and include a conservation gift. This event features a Live and Silent Auction, \$5 raffles and the all special **Sportsman's Raffle.** It consists of three great prizes. Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. We serve crawfish and trimmings, draft beer and sodas till it's all gone. Cash bar is also available. Come spend a great evening with us! **Yeti 20 qt. Roadie** is the door prize, so don't miss getting in on the action! —**Jason Law**

Northwest Houston

Alan Massey 281-414-6341

The next General Membership Meeting is our **Annual Member Appreciation Fish Fry** so bring your appetites. It will be held on April 1st starting at 7 PM in the **Stein Room at Houston Distributing** 7100 High Life Dr. off Cutten Rd. & Hwy 249. Our guest speaker is **Captain Jim Hampton.** Jim is an experienced guide in the Galveston Bay Complex and a successful tournament fisherman. We will raffle a trip with him for three people at our Annual Membership Appreciation Fish Fry.

Mark your calendars! **Our 2014 Annual Kid Fish.... Date: Saturday, May 10th. Time: 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Sylvan Beach Park - Fishing Pier in La Porte.** Many thanks to **Harris County Precinct 2, The City of La Porte and Linda's Bait & Tackle** for their continued support of this annual event.

Please remember that we are always happy to accept donations for our Annual Kid Fish Program. Please let us know of your desire to donate anytime by contacting a Director. If you wish to help with our Kid Fish, Fish Fry or Annual Fund Raising Banquet then become a Director and join us for every 1st Tuesday of an ODD month. Our next BOD meeting is **May 6, 2014 at 7:00 PM.**

Our sincere thanks to both **Houston Distributing and Academy.** They are active sponsors of our meetings and many events. We are especially fortunate to have such great support. As a reminder, we are using email for meeting announcements. If we don't have your e-mail address and you would like to receive announcements of future events please send your e-mail

address to loretta.vasquez@att.net. —**Loretta Vasquez** Secretary 281/723-9693

Orange County

Scott Bandy 409-988-3667

sabandy@gmail.com

OC CCA president Scott Bandy and member Davis Dixon collected 28 traps from Sabine Lake.

February membership drive proved a success with a large crowd to hear professional angler **Dennis Tietje**, tell some great fishing tales and answer lots of good question presented to him. Thanks to all that attended this event.

The chapter has a few upcoming events planned for the next few months, the **Spring Beach Clean-Up: April 26th 2014. The Orange County 2014 Banquet has a date of August 21st 2014 at the Orange County Convention and Expo Center.** We urge all members who want to help with the planning of this year's banquet to attend the next few meetings. We meet the 2nd Monday of each month at **Roberts Steakhouse, 6:30pm Orange, Texas.**

For More information on our locale chapter, contact **Scott Bandy (President)** scottbandy77@yahoo.com **Louis Moore (Treasurer)** louis_moore@yahoo.com —**Scott Bandy**

Port O'Connor

Bill Moore 361-983-4690

The 2014 Crab Trap Removal is now history. The POC chapter was on hand at the Texas Parks & Wildlife Docks to assist on Saturday February 22. Several members were on the water, along with volunteers and members from other chapters to pick up traps.

Liz Hewitt of the San Antonio Chapter and her crew brought in the most traps, with **Carl Ray** and **Mike Sharp** of the POC chapter coming in at a close second. For this time of the year the weather was great and the record turnout reflected the beautiful weather. The chapter provided lunch for those who participated in the crab trap removal. Special thanks to all who participated in the preparation and serving of the meal, including **Pam and Carl Ray, Maxine and Mike Sharp, Debbie and Jim Busby and Linnie and Steve Mashman.** Also, thanks to **Norman Boyd** of TPWD and his crew for opening the facilities and assisting.

We will be scheduling a meeting in the near future for preparation of the **15th Annual POC CCA banquet so be sure to pencil in that date, Saturday October 18th.** Also in the last issue of table sponsors for 2013, we omitted **Siegler Insurance Agency, Inc. purchase of a trophy trout table.** We apologize and always realize the importance of each and every contribution. We appreciate the support of Mike and his staff of CCA over the years.

So, as the weather warms and the north wind calms, come see us, or if you want to get involved with the chapter and/or banquet-contact us in POC. "Where it all began." —**Bill Moore**

Prairie

Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103

On February 21, we had our annual chili appreciation dinner at the **Cat Spring** tin building. We served the famous **Kirk Hoppe chili.** Along with **Kirk** was his team of cooks which consisted of **Randy Goebel, Adam Hoviskie, Jason Beaman, Sherman Henderson and Scott Stasting.** After the meal was served, we had the honor to introduce **Capt. Royce Mach (979-429-0406)** of Port



O'Connor, who talked about the different kinds of lures and secrets of how to catch keeper reds and trout while wade or drift fishing.

The evening was full of good fellowship with all anglers and their guests. There were many great gifts in the silent auction and dollar raffle. Thanks to **Stacet Stastny** for selling raffle tickets. We also had a \$5 raffle for a guided fishing trip that **Captain Macha** donated. The winner of the trip was **Gerald Tegler**. Thanks to all the board members who made this dinner a great success!

On April 3rd, we will be having our 17th annual fund raiser banquet at Cat Spring Hall. SORRY, we are totally sold out for this year's event! If you wish to get tickets for next year's banquet, you should get them early because they sell quickly. We are still in the planning stage for our yearly **Kids Fish**. Date and location will be announced later. Thanks! —**Ron Chess** 979-992-3295

Redfish Bay

Norman Oates 361-758-0266

Our annual banquet is on track for April 26! It starts at 6 PM in the Port Aransas Civic Center. Do not miss this great family event. It will be very much like last year with sit-down meal, free beer and wine, raffle, silent auction, and live auction. As usual, we will have plenty of items for the women who attend – we already have a very nice bracelet from one of our local jewelers. Individual tickets are \$65 and married couple tickets are \$100 – this includes membership, meal, and beer and wine. There will be a separate table for STAR signup.

On June 6 and 7, we will have the annual Take-a-Kid-Fishing event in front of Woody's Sports Center in Port Aransas. Last year, we had over 200 kids, and it is a great opportunity for young anglers to be introduced to the sport and outdoors. Each young sportsperson will be given a rod and reel, and each will receive a trophy for their catch. Sign up the kids starting around 6 PM, and we will have a shrimp-boil for them after registration. More information to follow. —**Norman Oates**

Rio Grande Valley

Phil Teinert 956-367-4267

pteinert@fcbtx.com

We have secured the 2014 Raffle Boat and it is now on display and tickets are for sale. This year's raffle boat is a 2014 210 **Dargel Skout** powered by **150 HP Evinrude ETEC** and sits on a **Custom Aluminum Trailer**. The boat is complete with Custom Aluminum, Power Pole, Raised Platform, Deluxe Leaning Post, Two Tone Custom Gel Coat Color and Much More. Tickets can be purchased by contacting **Louis Zimmerer** at 956-373-0799 or **John Blaha** at 800-626-4222. Special thanks go out to **L&F Distributors** and **Dargel Boats** for making this raffle possible once again.

Mark your calendars, the 2014 banquet has been set for Thursday, April 24, 2014 at the Pharr Events Center. The chapter board is planning for the event and looks forward to having another great night. If you are interested in helping the local chapter, contact Chapter President, **Phil Teinert** at 956-367-4267 or **John Blaha** at 800-626-4222. We hope you have tight lines all 2014.

—**Phil Teinert**

Sabine-Neches

Darin Johnson 409-790-9855

I would like to give a big THANK YOU to everyone who attended the 17th annual Banquet and Crawfish Boil! We set a new attendance record and were introduced to a lot of new friends who are already talking about next year! There are a few people I would like to acknowledge for their generous support this year; our first time

Platinum sponsors, Michael Miller and the great people at **Huntsman, Anthony Touns** and his team at **Classic of South East Texas**.

To our Bull Red Sponsors; Thank You! **Jameadco(Big Jim), GulfCo(Lee Smith), Specialty Paint(Mark & Stacy), American Airboats(Stan, Tate, Sally), H&E Equipment Services(Welcome!), Kieschnick Industries(Todd), Earth Analytical(Much Appreciated), Clean Harbors, RPS.**

This banquet was a whirlwind and ended just as fast as it began, we had 58 tables, over 2200 pounds of crawfish served, (**Shane Chesson** and **Pure Cajun** great job) **Del Papa** (The Bud Guys) and **Giglio** (MillerCoors Guys) kept it going for us. It was hard to get to every table and say thanks and if I missed you, please accept this update as my way of saying Thank You for the first time or repeating myself.

While I am saying Thank You, here is a BIG THANKS to the entire **Sabine Neches** board who once again made this event a huge success! **Aaron Crippen, Aaron Ruppel, Bryce Whaley, Cameron Smith, Connie Meadows, Danny Whaley, David Rocknic, Jim Meadows, Keith Eason, Logan Lopez, Michael Miller, Richard Smith, Sheleee Eason, Tara Eason, Teresa Rocknic, and Tommy Gillespie.** While we are winding down from this success we have another event upcoming; **Kid Fish 2014 will be Saturday May 17th**, stay tuned for details!

Time for me to take a break and spend time with the family on the boat! Once again, Thank You for making our 2014 banquet a success! Until next time, Tight Lines to all! Take a kid fishing, I know I have two to whom I owe a lot of water time! —**Darin M Johnson**

Sam Houston

Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908

San Antonio

Jimmy Gibson 210-287-4378

Spring has sprung, and we are just days away from our chapters first "HOOKED ON CLAYS" Sporting Clays Shoot to be held at the National Shooting Complex, 5931 Roft Road, San Antonio, **Friday April 4th at 1 pm.**

WE NEED YOUR TEAM! Teams will be composed of 5 shooters. There are great prizes for the top teams, give a ways and BBQ served after the shoot. This promises to be a great time so organize your team and get signed up. Individual shooters are always welcome and will be assigned a team. Cost is \$125 per shooter and we expect to see you there. Our web site has all the details and you can sign up by calling **Rick Neitzel** at (210) 771-7807 or e mailing Rick at tasicorneitzel@aol.com

On to our 2014 BANQUET scheduled for Thursday May 1st, At the Freeman Coliseum Complex, Exhibit Halls A & B, doors open at 5:30 pm. This is our 35th year Anniversary. We have added 26,000 sq. ft. of space, we have great new sponsors, secured new auction items and new trips, and thanks to our generous sponsors we will again give you a great chance to win a new **Explorer 21 ft. Boat (sponsored by Budweiser)**, a new **Harley (thanks to Coors Light)**, a **Custom Golf Cart (donated by Lone Star)**, an over the top **Hunting Truck**— and the list goes on. Mark your calendars and plan to enjoy an evening with friends, business partners, and CCA volunteers at an event that always creates memories. This year is going to be bigger and better than ever. More details, table costs and individual ticket information is on our web site or contact **Robert Mendoza** at 210-842-0643, E-Mail mendozarm09@gmail.com.

Your CCA Chapter is always looking for individuals to volunteer their time, resources, and thoughts as to how we can better serve this

great organization. Come join us and have some fun working on our banquet committee. You will get satisfaction knowing you contributed to our efforts to improve our coastal marine habitat. Remember our first battle cry, **SAVE THE RED-FISH**. We have come a long way Baby! As Always, Thank you for doing your part. Until the next Currents travel safely, take family, friends, and kids fishing. —**Jimmy Gibson**.

contact me for any information:
jimmy.gibson@CSTBrands.com

San Bernard

Welcome new president, Jayson Zahradnik
281-202-8438

Well, another successful banquet has come and gone. What a great night it was. Everyone enjoyed the ribeye steak dinner and refreshments. An event like this one could not be a success without the help and support of all of our sponsors. We want to thank all who participated in our Bull Red and corporate tables. We would also like to give a special thanks to **Silver Eagle Distributing, Academy Sports and Outdoors, Johnny's Sport Shop, and Keystone Concrete**. In addition, we got some generous help from our Cap Game sponsors, **Smaistris Insurance, Triple D Machine, and King Ranch Turf Grass**.

This is always our largest fundraising event and it would not happen without the help and hard work of our board members. I would like to personally thank each and every one of them for helping me get through my first banquet as president of our chapter. Thank you to **Bubba Cavness, Brian, Jody, and Richie Domel, Bill Gerke, Derek Keller, Russell Kloessell, Bill Klopsteck, Kevin Kosik, Ross Kutach, Gene Lewis, Marsha, Royce, and Doug Macha, Kyle Novicke, Elroy Schatz, Albert Smaistris, Josh Vincek, Tom Ward, William Wilcox, Cecil Wondrash**, and last but certainly not least, our treasurer, **Kenneth Schatz**.

We hope to see this list grow as we continue to grow as a chapter, so if you are interested, we will continue to meet every third Tuesday of the month. Again, if you took part in our banquet, Thanks! —**Jason Zahradnik**

San Gabriel

John Melnar 512-497-8284

San Jacinto

Welcome new president Jim Wilson
713-828-7639

We are looking forward to a great 2014. We thank **Pete Ruiz** for the countless hours he has spent "getting things done" as our past president. Our new officers are **Pete Ruiz VP, Pete Zafereo** treasurer, and **Steve Wilson** as Special events coordinator.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our monthly board meetings which are held the first Monday of each month at **Border Grill, 7222 Spencer HWY, Pasadena**, at 6pm.

As in past years we will be participating in the ICC, **The Sunshine Kids and Kidfish events** as well as having our **banquet June 26**. We would like to invite anyone interested in getting involved with our chapter to contact us. Have fun in the water. —**Jim Wilson**

Southwestern

Jody Jacobs 210-827-7180

TAMU

Cameron Blackwood 713-591-7097

Texas State University

Welcome new president, Ryan Wishnow
832-444-3598
rw1303@txstate.edu

Tomball/Magnolia

Matt Maddox 281-770-7858

The Tomball/Magnolia chapter banquet is set for Thursday, June 26th, 2014 at the Tomball VFW Hall once again. We are having **Happy Hours** also, so watch your e-mail for notices. Anyone that would like to join our board and get involved, we would love to have you! Give us a call. —**Matt Maddox**, 281-389-5924 or **Jason Kaptschinskie** at 281-770-7858

Tri-County

Jason Trial 830-570-2988

I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the 17th Annual Tri-County CCA Banquet to be held Friday, April 25, 2014. The event will be held at the Atascosa County show barn. Once again, **Cajun Country Cookers** will be preparing fried catfish and boiled crawfish for your dining enjoyment. Our live and silent auctions will be better than ever with an opportunity to purchase some awesome outdoor adventures!

The ticket raffle and door prize drawings promise to put a smile on some lucky guest's faces. If you are interested in attending, please contact a Tri-County board member or visit **Deer Hunter's Toy Store** in Jourdanton, TX for tickets. Until then, I hope Spring comes soon so we can get on the water with some warmer weather.

See you there—**Jason Trial**

(830)769-3737 Fax. (830)769-2592

www.chaparralveterinarycenter.com

Trinity Bay

Gerald Payne 281-385-2894

Trinity Valley

John Hebert Jr 936-334-2528

We are off to a great start. Our first banquet last September was a huge success for the new year. We hope to have a good turnout for our first

chapter Fishing Tournament to be held May 31, 2014 at the **Blue Water Bait camp in Crystal Beach, Texas.** We welcome all CCA members to come and Join us for fun, fellowship and fishing! Call me for more information. —**John Hebert Jr.**

West Houston

Joe Perez 832-279-4794

We are off to a busy start in 2014 and the Board is now in full banquet mode as **we prepare for the 28th Annual West Houston CCA Crawfish Boil.** Please mark your calendars for **Thursday, May 15th** and join us for all you can eat crawfish with good friends and family at the **Houston Farm & Ranch at 6:00 PM.**

This year's banquet is shaping up to be another great event and we are very excited about several new items and trips being introduced this year. Due to the popularity and many requests, we are pleased to announce the return of the **10 Gun/10 Winner** raffle. Tickets for this special raffle are being presold. This raffle is independent of the other banquet raffles and you do not need to be present to win! Please contact a Board Member to purchase your chance to win one of these great firearms!! Reserved tables and individual tickets are also available now!

We look forward to seeing everyone there and hope to hear many new fish stories, including those of the ones that got away! To keep up to date with West Houston news and events, please like our Facebook page (West Houston CCA) and/or click on our Chapter page on the CCA Texas website (www.ccatexas.com). Have fun, be safe and good luck catching! —**Joe Perez**

West Texas

Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499



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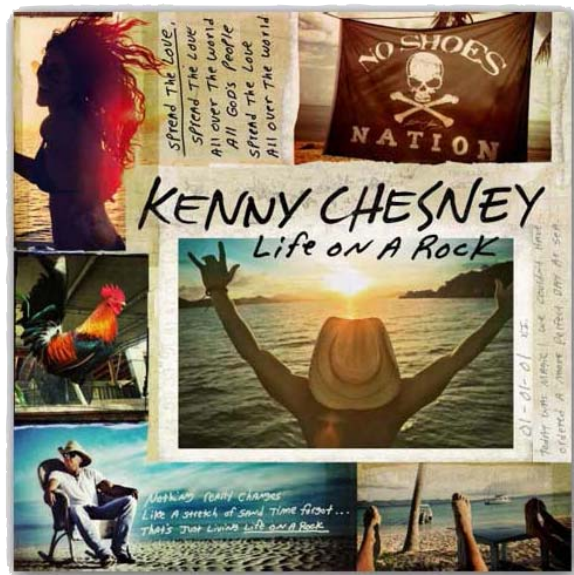
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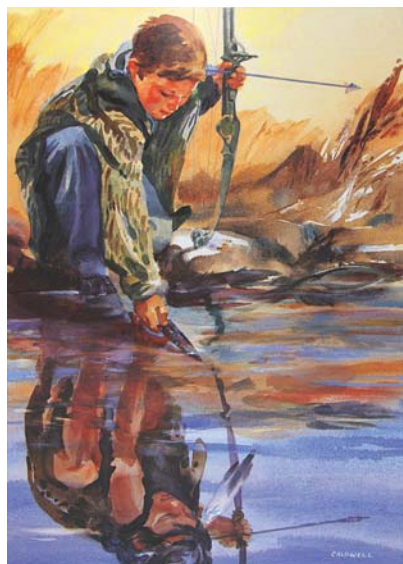
The ladies get the last laugh! Liz Hewitt and friends brought in the most traps at the Port O'Connor Crab Trap Grab. Photographer is Cat Bani-Yassin, Liz's sister, the helper on right is Lorraine Lawrence.

The Last Laugh



When Kenny Chesney decided to get personal, he stripped away expectations, pulled out a bunch of songs he'd written just for himself and kicked back for a soul-search that turned into Life On A Rock, available now on iTunes.

CCA's friend and supporter, Kenny Chesney, has released his new album, LIFE ON A ROCK. Get your copy today.



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Coastal Conservation Association

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CURRENTS NEWSLETTER

April / May 2014

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Cedar Bayou underway!

U.S. Coast Guard Air & Sea Rescue

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

The Texas Parks & Wildlife website is
your starting point for almost any-
thing you need to know about outdoor
Texas, including links to many areas.
Visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>
To focus on fishing and
boating, visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/>



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

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



COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (including STAR Entry)



Name _____ Phone _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWAL _____ (Member ID for renewing members only) _____ EMAIL _____

Method of payment

- ☐ Check/Money order
☐ Charge to my:
☐ MASTERCARD
☐ VISA
☐ AMEX
☐ DISCOVER

- | | | |
|------------------|--------|--|
| MEMBER: | \$25 | Membership card, decal, bumper sticker, Texas CURRENTS newsletter & TIDE magazine. |
| ASSOCIATE: | \$15 | Per each family member. All membership privileges except TIDE and CURRENTS. |
| PRINT MEMBER: | \$100 | All of the above plus CCA Texas print of your choice. |
| LIFE MEMBER: | \$1000 | CCA Life Membership piece, print, plus member gifts. Payable in four \$250 installments. |
| STAR ENTRY FEE: | \$20 | Tournament entry fee. Must be a current CCA member. |
| NEW TIDE: | \$10 | Tide newsletter, decal. |
| NEW TIDE / Star: | \$10 | Members 17 and under only
Same as above, plus "FREE" STAR Tournament entry. |

Age: _____ Date of birth: _____
Age: _____ Date of birth: _____

Credit card number _____ Signature _____

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