SATURDAY MAY 17TH
at SAM HOUSTON RACE PARK
HANK WILLIAMS JR.
38 SPECIAL
WADE BOWEN
CONCERT FOR CONSERVATION
TICKETS AVAILABLE
at CCATEXAS.ORG or SHRP.COM
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 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...”

On the cover:
A graphic artwork by CCA’s awrd-winning Heather Peterek
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 legislative 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 robbby@ccatexas.org.

Photographs of Cedar Bayou by Lisa Laskowski. For more visuals of CCA conservation projects, see Kim Ogonosky’s Project Videos link on page 8.
25th Anniversary Celebration!

Listen up, Saltwater Anglers! Less than two months to go before the 25th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament beings! 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 to the quality of this gear.

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 to be eligible to fish STAR and under age 18 to enter for FREE. It is the “New Tide” Member’s responsibility to register each year for STAR.

2014 CCA Texas STAR Platinum Print Membership Packages, Series IV – We’re pleased to announce the new print being offered for the 2014 CCA Texas STAR Platinum package is Working the Sporls. Renowned artist David Driskard 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 Sporls is a one-of-a-kind special 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 for 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 every one 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” 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.

Don’t miss “the boat” or “the truck and boat”... register today! You can sign up NOW online at www.startournament.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)
- $100 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 contestants 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 personal best, why not think about releasing anything that might not make the cut so she can re-seed the bays.

Inshore Division - Each winner that reels in the largest flounder, gafftop and sheepshead will be handsomely rewarded with Blue Wave’s 180 SV Southern Skiff boat, Mercury 115 OptiMax motor and McClain trailer. Continuing to announce a totally new prize offering for this division! Hoffpauir Auto & Outdoor Stores has 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.

Inshore Division - Each winner that reaps in the largest flounder, gafftop and sheepshead 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 red reel and head for the water.

Capital Farm Credit StarKid Flounder Division - and McClain trailer. 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 Sheepshead Division - This division gives entrants age 6-

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.

Continued on page 6


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.

~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. “New Tide” 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:

Welcome, new STAR partners!
Abu Garcia
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
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 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.

Outdoor Publication – Under 25,000

Outdoor Publication – Over 25,000
Second place: “TIDE” submitted by Ted Venker, editor.
Third place: “CURRENTS” submitted by Sam Caldwell, editor.

“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!
Great Foods / Food Editor Ellen Ohmstede

CREOLE SHRIMP

- 3 lbs medium shrimp
- 2 cups clam juice / 1 cup chicken stock / ½ 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
- 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@tpwd.texas.gov. Or, John Blaha, CCA Texas at 713-626-4222 jdblaha@ccatexas.org.

Sponsored by our friends at Costa.
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.”

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=a.618247538231086.1073741862.496466737075834&type=3

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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.

CCA Life Member APPLICATION

Name __________________________________________

CCA Member ID# _________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________

City __________________________ State __________ Zip __________

Phone __________________________ Email ______________________

Method of Payment

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

_________________________________________ Exp. Date ______________________

Credit Card Number

Signature

Or print this form and send to:

CCA Texas | 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 provocer. 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.

Early in the month 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 look for mud streaks or off-color patches of water. In dirty or "off color" water throw LSU. 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 jeffneucharters@yahoo.com

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 Alexranderguideservice.com

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 springtime. 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-blow 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 jeffneucharters@yahoo.com

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.

Fort Bend’s Outlaw 185X by JH Performance Boats

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

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

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

Heroes of Conservation

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

Zebco CCA Spinning Combo
Style CCA607-22M.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

H2O Xpress
3 or 4-in. Mojo Shrimp
5.99 each
5 for 20.99
2 Pack

Berkley Gulp!
Half Pints
9.99 each

Shop academy.com | Stay connected 🌐
Chapter Updates

Welcome new president, Emery Sadler

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 Arsoa 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 fundraiser 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

Aranas Bay

Carter Crigler 435-830-5984
jcrcrigler@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 labor of their effort as they headed back to Mal aquepa Pavilion. Aranas 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 full in swing with 32 Babes and a 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 closed 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: Aranas Bay Chapter Banquet.

Austin

Scott Sanderson 512-637-1750
scott@mbsquoteline.com

Fellow CCA Members, the wait is almost over for the 2014 Austin banquet, presented by Covert 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 think it’s 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.ccaustin.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. 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 to you! Visit www.dcalighting.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’s 2014 Shallow Sport, with all the upgrades, went to Mark Jernigan of “Saltwater As- tronaut Baffin Bay guide, Curtis Anderson 512-637-1750 or claundero1965@gmail.com

Welcome new president, Emery Sadler 713-501-2778

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.

Brazoria County

Wes Dingee 979-299-8245

Brazos Valley

John Ben Strother 979-220-1738
johnbenlimited@comcast.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 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 Rafter 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
**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 Coronado 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.

- **Fort Worth**

Fearn Mastin 817-291-1302

We hold 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!

- **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 hope in the future you will be part of the fun that is on Seawall Boulevard overlooking the beachfront.

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 Kaczyński 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 Befzano 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 auction, which will be held Thursday, April 3, at the Stafford Centre, Stafford Texas. Information on tables and tickets is available on www.ccataexas.org or by emailing us at greater sugarland cca@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 Sullivan, with second place going to Bob Nipper. First Place Flounder was awarded to Bill Anderson, with Gary Holland placing second.

Our monthly meeting 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 713-857-8997

Greater Woodlands

James Kay 281-363-4417 www.ccataexas.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 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 four friends were able to go on a dove hunt at the Piedras Parada Ranch in South Texas. A special Thanks to Byron 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 their last 7 months. Robert is a lifelong deer hunter and has hunted in several states for our chapter and has served on the right side of the law, getting to know our State Game wardens is really enjoyable.

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 will 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 at 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

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 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 to 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 512-267-7939.

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 own ‘on’ displays.

The Social will be at the Red Barn in Seguin, a great venue with a lot of local history and ‘hands on’ displays.

Darlene Cook darlene@knbt.fm 830-214-306
darlene@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 show," 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. Tickets will sell up to 8 people, come with an 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 again and 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 War

Lee County

Welcome new president, Jason Seale 979-412-0270

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. — 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. We have 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, it 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 Bote 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 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 Coastaline trailer. It’s a great looking boat and we have 4 sponsors to thank for putting it together. They are: Harbor Bait and Tackle, 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 first CCA Texas Executive Board meeting for Conservation will be held on Thursday June 26th at the El Salties Fishing Blowout, held at the Humble Civic Center Arena on Saturday, April 12th. Tickets are $20 pre-sale, $25 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 all the special Sportman’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

Northeast Houston
Jason Law 713-899-8594
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 (4 seats) start at $45 at the door. It consists of three great prizes. Tickets are $20 each or 6 for $100. We serve crawfish and trimmings, draft beer and sodas until it’s all gone. 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. & 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 Captain Goyen present some great fishing tales and answer lots of good questions.

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. Our guest at 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 Linnick and Steve Mashburn. 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 for 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 Statnys 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 have 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—it 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 angler or 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-boat for them after registration. More information to follow.
—Norman Oates

Rio Grande Valley
Phil Teinert 956-367-4267
pteinert@fcmtx.com
We have secured the 2014 Raffle Boat and it is now on display 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. Check out the boat and get tickets for next year! There has been a 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 the events coordinator. 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 planning to attend our next event. There are a few people who 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 Toups and his team at Classic of South East Texas.

To our Bull Red Sponsors, Thank You! Jamez Reddick, Gail Smith, Specialty Paint(Mark & Stacy), American Airboats(Stan, Tate, Sally), H&E Equipment Services(Welcom), Kiechnick 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. We also sold out our very 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 Cripen, Aaron Ruppel, Bryce Whaley, Cameron Smith, Connie Meadows, Danny Whaley, David Rocknic, Jim Meadows, Keith Eason, Logan Lopez, Michael Miller, Richard Smith, Shelee Edun, Tara Eason, and Tommy Gillespie. While we are riding down from this success we have another event upcoming; Kid Fish 2014 will be Saturday May 17th, stay tuned for details.

It is 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, 9391 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 Netzel at (210) 771-7807 or e mailing Rick at tasianorumizelle@gmail.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 Beto 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 mendozaarm09@gmail.com.

The chapter board is planning for our yearly Stars of the Bay event that always creates memories. We will have plenty of items donated. The winner will receive a trophy. 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 Cripen, Aaron Ruppel, Bryce Whaley, Cameron Smith, Connie Meadows, Danny Whaley, David Rocknic, Jim Meadows, Keith Eason, Logan Lopez, Michael Miller, Richard Smith, Shelee Edun, Tara Eason, and Tommy Gillespie. While we are riding down from this success we have another event upcoming; Kid Fish 2014 will be Saturday May 17th, stay tuned for details.

It is 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

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 past years we will be participating in the ICC, The Sunshine Kids and Kidfish events as well as holding 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 832-444-3595
rwill30@tsstate.edu

San Bernard
Welcome new president, Jayson Zahradnik 281-202-8438

Well, another successful season has come and gone. What a great night it was. Everyone enjoyed the ribeye steak dinner and refreshments. An event like this 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; Insurance, Triple D Machine, and King Ranch Turkey 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 everyone 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 Richy Domel, Bill Gerke, Derek Keller, Russell Kloessell, Bill Klopstock, Kevin Kosik, Ross June, Gene Lewis, Marsha, Royce, and Doug Mache, Kyle Novicz, Elroy Schatz, Albert Smaistrla, Josh Vincz, 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

Welcome new president Jim Wilson 713-828-7639
**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 Kaptchinskie 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 McDonnell 432-682-3499
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713-466-7849
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.

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~23~
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Port Aransas: 361-761-2668
Port O'Connor: 956-761-2668
Houston, Galveston: 409-766-5620
Sabine: 409-971-2195

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

Current size, bag and possession limits are now available through the Texas Parks & Wildlife website: TPWD has a number to report game violations. 1-800-792-4263. A partner with CCA in aiding Texas game and Game Wardens is Operation Game Thief. Drop by and put this website on your favorites list: http://www.ogttx.com/

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