CURRENTS
December 2015 / January 2016

Cedar Bayou, a year Later
Cedar Bayou—
A Year Later

By John Blaha

Dynamic, defined as an adjective, is a process or system characterized by constant change, activity, or progress. When a person thinks of Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough, one of the first thoughts that comes to mind is dynamic. Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough have been open and flowing to the Gulf for thirteen months as this article is being written.

This pass to the Gulf has been changing and reshaping itself since the very first flow of water started on September 25, 2014. In the first 75 days that Cedar Bayou flowed to the Gulf, the southern bank of the pass moved to the south 400 feet.

Since that time, the opening to the Gulf continues to move south and changes with every weather and tidal event.

Many questions are voiced by concerned anglers and the general public after every weather event or change in the bayou. The first reaction is generally, “What is happening?” and then people realize once again that the system is forever changing. The original designs for dredging Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough called for Cedar Bayou to be dredged to a bottom width of 300 feet and 9 feet deep. Through the permitting process, this design was modified to be 100 feet wide and 6 feet deep for both Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough, due to requirements put forward by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the permitting process. This process also includes input from Federal and State agencies. Though this was not the design originally sought, it was approved and the effort to open Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough was finally becoming reality. A key component to CCA Texas’s financial commitment to the project was to have a maintenance component to the project to ensure that the pass remained open, and when necessary, maintenance would be executed based on surveys and behavior of the pass in the time prior to maintenance needs.

“Cedar Bayou is like having another kid,” commented Aransas County Judge Burt Mills. Mills continued, “Like a kid, you watch over them and you worry about them, but you know in the end it is all going to be okay. Sometimes you have to help them along, and with Cedar Bayou we are developing a maintenance plan and will do everything we can to keep it flowing.”

Since its opening, recreational fishermen from across the state have visited the bayou to fish within it and in the surf. There have been days where as many as 25 to 30 boats have been in the bayou at any given time. Fishing has been consistent throughout this time, but because it’s fishing and not always catching, some days are good and some days are not as good.
Then you have those days where you experience a trip like never before and you simply seem to throw your bait in a fish’s mouth every cast.

Not only is Cedar Bayou providing a great benefit to the ecosystem, it is providing anglers from across the state with an epic fishing destination.

The biological impacts of the opening of Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough were felt immediately. Within just a few days, first-year marine biology students from Texas A&M Corpus Christi visited the site with Dr. Greg Stunz to see how sampling was done for research and to see the project. After pulling some sampling equipment, one of the students came forward to Dr. Stunz with a few small fish in hand and asked Dr. Stunz what they were. Redfish! In the prior two years of sampling in the Cedar Bayou area, not a single redfish larvae had been found, and within a week of opening, larvae were now present.

The opening of Cedar Bayou coincided with the beginning of the fall run of redfish in the surf for spawning and the opening was already paying big dividends for the surrounding fishery. Post-opening surveys show that since the opening, the densities of redfish larvae at Cedar Bayou are significant and in line with other inlets.

Harte Research Institute (HRI) sampling has also shown good presence of blue crab and Atlantic croaker, and the presence of southern flounder. These post-opening surveys provided great data and reinforced the importance of coastal passes tying Texas’s bays to the Gulf of Mexico.

The immediate area of Cedar Bayou is rich with seagrass beds, which are critical habitat for many early life marine species and provide these species with the opportunity for survival. These seagrass beds have shown a resurgence in growth since the opening, and along with critical rains that the area has had this past spring and in recent months, the beds are as strong as ever.

“The opening of Cedar Bayou has provided a great benefit to the surrounding ecosystem,” commented Quentin Hall, Masters of Science Graduate at Texas A&M Corpus...
$20,000 college scholarship to these youths: Austin Calhoun – StarTeen Upper Coast Trout winner
Tyler Gully – StarTeen Middle Coast Trout winner Collin Dziuk – StarTeen Lower Coast Trout winner

StarTeens Inshore Scholarship Division - The StarTeens Scholarship Inshore Division awarded these lucky teens each a $20,000 scholarship: Freddie Veloz, StarTeen Flounder winner David Hill, StarTeen Sheephead winner Colton Carner, StarTeen Gafftop winner

Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division - This year all five truck/boat packages were claimed! These lucky winners drove home a fully-loaded 2015 Ford F-150 “Texas Edition” truck and Haynie 23 BigFoot, Mercury 150 Pro XS Opti-Max outboard motor and Coastline trailer: Scott Hajovsky of Hempstead, 1st Redfish – Truck & Boat winner Michael Gibbs of Hemphill, 2nd Redfish – Truck & Boat winner Cuong Nguyen of Katy, 3rd Redfish – Truck & Boat winner Ryan Cantu of San Antonio, 4th Redfish – Truck & Boat winner Joe Contreras of Corpus Christi, 5th Redfish – Truck & Boat winner

Speckled Trout Division – These winners took home a Skeeter 21’ Cat boat, Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax outboard motor and McClain trailer: James Pallan – Upper Coast Trout winner, Skip Kramer – Middle Coast Trout winner, Lee Roy Navarro – Lower Coast Trout winner

Offshore Division – These lucky anglers won the Polaris Ranger® Crew 570 EPS UVs in Polaris Pursuit Camo each with a Big Tex 35sa Trailer: Krystal Treymbig – Kingfish winner, Austin Overstreet – Dorado winner, Nathan Crowe – Ling (Cobia) winner

Inshore Division – The following are the proud owners of Blue Wave 180V Southern Skiff boat, Mercury 115 Pro OptiMax outboard motor and Coastline trailer: Eric Thomas – Flounder winner, Wayne Gricc – Sheephead winner, Larry Capps – Gafftop winner

Runner-Up Winners - A total of 72 runner-up prizes were awarded this year. First through fourth runners-up in all divisions received a plaque, “special edition” STAR runner-up cap and gift certificates from Academy Sports + Outdoors. Gift certificate amounts for scholarship divisions: 1st - $250, 2nd - $150, 3rd - $125 and for regular divisions: 1st - $500, 2nd - $250, 3rd - $150, 4th - $100

StarKids Scholarship Division- Flounder: 1st: Reese Garcia (age 7) of Harlingen, 3 lbs. 10 ozs. / 2nd: Wyatt Belz (age 8) of San Antonio, 3 lbs. 9 ozs. / 3rd: Cody Elkins (age 8) of Mercedes, 3 lbs. 8 ozs. / 4th: Adam Gwynn (age 9) of Corpus Christi, 3 lbs. 7 ozs.
Sheephead: 1st: Ryan Basci (age 6) of League City, 7 lbs. 10 ozs. / 2nd: Madison Peterek (age 7) of Rockport, 6 lbs. 14 ozs. / 3rd: Parker Huntley (age 10) of Baytown, 6 lbs. 13 ozs. / 4th: Clay Brandenburg (age 8) of Katy, 6 lbs. 12 ozs.

Gafftop: 1st: Addison Tullos (age 7) of Lumberton, 6 lbs. 1 oz. / 2nd: Ashton Sumrall (age 7) of Orange, 5 lbs. 15 ozs. / 3rd: Josie Flores (age 9) of Los Fresnos, 5 lbs. 13 ozs. / 4th: Troy Redfern (age 9) of Port Neches, 5 lbs. 7 ozs.

For photos of many of the STAR 2015 winners and sponsors, see pages 6 and 17

2015 TOURNAMENT RECAP - This year’s tournament had over a hundred fabulous prizes up for grabs. A total of one hundred and eighteen prizes were claimed and the twenty-six top prizes were awarded to the winners during the CCA Texas BBQ road STAR Awards Ceremony on Friday, Oct. 9th at the Stafford Centre! These are the lucky winners of each division:

StarKids $50,000 Scholarship Division - This year’s StarKids Scholarship Division provided these three young anglers with college scholarships totaling $50,000 each: Adair Bates - StarKid Scholarship Flounder winner Maritza Martinez - Houston Community Newspapers StarKid Scholarship Sheephead winner Laken Bellanger - Fox Sports Southwest StarKid Scholarship Gafftop winner

Academy Sports + Outdoors StarTeens Scholarship Trout Division - The Academy Sports + Outdoors StarTeens Scholarship Trout Division awarded a

Tournament, who will be 6 years old in 2016 and will turn 6 p.m., Monday, Sept. 5, 2016.

STAR NEWS!

was Will Meriwether of Dallas. Dargel 210TV with a Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax engine for a bonus drawing that netted one lucky youth a $20,000 college scholarship. The lucky winner was New Tide Member Scholarship Drawing Winner – Navasota; 15. Kyle Pilaczynski of Devine.


Special Bonus Drawings Winners – These unique drawings give participants a chance to win a prize even if they never wet a line or caught a single fish during the entire tournament.


New Tide Member Scholarship Drawing Winner – All “New Tide” Members (ages 6 - 17) were eligible for a bonus drawing that netted one lucky youth a $20,000 college scholarship. The lucky winner was Trevor Casey, age 9, of Pearland.

Member Bonus Drawing Winner – Explorer by Dargel 210TV with a Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax outboard and McClain trailer. The lucky name drawn was Will Meriwether of Dallas.

2016 STAR NEWS! The STAR 2016 is set to begin at sunrise Saturday, May 28 and will run through 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 5 (Labor Day). In order to win at STAR, an angler must be registered and be a member of CCA. You’re going to get in anyway, might as well do it now! Remember, everyone entered in the STAR Tournament, who will be 6 years old in 2016 and older, is eligible to win the prizes being offered (even the TAGGED REDFISH DIVISION)!!!

TEXAS FISH & GAME MAGAZINE “BONUS DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION!” - Texas Fish & Game Magazine will continue to offer CCA Texas STAR participants a FREE one-year (12 issues) DIGITAL subscription. This subscription (normally $11.99/year) will allow you to access the latest and most in-depth outdoors information anywhere and anytime on your smart phone, tablets and desktop. Now STAR anglers have the chance to embrace the latest in technology, plus conserve our natural resources. We are grateful to Texas Fish & Game for providing this STAR-only benefit, while saving some trees and giving you more options. If you still wish to receive Texas Fish & Game in print magazine form, no problem... a special STAR angler price of $8 bucks a year (vs. $17.99/year) is still available, plus access to the digital version at no extra cost! Please be advised your subscription WILL NOT be sent automatically. If you wish to take advantage of this special bonus you must declare it when registering for the tournament. If you have already signed up for the 2016 STAR, but did not declare that you would like this special offer and/or you have questions regarding your past or current subscription, please call (713) 626-4222 or email star@ccatexas.org.

2016 EARLY BIRD DRAWINGS! Don’t forget, by signing up now you’ll get your shot at landing one of the many great prize offerings just for registering early! Be on the lookout for special “Early Bird” prizes available ONLY for those entrants who sign up before the tournament kicks off. Everyone who signs up for STAR by May 27, 2016 deadline will be automatically entered into the special Early Bird Drawings. Several prizes will be given away! They are sure to be a reel catch. The 2016 STAR entry fee is $20 for ages 18 and up - an awesome bargain! Membership fee is $30 annually and an additional $20 to enter the 2015 STAR Tournament for a total of $45. For kids age 6-17, “New Tide” membership fee remains $10 annually and the STAR entry fee is “FREE”! Each “New Tide” member MUST sign-up each year for the current year tournament. You can sign up NOW online at www.startournament.org!!!

LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA? Register family and friends, of all ages for a CCA Texas membership and 2016 STAR entry. This Christmas gift might put your loved ones in a new truck/boat combo or pay for their college education! Get everyone signed up for the 2016 STAR. See STAR Platinum Print Membership Package and the complete Platinum Print Series below for more, great gift ideas!

CCA TEXAS STAR PLATINUM PRINT MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE, SERIES VI

Just as the rainfall is supercharging the bay systems, CCA Texas STAR is supercharged to announce the premium artwork line-up for the 2016 STAR Platinum Print offering. NEW this year is Good Morning Cedar Bayou, by the legendary Sam Caldwell. Recognized by the Texas Commission For The Arts as Texas State Artist in 2004, Sam’s work is already a staple in many CCA member collections. His technique in transparent oils explodes the colors in an action scene that pays tribute to CCA’s latest finished project, the newly opened Cedar Bayou. Envision yourself and your son, together, right there in the surf, in search of an elusive STAR-winning trout. Thank you, Sam, for sharing this gift!

And for David Drinkard fans, STAR Platinum collectors can marvel over his next work in the series, King Ranch Shoreline. CCA outdoorsmen who hunt and fish will want this iconic scene of a trophy buck watching redfish action with pin-tail overhead... a Texas heritage, with a classic Drinkard sunrise... this one, indeed, captures it all! These amazing prints will have you wishing you were there! Specially commissioned for STAR, all for $125! These one-of-a-kind prints are 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 and/or to place

COLLECT THE 2016 STAR PLATINUM PRINTS

Two choices… one great cause!

Act now to own ONE of these signed, limited-edition prints in time for Christmas. Renowned artists Sam Caldwell and David Drinkard showcase their unique styles exclusively for CCA Texas STAR 2016. Pick your favorite or buy both! CCA Membership and STAR registration included with your purchase.

CCA Texas STAR
STATE OF TEXAS ANGLERS’ RODEO

Proceeds from the sale of these limited-edition packages will help us continue to fund the STAR scholarships. ccatax.org ★ star@ccatax.org (713) 626-4222

STAR has reached $5,525,000 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.

“Good Morning Cedar Bayou” © David Drinkard
your order with the STAR Dept., call (713) 626-4222. To ensure delivery in time for Christmas, please place your order by December 15, 2015.

STILL AVAILABLE! CCA Texas STAR Platinum Print, Series I, II, III, IV, V - STAR Reds, STAR Sightings, School Is In Session, Working the Spoils and Split Screen 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 all seven of these commemorative pieces, purchase yours today before they’re all gone! Proceeds from the sales of Platinum Packages will help us continue to fund the STAR scholarships.

DESERVING SPECIAL ATTENTION: In the Spirit of the Season, we give grateful thanks to all CCA members for remembering that STAR sponsors make this giant event possible. Since we don’t make a dime on STAR, your continued patronage of the members for remembering that STAR sponsors of the Season, we give grateful thanks to all CCA members for remembering that STAR sponsors make this giant event possible. Since we don’t make a dime on STAR, your continued patronage of the

eers their immense generosity to support the mission we all care about… kids, education, marine resources, and family fishing fun. We thank God for our blessed members and friends and wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Major sponsors for the 26th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament include: Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Home Corporation, Capital Farm Credit, Mercury Marine, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, Ozarka, Rio Ammunition, KTRK-abc13, Houston Community Newspapers & Media Group, Fox Sports Southwest, Time Warner Cable, Haynie Boats, Shoalwater Boats, Hoffpaur Polaris, Dargel Boats, Blue Wave Boats, Texas Fish & Game Magazine, Texas Oilman’s Charity Fishing Tournament, Coastal Trainers, McClain Trailers, Chris’ Marine and Mt. Houston Marine.

For more information, including a list of all the 2015 winners, go to http://www.startournament.org. Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!!!

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR’S NOTE: HOFFPAUR DEALS AVAILABLE.

It’s that time of year when the Texas outdoorsman is faced with the annual challenge to declare, “Do I fish or do I hunt?” What a great state we live in! Since hunting is red hot right now, we would recommend checking out the great Polaris deals from Hoffpaur: http://www.hpolaris.com/. With any ATV purchase, CCA members are eligible to receive a custom CCA cooler ($330 value) free! Thanks Hoffpaur, particularly for the STAR scholarship support!

A few winners of the 26th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers’ Rodeo


Pamela Schramek of Deer Park was the lucky winner of the Mercury 9.9 ELPT BF Pro Kicker, the 2015 Coors Light Early Bird Drawing

Freddie Velez, StarTeen Flounder winner and Patrick Franz of Rio Ammunition

Manita Martinez - Houston Community Newspapers StarKid Scholarship Sheepshead winner with Jason Joseph and Susan Revegno of Houston Community Newspapers

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Great Foods / Editor Ellen Ohmstede

**Savory Crab and Artichoke Bread Pudding**

- 2 T olive oil / 1 cup chopped yellow onions
- 3 T chopped garlic / 2 t Cajun seasoning
- ½ t thyme / 1 t salt / 2 t black pepper
- 2 15 oz cans quartered artichoke hearts (drained) / 1 lb fresh crabmeat (preferably jumbo lump) / 4 large eggs / 2 cups heavy cream / 2 cups milk
- 1 T fresh lemon juice / 6 cups cubed (1-inch) day-old French bread (about 1 loaf)
- 1 pound Brie, rind removed and cut into small 1/2-inch cubes / ½ cup freshly grated Parmesan / ½ cup minced fresh cilantro / 4 T melted butter

**Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.**

Grease a 10x13-inch baking dish.

Saute onions in olive oil and 2 T butter and cook until golden, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic, 1 teaspoon of Cajun seasoning, 1 teaspoon salt, and 1 teaspoon pepper, the thyme and cook, stirring, until the garlic is fragrant. Add the artichokes and cook, stirring, another 2 minutes. Remove from the heat and let cool.

In a large mixing bowl, combine the eggs, cream, milk, lemon juice, cooled melted butter, 1 teaspoon of Cajun seasoning, 1 teaspoon pepper. Whisk to combine.

To the egg mixture add the bread, room temp artichoke mixture, brie, 1/4 cup Parmesan and stir to combine. Gently fold in the lump crabmeat and freshly chopped cilantro. Do not break up crab meat. Let set for 20 minutes so that all liquid is absorbed.

Pour the bread pudding mixture into the prepared baking dish. Sprinkle remaining 1/4 cup Parmesan over the top. Bake until firm in the center and golden brown, about 1 hour. Serve warm.
Christi. “The area is alive with larvae of many marine animals and the growth and expansion of seagrass beds in the area has been great to see. The immediate and surrounding areas should see the benefit of this pass opening for years to come.”

Quentin graduated recently from Texas A&M with his Masters of Science. Quentin’s thesis title was “Determination of Seasonal Abundance, Density, and Distribution of Nekton Species Proximal to Cedar Bayou Pre- and Post-Opening.”

His research focus was on the effects of reopening a tidal inlet on nekton species. To read his thesis defense abstract, and to view his public defense online, please visit http://harteresearchinstitute.org/component/content/article/11-frontpage-news/290-watch-online-hri-master-s-student-quentin-hall.

CCA Texas graciously thanks Quentin, Dr. Greg Stunz and the rest of the staff at HRI for their support and willingness to provide educational outreach about the ecological effects of the opening of Cedar Bayou to CCA Texas volunteer chapters across the state.

In closing, Cedar Bayou is a project that the majority of CCA Texas membership, CCA Texas leadership and the general public has endorsed and supported. The project has had ups and downs, but it has been a full year and it continues to flow strongly between Mesquite Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.

As I close in writing this article, it has been a week of what ifs, from hearing it was totally closed only to find it flowing freely and then just a few days later having another big tide push in, with a front to follow, pushing water in and out. I and others have visited the bayou twice in the last five days, and even those five days have seen changes. The area some called closed was three to four feet deep on the second visit, and current was moving strongly to the Gulf. Some areas had as little as 12” to 18” flowing across sand flats, and some of the main guts had water over eight feet deep, flowing like a swollen river.

Remember, by the time you are reading this article, it will have changed once again. For the worse in some cases and for the better in others. In the end, Mother Nature is in ultimate control and we are all here to try our best to help her along and make right what mankind may have disturbed in prior years.

Thank you to CCA Texas members, the general public and agencies that all supported not only this effort, but all of the other conservation-minded efforts of CCA Texas throughout the year. Merry Christmas and we hope your lines are tight throughout the holiday season. —John Blaha

—Continued from page 3

As thousands of music fans begin taking their places at the Sam Houston Race Park, Folk Family Revival opens the concert with a hammer down, full blast set that has the early crowd on their feet. Other bands in the rip-roaring lineup include Atlanta Rhythm Section, Eddie Money, Grand Funk Railroad and the evening’s headliner, Lynyrd Skynyrd.

As dusk begins, CCA Executive Director Robby Byers welcomes CCA members and thousands of potential new CCA members. The lights are barely on when Grand Funk Railroad storms the stage with a non-stop performance that ups the energy level, and has thousands of fans singing along. The big moment comes as one of the nation’s premiere bands appears to deafening applause. Lynyrd Skynyrd is in prime form, and the crowd roars its approval. It will be difficult to top this one, but I’ll be looking forward to 2016. —Sam Caldwell

Upper Coast
By Capt. Ralph Frazier

Presentation, presentation, patience
As the days grow shorter and the temperature starts to fall, our thoughts turn toward giant trout swimming in the shallows. The only way we used to be able to catch them was to wade. With the new trolling motors and shallow water anchors, we can get close enough to reach them with a long cast. The clearer the water, the longer the cast and importance of being extremely quite in the boat.

There are a lot of days in the winter when the wind howls out of the north, so when planning any fishing trip you need to take wind direction and speed into account. Also for early December and into January, how much fresh water Trinity Bay has been receiving, as this will dictate if Jack’s Pocket will be holding a large number of fish. Jack’s Pocket is a crown jewel for good numbers of big trout in the winter. But wherever, finding bait with clams can and mud conditions nearby can be the key to getting on a number of big fish.

My personal favorite is to wade, and my favorite lures are topwaters. Always MirroLures, Top Dog and She Dogs (there’s a slight difference in size and the sound they make), Corky’s and a relatively new bait, the soft dine???. Both can be fished extremely slowly, or when conditions dictate, a little faster. Always a favorite in my boat or wading box, the Bass Assassin. I prefer the Sea Shad in the winter, a little slower, or when conditions dictate, a little faster. Also a favorite in my boat or wading box, the Bass Assassin. I prefer the Sea Shad in the winter, alittle slower, or when conditions dictate, a little faster. Also a favorite in my boat or wading box, the Bass Assassin. I prefer the Sea Shad in the winter, a little slower, or when conditions dictate, a little faster.

Any time, gold spoons are a go for reds and silver spoons work well for trout in clear water. Plastic shrimp and crabs work for reds and black drum. Fishing along shell for some really nice sheepshead will be good as well. When the winds pick up, you can hide behind islands for protection, and still catch fish. Just remember, don’t block the run-outs of the flats. With the low tides, the number of run-outs for boat traffic is limited to shallow water depth.

If the winds come up, you can hide behind islands for protection, and still catch fish. Just remember, don’t block the run-outs of the flats. With the low tides, the number of run-outs for boat traffic is limited to shallow water depth.

If the wind is down, the outside of Traylor Island and Quarantine are good places for fish this time of year. If you can get a parking pass, South Bay will be holding fish on lower water times. Corpus Christi Bayou is also a good place to look for fish on both falling tides and incoming tides.

Throw out a drift sock, drift the flats at a leisurely pace and enjoy the company of friends as you catch fish. Be sure you have ALL your safety equipment on board. Tight lines, and have a Happy New Year. — Capt. Mike O’Dell
361-438-1866 www.afishingfantasy.com

Middle Coast
By Capt. Mike O’Dell

How slowwwwww can you go?
For all you die hard fishermen, this is your time of year; no traffic at the boat ramps, no getting lines run over, just relaxing, easy fishing. If the water and weather is not too cold, there will be some great top water action for reds and trout.

When it is cooler (water temp under 50 degrees) trout will be found in the dark mud, using plastics. You may not be loading the boat, but the big trout are there, and they’ll be caught by those who work for them, fishing slow. The trout bite will be light, so you have to work the bait slowwww. If you are not producing any hits, slow down even more, and try again before changing colors.

Falling tides and cold northerly winds will blow out the water. But on the third or fourth day after a good front, the bite will be fast and furious; they are hungry and will eat. Live mud minnows, live mullet, live shrimp, and fresh dead on light Carolina rig will be deadly for reds and black drum. Fishing along shell for some really nice sheepshead will be good as well. When the winds pick up, you can hide behind islands for protection, and still catch fish. Just remember, don’t block the run-outs of the flats. With the low tides, the number of run-outs for boat traffic is limited to shallow water depth.

Any time, gold spoons are a go for reds and silver spoons work well for trout in clear water. Plastic shrimp and crabs work for reds and black drum. Fishing along shell for some really nice sheepshead will be good as well. When the winds pick up, you can hide behind islands for protection, and still catch fish. Just remember, don’t block the run-outs of the flats. With the low tides, the number of run-outs for boat traffic is limited to shallow water depth.

If the wind is down, the outside of Traylor Island and Quarantine are good places for fish this time of year. If you can get a parking pass, South Bay will be holding fish on lower water times. Corpus Christi Bayou is also a good place to look for fish on both falling tides and incoming tides.

Throw out a drift sock, drift the flats at a leisurely pace and enjoy the company of friends as you catch fish. Be sure you have ALL your safety equipment on board. Tight lines, and have a Happy New Year. — Capt. Mike O’Dell
361-438-1866 www.afishingfantasy.com

Lower Coast
By Capt. Sally Black

Trophies for the tough, comfort later
Winter-time patterns on Baffin Bay mean just one thing, of course… Trophy Trout season! As temperatures fall, Mother Nature gives notice that the winter is near. All predators, especially the Baffin Bay Big Girls, begin to really pack on the pounds. They are eating to survive the perils of winter.

Trophy Baffin trout also eat as much as possible all winter, in preparation for spawning activity which typically begins when the water temperatures rise into the 70’s in the early Spring.

“Trophy trout season” calls all hard core anglers in search of a trophy trout, to begin putting together their cold weather wade gear to “grind it out” for that big fish. Wade fishing seems extreme in colder water temps, but it allows an angler to really slow down the presentation of the lure. Big trout hang around or near the bottom in warmer areas that attract the “right size” bait, which would be mullet in the 4” to 12” range. Lures choices range from smaller, 4” paddle tails, to larger 5-6” plastic paddle tails and straight tailed plastics, all tossed on very light, 1/32 oz jig heads, worked low and slow. Corky’s and Catch 2000’s and other suspending baits work well, and never rule out a top water bite when conditions warrant.

Tough going, but hey — this winter the “New” Baffin Bay Rod and Gun will be open with a beautiful lodge and suites to sleep up to 20 guests. The lodge will be first class and the only thing like it on Baffin Bay. Many know we have always served great food and fine accommodations, but the new lodge will take it to the next level. Expect to have really comfortable beds, more great food and camaraderie in a setting that has been created like no other lodge on the Texas Coast.

Now’s the time to book that trophy trout trip and enjoy the “new” Baffin Bay Rod and Gun lodge at “The Last Best Place on the Texas Coast!,” with Capt. Sally, Capt. Black and our crew, Capt. Marcus and Capt. Josh. All of our calendars are on our website, www.BaffinBayRodandGun.com, and you can book right there. See you soon! — Capt. Sally Black
email: sally@captainsally.com Facebook: Baffin Bay Rod and Gun / 361-205-0624
CCA Texas Social Happenings

In September we held our 2015 Annual CCA Concert for Conservation, and throughout the fall there were several fun and successful fundraising banquets. Continue to visit our website and Facebook page for real-time updates and information on our events!

In each issue of Currents, CCA Texas will feature a recent Facebook photo, Twitter Tweet, and Instagram photo. Please “Like” our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube to get the latest updates from CCA Texas and become a part of the conversation!

Facebook:
William (6) and Zachary Armstrong (3) recently went on a fishing trip with their dad on Sabine Lake and had great success! William is a proud Rising Tide member. Thank you Tory Armstrong for sharing, and for taking your kids fishing!

Twitter:
@JERMillwinter: Waiting for Eddie Money to come on stage. @CCA_Texas @CCANational @SHRP Support conservation of our coastlines!

Instagram:
@ccatexas: That’s one mighty fine lookin’ pizza! Thank you to everyone who came out to the Southwestern Chapter banquet last night. There are still a few more banquets left in 2015, so be sure to grab a ticket to one of our remaining fundraisers! @joinccaconversation

Facebook: facebook.com/CCATexas
Twitter: twitter.com/CCA_Texas
Instagram: instagram.com/cca_texas
YouTube: youtube.com/ccatexasprojects

Chapter Updates

Alvin-Pearland
Emery Sadler 713-501-2778

Monthly General Meetings (Anglers Night Out): 7PM - First Tuesday of the month.
Location: Spring Creek BBQ, 9005 Broadway, Pearland Tx.77584

November-February: NO MEETINGS

2016 Meeting schedule:
March-1, April-5, May-3, June-7, September-6, October-4

Alvin/Pearland CCA Chapter Banquet June 16, 2016, 6pm. Location: Knights of Columbus Hall, 2320 Hatfield Road, Pearland Tx 77581.

Happy Holidays! We would welcome new board members who would like to get plugged in. Our monthly chapter meetings have a great speaker lineup and we will have a raffle.
Bring a friend, a kid and get plugged in!
—Emery Sadler

Aransas Bay
Carter Crigler 435-830-5984
cjcrigler@hotmail.com

2015 was another great year for the Aransas Bay Chapter. The completion of the Cedar Bayou/ Vinson Slough Restoration Project in 2014 has resulted in a most notable increase in fishing/boating activity originating at the Goose Island and St. Charles boat ramps. Access to the surf by the opening of Cedar Bayou has afforded new fishing opportunities for trout, red drum, black drum and flounder, along with promising improvement of the habitat in affected bays and flats.

Activities supported by chapter volunteers during 2015 include: Babes on the Bay (Sweet Sixteen), which was a bit on the wet side, sup-

port for the Abandoned Crab Trap Clean-Up program, the Aransas Bay Chapter Banquet XVI, which enjoyed a sell-out for the second year in a row, the Billy Sandifer Big Shell Cleanup, which became a little exciting as a rising surf led to a disappearing beach minimizing the return route of volunteers, a team in the Interchapter Challenge Tournament, and support for the Fulton 4-5 Learning Center in Rockport to conduct its annual ‘Wetlands Field Trips’.

A special thanks goes to all participants/attendees of the 16th Babes on the Bay and Ban-

quet along with the exceptional support from sponsors, donors and strong volunteer support for community activities which result in both events being success stories. Looking forward to seeing all of you in 2016.

How time flies! It is hard to believe that registration for Babes on the Bay XVII will start in just a short time after you receive this issue of Currents. In case you are wondering, Karol has put in a “no rain request” to the weather gods for both Friday evening and all day Saturday. Online registration will be used exclusively to sign up for the tournament and to reserve vendor spaces starting in mid-January. The design and selection of some unique goodies for the swag bags for Babes XVII is in full swing.

Last year’s Babes entrants will receive a letter in December outlining the 2016 event. Please visit the web site (www.babesonthebay.com) in early January, and review the registration process to determine if you have any questions. If you have questions contact Karol Scardino, Tournament Director, at 361-386-0028.

Correction to October/November 2015 Currents

Tackle Town was inadvertently omitted from the list of Table Sponsors for our 2015 Banquet. We apol-

ogize for this error and truly appreciated their contin-

ued support.

Mark your calendars:
13-14 May 2016: Babes on the Bay
13 August 2016: Aransas Bay Chapter Banquet
Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas with family and friends. Tight lines—Carter

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

All year long we get calls asking, “What’s the boat this year and when can I buy tickets?” Well, this is hot off the press; our 2016 boat has landed in Austin and tickets are on sale now! Shallow Sport did it again (owner Wes Hudson is a great friend and partner of CCA) and this year it’s their super-hot and popular 21 Mod V!

Like every year, she’s decked out with a Yeti, digital gauges, custom aluminum work, plus a lot more. And yet again, Coastline Trail-

ers (owner Marty Strakos is also a great friend of CCA) has made sure she’ll roll down the road in style, on a Coastline Custom trailer with black aluminum, mags and all the Coastline finer touches. This package is HOT! Go to www.ccaustin.org

A Gulf Coast Nessie, or an Adam Gilvarry GoPro photo?
Neal Meinzer - Sponsorship Chairman, Academic Center with our Social and Auction for April 14, 2016 and it will be held at the Dow you can reach him at rgroves@cmaaccess.com. If anyone is interested in fishing the Tri Bay area ed. Thanks again to Capt. Randall Groves and if events and we appreciate everyone who attend It was one of our largest attended GMM weather and water conditions, and the type of technics he uses when targeting fish, various and were joined by Capt. Randall Groves —Scott Sanderson Best wishes for the happiest of holidays going on in our chapter and make sure you don't ter. It's a great way to keep up with everything - Be sure to Friend us on Facebook by searching you need on the absolute best event in Austin. ccaaS website for info about tickets or contact Blake Masters at blakeate@gmail.com. But don’t wait! We will only sell 700 and they ALWAYS sell out early. The Austin chapter held our Officer elections for 2016 at our October meeting. Congratulations and thanks are in order for the following folks. These are big jobs for volunteers and taking on one of these roles demonstrates a significant commitment to the CCA cause. Josh Cook - President, Dennis Blaine - Secretary, Steven Benton - Treasurer, Barron Johnson - Banquet Chairman, John Kane - Asst. Banquet Chairman, Jason Magdalena - Asst. Banquet Chairman, Neal Meinzer - Sponsorship Chairman, PJ Todd - Community Relations Chairwoman, Dan Appling - Membership Chairman, Scott Sanderson - Live Auction Chairman, and Knox Kronenberg - Junior Board President. On a personal note, I’m honored to have served in the role of President for the last 4 years. It’s been a fulfilling and rewarding experience and I sincerely thank our board, sponsors, donors and members for their unwavering support. We had great successes along the way and I’m certain the new officers will carry our chapter to even greater heights — starting this year! If you want to keep up with our fun and active chapter, but aren’t getting Austin communications, call the CCA Texas office at 713-626-4222 and ask them to put you on the Austin mailing list. Be sure and join us for the upcoming Anglers’ Night Out events, January 20 and March 16, at Abel’s on the Lake. Save the Date - May 12th, 2016 and join us for Austin’s 37th Annual Banquet. Watch www.ccaaS.org for tickets and all the information you need on the absolute best event in Austin. Be sure to Friend us on Facebook by searching Coastal Conservation Association Austin Chapter. It’s a great way to keep up with everything going on in our chapter and make sure you don’t miss a thing. Best wishes for the happiest of holidays from the CCA Austin Chapter! — Scott Sanderson 512-637-1750 scott@mbsquoteline.com

Bay Area
Curtis Anderson 832-421-6377

Brazoria County
Wes Dingee 979-299-8245

We recently held our October GMM meeting and were joined by Capt. Randall Groves at the Sea Center Texas hatchery where he covered the technics he uses when targeting fish, various weather and water conditions, and the type of tackle he uses to address these issues. It was one of our largest attended GMM events and we appreciate everyone who attended. Thanks again to Capt. Randall Groves and if anyone is interested in fishing the Tri Bay area you can reach him at crgroves@cmaaccess.com. We have set the date for our 2016 Banquet for April 14, 2016 and it will be held at the Dow Academic Center with our Social and Auction items Preview starting at 6:30 followed by dinner at 7pm. Talk about good. And, Trent Allen will be providing a Cajun dinner for the event. All this is sure to make this a great Banquet. Tickets for this event as well as the Gun and Cooler raffle are available for purchase by contacting Drew Adams at 713-626-4222, Wes Dingee at 979-265-6555 or Dan Johnson at 979-265-6555 or 979-481-3907. — Dan Johnson djohnson@sparklingclear.com

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

Brenham
Dennis Crowson 979-451-2472

The Brenham CCA chapter concluded its year with our initial Fall tournament in Matagorda. Tournament winners were: 1st place trout: Darrell Murski / 1st place redfish: Russell Hall 2nd place stringer: Ryan Kettler, Bruce Kettler, JT Gaskamp / 1st place stringer: Bruce Buenger, Leonard Phillipp, Ricky Carpenter Thanks to Russell Hall, Ryan Kettler, and JT Gaskamp for putting on a great first tournament. The next meeting of the Brenham CCA will be January 28th. Hope everyone has a great holiday season.

The Brenham CCA is sponsored by Mike Hopkins Distributing. For more information contact Dennis Crowson at dennis.crowson@hotmail.com or 979-451-2472. Thanks, — Dennis Dennis.crowson@hotmail.com

Brush Country
Hank Henry 361-215-6803

Kid’s Day! All went well. We had about 30 kids and their parents. Jerry and Margaret Smith cooked lunch for all of us. Thanks to them and the Optimist Club for that, once again. We also had a fish release. My thanks to TP&W, and Robert and his son, Justin! Here are some photos that show the fish release and the lunch and awards ceremony in the Rec Hall after that. My thanks to all who helped, especially Brenda (who put it all together)! — Blaine

Centex
Wayne Webb 254-405-1300 sheyhunt@aol.com

Central Houston
Todd Buster Mobile, 713-545-1897

Colorado Valley
Eugene Ulrich 979-249-7425

Greetings from the Colorado Valley! Our chapter officers recently attended the Lee County Chapter Banquet in Giddings. It turned out to be a great night for our neighbors to the north. A few of our chapter members also attended the banquet in Port O’ Connor. They really put on a
THINK RED. SEE BLUE

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. Look for exclusive “Think Red. See Blue.” conservation campaign gear at your local Academy store. There are approximately 50 CCA-branded products that include CCA shirts, hats, rods, reels, tackle boxes and bags, coolers and much more. A portion of the sales from these products goes to support CCA’s important conservation work, including funding habitat restoration efforts.

Academy
SPORTS + OUTDOORS

549
CCA 5-gal. Bucket
Style CCA 5 GL RED

1999
Academy® Rope Handle
5-gal. Bucket
Style PRGLNH

1799
CCA Floating Fish Light
Style CCA-104A

3499
Fitec Blue Mono Lead Cast Nets
4699 6 Cast Net
4999 7 Cast Net

Selection and prices vary by store.
CCA Deluxe Tackle Bag  
• Includes three utility boxes  
$59.99

CCA Tackle Bag  
• Includes two utility boxes  
$34.99

Heritage Red Fish 10' Sit-On Fishing Kayak  
Style KF-10SRD20  
• 10' round front storage hatch  
• Two vertical rod holders and one swiveling rod holder  
$499.99

99.99

Lew’s Speed Spool LFS Baitcast Reel  
$99.99

69.99-79.99

Shimano Sedona Spinning Reel  
$69.99

54.99

CCA Bubba Blade Breaking Knife  
Style B8-CCA88BK3P  
EXCLUSIVE

No Limits Redfish Kayak Paddle  
Style FNOMC2012  
$99.99

CCA Bubba Blade  
8" Thin Flex Fillet Knife  
Style BB-CCA-8TF  
WORLD FAMOUS
Grand Funk Railroad turned it up a notch early in the CCA Concert for Conservation. Get a load of that top hat.

good show in POC.

Our chapter is busy planning another general membership meeting for January as well as starting to prepare for our banquet which will be held next year again at the Knights of Columbus hall in La Grange on March 31st. Please be early about reserving your tables because we sold out last year and certainly do not want to leave anyone out. You can contact me at 979-249-7425 or Trish Kubena at 512-881-2588 for tickets or table requests.

Hope everyone’s fall fishing is going well or table requests.

Trish Kubena

or 7425

contact me at 979-249-

leave anyone out. You can

sold out last year and certainly do not want to

be early about reserving your tables because we

lumbus hall in La Grange on March 31st.

be held next year again at the Knights of Co-

starting to prepare for

Our chapter is busy planning another gen

good show in POC.

Greetings from the Corpus Christi Chapter! It’s been a wild ride this fall so far with the red tide lurking around, but things are clearing and hopefully will continue to do so. The Guides Cup went well again this year despite some really tough weather. Thanks Bruce Laser for organizing it, and Joseph and Cody for helping out.

The Babes on Baffin Ladies fishing tournament was a smashing success again this year. We had over 300 anglers, with 75 new CCA members and the rest renewing. There were 71 live fish that went to the hatchery to be used as either brood stock or in the kidfish ponds, which ties the highest number for fish donated. There are still some visors and shirts that are available from this year’s event. You can contact Tournament director Lauren at babesonbaffin@yahoo.com for more details and to order merchandise.

Next year’s date will remain the same, which is Columbus Day weekend for 2016. Thanks to everyone who sponsored or fished and supported the tournament, it really was a good deal. Great job to Lauren, Cody, Margaret Ehman, Judy, Valerie, Michelle, Angie, and the rest of the CCA-CC folks who helped put this event on. The tournament was dedicated to Hector Mendietta, and Hector’s wife Nancy Mendietta was on-hand for the event, and to accept the honors on behalf of Hector. There wasn’t a dry eye in the place during the dedication, and it charged the crowd up during the captain’s meeting on Friday. I’m already looking forward to next year, and my mom, Jo Gardner already called dibs on getting me to captain a team in the skiff.

We are now getting focused on our 2016 Fundraising Banquet which will be held on March 10th at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi. This year’s banquet Chairman Cliff Johnstone is already up and running down the road. Boat Chairman Joseph Briones and his compadre John Fry already have the boat and the ATV, and are selling tickets. Food and Beverage Chairman Jake Herring is getting things secured, as is Silent and Raffle Chair Judy Arnold.

Boom! What else can you say, except GO TEAM! Look myself or Cliff Johnstone up if you’re interested in renewing your sponsorship, becoming a new sponsor, or wanting to know how to get involved. We can always use more hands on deck.

We will be having our Christmas party here around the first part of December, and we would like to wish everyone out there a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year! Please take the time to cherish your friends, family, and loved ones, as life is too short to let chances slide to tell people how important they are to you. We’ve lost some good ones recently, including Mike Morgan. His friendship and memory will always be cherished. If you find yourself around here in the Coastal Bend, look us up and say hello. —Jay Gardner

Dallas / North Texas
Hal Thomas 972-612-1684

We have been busy with fall festivities including another Texas Sized Fish Fry at TCU for Mr. Gear and his many guests. We cooked and served fish, shrimp and many other delights as a tailgate party for the group. One guest commented that he has not had redfish this good since he was a small boy. We were satisfied that we pleased the crowd.

We also cooked for Mr. Baker at his home while many of his colleagues and close friends enjoyed another game night watching the Dallas Cowboys on TV. We cooked and served over 30 people and had a fun and entertaining event. The Fish Fry has been a regular item in our Annual Banquet and our generous donors always put us to work in some of the most interesting locations one can imagine.

We are set for next year on April 21, 2015 at the Frontiers of Flight Museum and we are ready to take reservations for sponsors. If anyone is interested in volunteering or donating as a sponsor, please give any of the committee a call or let Drew know in the Houston office. Happy Holidays to all—Hal Thomas 972-768-3521

A few of the Corpus Christi CCA attendees at the Concert for Conservation.
East Texas  
Dr. Jim Norman 936-554-3165  
jnorman7@suddenlink.net

Fort Bend  
Robb Gaston 281-239-9755  
Hardy har, har, and Feliz Navidad Amigos and fellow anglers, I hope your coolers are as full as mine. Fall weather has been great to Matagorda Bay. The washout from wannabe Hurricane Patricia came and went. When she left, it left fresh water and new fish. I take great pleasure in saying, “Bye Hurricane Season 2015!”  
The flounder run has been amazing for me, and I hope it was the same for you. Enough about me, I would like to give a shout out to our very own Harvey “Skip” Kramer for coming in first place in the CCA STAR Trout Division!  
We have some great things in the works for our 2016 banquet. Stay tuned for more updates, and exciting information about our banquet. Until then keep those lines taught, and enjoy the cooler weather. It pays off to buy insulated waders for the gulf coast. It is nice when I get to use my insulated waders for 3 months out of the year. Here is to an amazing year of fishing 2016.  
—Robb Gaston

Fort Worth  
Hunter Baird 817-437-8351  
Hello from your FW board. It was that time of year where the board undertakes an event specifically for you, our members. We hosted our semi-annual fish fry at Rahr Brewery on November 12th and provided fish that we caught ourselves so that we could say THANK YOU to each one of you for your continued support over the years.  
As an additional thank you, we covered the cost of all of your refreshments that evening. Thank you for making some time to join us at the fish fry.  
A special thanks to this year’s sponsor, InPro Fabrication. You can find more information about them at http://inprold.com. Thank you, Andrew Rico for your continued support of CCA!  
Also put on your calendar that our Annual Banquet is set for Cinco de Mayo Gallaveston Pres. Ken Ellis presented the Region 4 Game Warden of the Year award to Jennifer Weaver. The Galveston boat featured a spectacular redfish wrap.

Galveston  
Dr. Ken Ellis 713-962-7731  
We held a general membership meeting on November 12 at the Barefoot Brewery. Our guest speaker was Joanie Steinhaus from the Gulf of Mexico Office of the Turtle Island Restoration Network.  
She gave a very informative presentation on the initiative of Turtle Island Restoration Network to protect the endangered Sea Turtle. Thank you, Ms. Steinhaus for taking the time to speak to our group.  
We’d also like to recognize CCA Texas Game Warden of the Year, Jennifer Weaver. We were proud to have the opportunity of presenting her with this award at our banquet in August. We surely appreciate the work they all do.  
We’d like to wish all of our members a safe, healthy and happy holiday season. Grab your loved ones and share some quality time on the water this holiday season. Tight Lines—Ken Ellis

Golden Triangle  
Joel Foxworth 409-466-2614  
Greater Sugar Land  
Richard Lindley 832-270-0398  
richardlindley@att.net  
Oct. 17 was our President’s Cup fishing tournament. 50% of money raised goes to our Kid Fish fund. The winner of this year’s President Cup went to Joel, Heavy Trout also Joel, Heavy Red Fish Mark Bennett, and Heavy Flounder to Gary Holland. 2nd place Trout to Robert Copeland, 2nd place Redfish to Buford, 2nd place flounder to Billy Andrews.  
Side pots were Heavy Trout to Joel, trout closest to 2 lb to Bob Harcovy, Redfish with most spots to Buford, Heavy Flounder to Joel.  
It was a great weekend and I thank every one who came and helped make it all possible.  
We are also working hard on our next banquet which is set for April 7, 2016 so mark your calendars. —Richard Lindley 832-270-0398

Greater Woodlands  
James Kay 281-363-4417  
Greater Woodlands  
Just a quick note today. We have been a little dormant these past couple of months. Many people are busy hunting and getting ready for the holidays. We will get things back moving in the New Year of 2016. So, to all CCA Members and friends, have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you in 2016. Keep Conserving…To Keep Fishing!!!  
—James Kay

Guadalupe Valley  
Jon Eric Rodriguez 361-243-1017

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

Heart of the Hills  
Jim Simmons 210-380-5709  
fishyxsurf@AOL.com

Hill Country  
Miles Engelke 830-303-1827  
WE wrapped up our year on October 20 with our final general meeting for the year. Our speaker was Michael Krueger, recently retired from the Wildlife Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department after 27 years of service.  
Michael gave a very informative talk on Wildlife Management and Chronic Wasting Disease including slide presentations. The social was good and we gave away attendance prizes. Thanks to Creative Eyewear and Rust Game Place for setting up with their merchandise.  
With 2015 starting to appear in my rear view mirror, my thoughts are on 2016. We will start the year off with our fourth annual Social at the Red Barn in Seguin. The tentative date is Sunday April 3, 2016. Next will be our Spring Tournament, and we will have three General Meetings (dates to be announced) and our 5th annual banquet on Thursday, October 15. A great big Thank You to our wonderful sponsors, buyers and all the folks who came out to support CCA. My wish is that you will move forward with me as we prepare for a successful 2016. Hope to see you on the water or doing something you like. My cell is 210-260-8968, Cast me a call if you would like to get involved.  
Thanks to my Executive Board, Board of Directors, Vendors and Sponsors for making the Hill Country Chapter one of the most successful chapters within CCA. My wish is that you will move forward with me as we prepare for a successful 2016. Hope to see you on the water or doing something you like. My cell is 210-260-8968, Cast me a call if you would like to get involved.  
Treasure The Trips—Miles

Houston Homebuilders  
Mack Davis 832 381-6130

Houston Real Estate  
Dale Couch 281-953-2510

Katy  
Laredo

Jesse Martinez  
jesse@laredo.twcbc.com  
956-763-5555

Lee County  
Byron Kalbas 979-540-0056  
We held our 5th annual banquet on Thursday October 15. A great big Thank You to our wonderful sponsors, buyers and all the folks who came out to support CCA. With your help and generosity we were able exceed our goals and have another outstanding fundraising banquet. We are very appreciative of all the folks who came out to support CCA because it can’t be done without you. Also, a big thank you to our banquet committee who put in the extra time and effort to sell tickets and tables, set up for the banquet and their hard work before and the night of the banquet to help it run smoothly. God’s blessings to all.  
—Byron Kalbas
What started out as a fantastic steak dinner hosted by the fine folks at Las Palmas Lodge in Matagorda turned into a great day of fishing. Eight of the area’s finest guides joined forces to find out who is the best of the best. Numerous bidders at our Lower Colorado CCA banquet went to battle to get the chance to fish in this exclusive event.

At 6:30 am on October 6, the boats set out to find the big ones. Each team needed to produce 5 trout and 3 redfish. The weather was perfect for a day of wade fishing and guiding to find the trophies. This was a lure only event, so you had to really match wits with the fish of prey to convince them to take your offerings.

Waiting on the dock at the harbor were the board members of the Lower Colorado Chapter: James Hobbins, Ronnie Bose, Tim Munos, Melvin Gardner, Don Busha, Bobby Busha, Clint Hewitt, with a Chicken and Sausage and Shrimp gumbo prepared by Clint Hewitt and Ronnie Bose and a Dutch Oven Peach cobbler prepared by James Hobbins.

Capt. Jerry West and his crew of Jay Huitt, Hank Huitt and Anthony Kimmey were the first boat to arrive at about 2:20 pm. Their stringer produced a weight of 32.10 lbs, a bar that was set too high for the remaining guides and crew. “We had our stringer of fish by 9 am and simply fished for upgrades. Everyone in my boat caught fish and contributed to the team efforts. I couldn’t have asked for a better group of fishermen to spend the day with,” said Capt Jerry West.

The Lower Colorado Chapter of CCA president Tim Munos of Busha Boats presented Capt Jerry West with the Guides Cup and the plaques to the team members Jay, Hank and Anthony. On behalf of the chapter, Thank you to the elite 8 fishing guides who spent the day with their clients to see who would be awarded the cup: Capt. Tommy Countz, Capt. Kenny Hauf Jr., Capt. Kenny Hauf III, Capt. Walt Wendland, Capt. Don Woods, Capt. Jerry West, Capt. Charley Paradoski, Capt. Tommy Alexander. And once again, congratulations Capt. Jerry West on the first Colorado Classic Guides Cup win. Thank you and have a nice day, — Clint Hewitt

Lower Laguna Madre

Oscar Garcia III 956-491-8148

Mainland

Eric Minor 281-534-6242

MidCoast’s 23’ Haynie Cat boat for the 2016 banquet.

Northeast Houston

Jason Law 713-898-8594

Northwest Houston

Alan Massey 281-414-6341

At press time, our December General Meeting: Speaker will be Captain Game Warden Fred Ruiz who has worked for TFWD for 13 years as a game warden. He is a veteran and served 7 years in the Army as a paratrooper at Fort Bragg and Vicenza, Italy. We hope you were here, enjoying the event, courtesy of Houston Distributing. Of course there will be our usual Christmas raffle with some great prizes.

Also just a reminder, please remember that we are always happy to accept donations for the annual Kidfish program.

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 meetings and events please contact our CCA Assistant Director Drew Adams via email: drewadams@cca-texas.org. See you at the next meeting.

— Alan Massey

Orange County

Scott Bandy 409-988-3667 sabandy@gmail.com

As we enter the holiday season, we wish all a Happy Holiday Season.

The 2015 CCA Star Tournament has ended and we would like to congratulate some lucky anglers that placed in the final leaderboard from the Orange County area. First Place winner in the STARkidz Gafftop, Laken Ballanger of Orange. 2nd runner up in same division, Ashton Sumrall also of Orange. 3rd runner up in the STARTeen Gafftop, Macie Murty of Bridge City.

In the INSHORE DIVISION, Gafftop 4th runner up Zachary Butler of Orange. Congratulations to our local winners. Our chapter meetings are on the 2nd Monday of each Month at Roberts Steakhouse and Restaurant. Contact Info: Scott Bandy scottbandy77@yahoo.com

Louis Moore- louis_moore@yahoo.com

Davis Dixon- dcdixon149@yahoo.com

Matt Still - mstill@cca-texas.org

— Scott Bandy

Port O’Connor

Bill Moore 361-983-4690

Another great year! The 16th Annual POC CCA Banquet was held on October 17, at the POC Community Center and was a complete sellout before the doors opened. We apologize to those who requested tables and tickets, but due to the size of the facility, it will only accommodate so many.

The banquet was another success, with ev-

Lower Colorado Guide’s Cup fishing tournament. Capt. Jerry’s team, and Jerry receiving the cup from President Tim Munos.

Matagorda Bays

Chad Hensley 979-543-2734

MidCoast

David Jenkins 361-578-5580

We hosted our annual Speedy Stop Guides Cup Tournament in Port O’Connor, October 8 and 9. The 21 guides and their fishermen were treated to a great meal on Thursday evening and hamburgers after fishing on Friday. There were several nice stringers brought to the weigh in station and all live fish were taken to Palacios by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Captain Kelly Parks and Team Desperados were this year’s 1st place winners, 20.9 lbs, 3 trout and 1 redfish. 2nd place was Captain Tommy Ramirez , 20.1 lbs, and Captain Kirk Morgan with 19.6 lbs came in 3rd. Congratulations to you and those that participated.

We would like to thank the following for your continued help and support in making this fishing tournament another success; Cliff Thomas and the Speedy Stop family, Jimmie Burns and the Waterloo family, The Sanctuary at Coasta Grande and Homeowners Association, Hartman Distributing, Del Papa Distributing, Eichorn, Gonzales and Miller Jewelers, and especially the Mid Coast Board Members for all their hard work to bring this tournament together.

As always, we have a boat for next year’s banquet, which is set for May 6, 2016. The boat is a 23’ Haynie Cat, Fully Loaded, with a 250 Mercury Sport XS and a Coastline all Aluminum Trailer. Tickets are available at The Tackle Box of Victoria, Victoria All Sports, and with any Board Member. Tickets are $100 each, and we will only sell 1000 for this boat this year. You will be able to see the boat displayed at Academy, on some weekends, during the coming months. I hope you enjoy the Holidays, God Bless you and your families— David Jenkins 361-578-5580 jenkins12@sbcglobal.net

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Everyone enjoying the great weather, good food, and good time enjoyed by all in attendance. It could not have been a success without the diligence and dedication of all board members, volunteers, and donors. Special thanks to banquet chairman Carl Ray and Jim Busby, VP’s Mike Sharp and Dain Whitworth, Treasurer Ann Brownlee, Secretary Jim Busby, and Sergeant at arms Sonny Cook.

Also, our outstanding board members, Ann Brownlee, Barbara Skalak, Candace Stryker, Carl and Pam Ray, Chris Smisek, Dain and Judy Whitworth, Donnie and Julia Kiesle, Fred Carr, Jim Busby, Gayle Wilson, Jimmy and Barbara Crouch, Joyce Wilson, Lefty and Joanne Ward, Mike and Maxine Sharp, Pam Johnson, Patty Elkins, Suzie Onishi and Monique Moran. Thank you to Pam Johnson for doing and outstanding job on the program. To our CCA AD Ellen Ohmstedt. To Sam Caldwell for the beautiful program cover.

Again, our appreciation to a special group who make our banquet a success, the donors, who make possible all the items, gifts and trips, you will be notified individually to say “thank you” to all of the table sponsors, who will be listed in the next issue—who all who attended and helped make this a successful banquet.

We again want to thank the local businesses who assisted in selling the tables/tickets: Sonny’s Marine, Coastal Bend Marine, Coastal Boat Services, Tiggrett Real Estate and Port O’Connor Rod and Gun. So, come spend some of your holidays with us—visit some of our donors or just kick back—enter your skiff in the Christmas Boat Parade in POC, “Where it all began.” —Bill Moore

Prairie
Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103
Kind of quiet in The chapter this time of the year, but we are planning our Christmas Party the first part of December at Randy Goebel’s Man Cave and we will have our annual Chinese Christmas gift exchange.

I would like to wish everybody a safe and Happy Holidays and a special thanks to all at the CCA headquarters staff and a Special thanks to Coleman Todd for all the hard work and support on our Banquet and other events throughout the year.

Starting January, we will start planning our April Banquet Fundraiser. If anyone wants to be a Cap Sponsor let us know. Thanks and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
--Ron Chess 979-525-9254

Redfish Bay
Norman Oates 361-758-0266
The chapter board wishes all members and supporters a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thanks again for all of your support throughout the year.

We hope you are looking forward to the coming year’s CCA activities. Our Annual Redfish Bay Chapter Banquet is scheduled for April 23, 2016. The Take a Kid Fishing event is always the first weekend in June, and the Beeville Fish Fry is the Thursday before dove season. Mark your calendars! We all want to have fun while supporting a great conservation organization. See you there! —Norman C Oates 361-738-0266

Rio Grande Valley
George McCaleb 956-984-8688 gmccaleb@hotmail.com

Sabine-Neches
Darin Johnson 409-790-9855
Greetings from the Sabine Neches Chapter. Hopefully everyone has dried out from our Halloween floods. What a way to start the mud season run, duck and deer season. It’s hard to believe the holidays are here already, and what does Sabine Neches get to do, we are planning for our March Banquet! That’s right, in five short months we will be cranking it up for our annual Banquet/Crawfish Ball/Fundraiser!

It’s never too late to drop me a line to get involved with our ever-growing event. Mark your calendar, Thursday March 3 at the Bob Bowers Civic Center in Port Arthur, Texas. Put it on your Christmas list, tickets or tables to this event are a great present! Don’t wait until the last minute as we have sold out the event for the past three years!

Our only bit of new information is that we are still in the works for a Tri-Chapter Challenge on Sabine, vs Golden Triangle and Orange County Chapters. We are still trying to work out the time frame for this inaugural event. In the meantime we want to wish everyone Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas! Tight lines to all, and to all a safe journey outdoors! —Darin M Johnson 409-502-1010

San Antonio
Jimmy Gibson 210-287-4378
The CCA San Antonio Night Out October 1st was a great evening with our special friends Sally and Aubrey Black from Baffin Bay Rod and Gun Club. They spent more than 2 hours giving our group an update on fishing the fall in Baffin Bay. The room was full of interested fishermen with questions on what lures and strategies work in Baffin, and Sally and Aubrey stayed busy answering questions.

December is always a special time of year and I hope this update finds you in the Holiday mode. Your San Antonio Chapter is busy wrapping up the year and looking forward to enjoying the holidays with our families and friends.

January will be here soon and we will be forming committees for our spring activities with will include our 3rd Annual “Hooked on Clays” Sporting Clays shoot at the National Shooting Center in late March and our Annual Over the Top Banquet at the AT&T Center to follow in early May. Sign up Information on both events will be posted on our Web Page in the near future. We will also have a booth at the San Antonio Boat Show, come by and renew your membership, sign up for one of our committees or just talk fishing. We can always use another fish story. We will be meeting as a group mid-January and want to encourage anyone interested in volunteering their time to get involved. Come join us and have some fun working on our sporting clays event or our banquet committee. Thank you for doing your part as a member. Until the next Currents, travel safely, enjoy the Holidays and the great outdoors!

Contact me for any information: 210-692-2486, or e-mail me at jimmy.gibson@CSTBrands.com

Vaya Con Dios Mi Amigos— Jimmy Gibson

San Bernard
Jayson Zahiradnik 832-535-7738 jayson.zahiradnik@valleymoreresource.com

San Gabriel
John Melnar 512-497-8284

~17~
October wrapped up a busy month for our chapter as we hosted the 4th Annual CCA Texas/CastAway Fishing Tournament at Harborwalk. This tournament is a great yearly event and all proceeds benefit CCA Texas to help our fisheries right here at home! We would like to thank Mac DeLaup & CastAway Fishing Rods, Brad Schweiss & the Houston Gold Exchange, Harborwalk Marina and Floyd's on the Water for your support and contributions. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help things run smoothly. While we cannot name everyone, please know all of your help and time is greatly appreciated.

The winners for the heaviest redfish, trout and flounder all also took home a custom Schweiss CastAway watch donated by the Houston Gold Exchange and every angler took home a new rod donated by CastAway Fishing Rods. Fun Fact for this tournament… The redfish with the most spots had 142 spots! You can find pictures of the tournament on our Facebook page.

Lastly, I would personally like to thank longtime West Houston Board Members Gary and Rachel Brown. This tournament would never take place without your time and dedication. Thank you for taking the time to make this a great event for CCA Texas!!

We now turn our attention to our 30th Annual Banquet scheduled for May 2016. To keep up to date on the latest information for our Chapter, please check our chapter page on the CCA Texas web site or like our Facebook page. We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Our Chapter has a lot to be thankful for and we are looking forward to a great 2016! Until next time, spend some time outdoors and stay safe out there! —Mike Ayers

West Texas
Craig McDonnold
432-682-3499

Lynyrd Skynyrd finished the CCA 2015 Concert For Conservation evening to a standing, singing along and applauding CCA crowd.

You’ve seen our CCA Texas License plates driving the roads of Texas. We would like to ask all of our 70,000 Texas driving members to consider ordering their own plate today. For just $30 you can have this fantastic-looking plate, and CCA will receive $22 to be used for our Habitat projects. It will take you just a few minutes to order for your truck, car, or boat trailer. To place your order, input in your network browser (Google works best), TxDOT Special Plate Order Application. Follow the next thread to Coastal Conservation Association. These plates would also make great gifts for any fishing enthusiast. So drive in style and help support our Habitat projects at the same time. If just half of our members drive with our CCA plates, it will generate almost $800,000 each year to fund future Habitat projects. Now that is driving for a cause. Please support us and order your plate today!
TEXAS WILDLIFE ART
Bull Run at Dawn
by Herb Booth

> John Cowan
> John Dearman
> Sam Caldwell
> Herb Booth
> David Drinkard
> Al Barnes

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Lynyrd Skynyrd, Eddie Money, Grand Funk Railroad, Atlanta Rhythm Section & Folk Family Revival—plus thousands of your best friends.
The Great American Lager

TESTED TOUGH FOR THE GULF COAST.
The Last Laugh

Six of the thousands of attendees having a great time at the 2015 Concert For Conservation.

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Air & Sea Rescue
National Response Center: 800-874-2143
Port Isabel: 956-762-2668
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

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
6919 Portwest Suite 100 / Houston, TX 77024
CURRENTS NEWSLETTER
December 2015 / January 2016

Best wishes for many big fishes and a healthy 2016 from the crew at CCA

Currents Newsletter
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