

CURRENTS

February / March 2016



*Science enhances
project monitoring*

Habitat Restoration and Creation and the Science to Support it

Photos courtesy of Lisa Laskowski

By John Blaha

Habitat restoration and creation along the Texas Gulf Coast is an important factor in ensuring that coastal resources remain strong and healthy for the future.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF), Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program (CB-BEP), Harte Research Institute (HRI), University of Texas Marine Science Institute (UTMSI), CCA Texas and other entities all play an important role in habitat restoration. These groups are involved in many different ways including design, construction and monitoring.

"Project monitoring and follow-up is key to fully assessing the impact of habitat restoration projects," commented Dr. Greg Stunz from HRI. Stunz continued, "In the Cedar Bayou restoration project for instance, while very positive and immediate impacts were seen, it is important to document the trends long-term to see if the opening has lasting impact. We are confident it will, but we want to put the sci-

ence to it."

As Dr. Stunz noted, immediate impacts are often seen, but the long-term monitoring will show the significance of the effort in the end.

Habitat restoration and creation is expensive. Funds that are secured to execute these projects often have post-monitoring components attached to them to ensure the projects are fully executed as planned. This post-monitoring provides a science-based evaluation that is available for review in the design and implementation of future projects. Another component to the monitoring of habitat restoration and creation is the pre-construction monitoring. Some projects are also required to have pre-construction monitoring, which provides base-

lines that are used for future evaluation.

Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough Restoration is a project that had a significant amount of pre-construction monitoring, and continues to undergo post-construction monitoring. HRI has provided this monitoring and it includes Masters student Quentin Hall's studies that focused on the intensity and immediacy of estuarine-dependent species' response to the re-opening. Quentin's studies included intense survey efforts both prior to and after the project. This pre- and post-monitoring showed measurable increases of numerous species within days of the reopening. In addition, a component of his research also included tagging 11 redfish and tracking their movements through an acoustic array within Mesquite Bay and Cedar Bayou to the Gulf of Mexico.

Judd Curtis, PhD from HRI, recently began a study to examine spotted seatrout movement patterns and habitat use through the newly restored and re-opened Cedar Bayou tidal inlet. This project will use acoustic tracking techniques. HRI graciously donated a trip to the CCA Texas Aransas Bay Chapter Banquet



On cover: freshly implanted and tagged fish being released by John Blaha. Photo by Lisa Laskowski

Quentin Hall and Dr. Judd Curtis preparing to insert transmitter.



live auction for two individuals to accompany the HRI team in the efforts to catch, implant transmitters and tag 24 spotted seatrout for this effort. Linda and Alton Voigt, owners of Rockport Tackle Town, purchased

the trip and fished along with CCA Hill Country Chapter volunteer Lisa Laskowski, CCA Texas

staff member John Blaha, Capt. Jay Watkins and HRI staff members.

The group collectively fished over a three- day period in early December 2015 to catch, implant and tag the fish for the study. The targeted size of the fish was an 18" to 20" minimum length, and specific areas were chosen to fish within the Mesquite Bay / Cedar Bayou area. The process of securing and tagging the fish is a proven method used by HRI and other institutions, and has a very high rate of success in not only the survivability of the fish, but

also in collecting valuable data.

After each individual fish is caught, it is carefully handled and placed into an oxygen-enriched live well, and the fish is monitored for a period of time. The fish is then removed and the "surgery" is begun to implant the

transmitter in the belly of the fish by making a small incision, implanting the transmitter and then placing a single stitch to close the incision back up.

After this is completed, the fish is placed back into the live well and monitored again to ensure it is stable and ready for release. In

In the Cedar Bayou restoration project, while very positive and immediate impacts were seen, it is important to document the trends long-term to see if the opening has lasting impact.

Top left: Dr. Judd Curtis making incision to implant transmitter. Right and middle: —inserting transmitter.

Below, Alton Voigt, Judd Curtis and Linda Voigt. Alton and Linda purchased a trip at the Aransas Bay Banquet to accompany the team on the tagging effort.

All photos are courtesy of Lisa Laskowski.

Continued on page 8





27th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo Early Bird Registration Deadline is FRIDAY, APRIL 29TH! Register NOW for the Early Bird Drawings Before Time Runs Out!

Happy 2016 Saltwater Anglers! Between the post-holiday blues and the weatherman's chilly forecast, probably the last thing on your mind is fishing, but keep in mind, Memorial Day weekend will be here before you know it! Don't forget to mark your calendars! This year's event begins at sunrise May 28 and will run through 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 5 (Labor Day). Could this be your year to claim one of over \$1,000,000 in prizes and scholarships?! SPOOL UP AND GET READY for the 27th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament!

If you need more convincing to get your STAR fishing insurance before wetting a line, here's a story from 2015 StarTeen Lower Coast Trout \$20,000 Scholarship Winner, Collin Dziuk. For those anglers who forget or don't take the time to register for the CCA Texas STAR Tournament as they think "it will never happen to them or their kids." Collin's dad thought you should read this.

Five years ago, the Dziuk family was on vacation at the coast. Fifteen year-old Collin Dziuk of Falls City was invited by his cousin, Tanner Moy, to go fishing. Tanner had asked Collin's dad to enter him into the STAR tournament prior to their trip because he felt he had a really good chance to win. Collin was super excited about his first saltwater fishing trip and sure enough, ended up catching a 9 pound, 2 ounce speckled trout! Collin had never seen Tanner so excited. When the cousins returned to the dock, Collin's father broke the bad news. He hadn't entered Collin in the tournament because he didn't think he would actually catch a fish big enough to win. Later, Collin realized had his dad entered him, he would have won the StarTeen Trout Division \$20,000 Scholarship that year.

Time passed, and Collin was able to go fishing the second time with his cousin Tanner. This time Tanner would not allow Collin on the boat unless he was entered in the 2015 CCA Texas STAR Tournament, so Collin made sure he was entered, then they headed out to catch another STAR winner. After trying a couple of spots and catching many smaller trout, Tanner told Collin to keep fishing. Collin had a huge bite and set the hook. Collin yelled, "Hey cuz, I think I've got a good one!" After netting the fish, Tanner put the fish on the Boga grips and it weighed 7 pounds

12 ounces and was 30" long! They gave each other high fives, then headed to official STAR weigh station, Roy's Bait & Tackle to weigh her in. The fish took first place that day which was only two weeks into the 2015 STAR. It was a long wait until 5PM, Labor Day, but somehow Collin's fish held up and won! The day after the tournament ended, Collin received a call from the CCA Texas STAR Tournament with the exciting news. He won a \$20,000 college scholarship for the biggest trout caught in the lower coast! "Wow, I can't believe it!" said Collin. "Thank you so much, Tanner Moy, for taking me fishing... you're the best cousin anyone could ask for and the best saltwater fishermen there is!"

Collin Dziuk in 2011 with the Trout that would have won had his Dad entered him.

Collin Dziuk in 2015 with Trout that won him a \$20,000 scholarship.



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 2016 TEXAS STAR entrant. CCA membership fee is \$30 annually and the 2016 STAR Tournament fee is still \$20 for a total of \$50. In order to win at STAR, an angler must be registered and be a current member of CCA.

YOUNG ANGLERS FISH FOR FREE! 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. To be eligible to fish STAR, "New Tide" Members MUST BE at least 6 years of age in 2016 and under age 18 to enter for FREE. It is the "New Tide" Member's responsibility to make sure their CCA membership is current and that they are registered for the current year STAR tournament.

As you start making plans, be on the lookout in your mailbox. Our great partner, **Academy Sports + Outdoors**, will be sending all current CCA Texas members a very special bonus as a reminder and to

help with some of your fishing expenses. We also want to remind you to take advantage of all the other great Early Bird and Member incentives available to CCA Texas STAR participants. Be sure and register now to get into the Early Bird Drawings. Several prizes will be given away and they're sure to be a reel catch! Be sure and get everyone signed up for the 2016 STAR! Please see below for more details:

2016 EARLY BIRD DRAWINGS! Don't forget, by signing up now you could win one of the many great prize offerings just for registering early! Check out the special "Early Bird" prizes below

2016 STAR Early Bird Drawing Deadline to enter is April 29th

*** GRAND PRIZE ***

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

20 MORE GREAT PRIZES

9.9 hp Mercury Kicker Motor
Three (3) American Rodsmith Rod & Mettle H2O Express Reel Combos
Thermo-Electric Travel Cooler & Warmer
Fifteen (15) CCA Special Edition Posters

available ONLY for those entrants who sign up by Friday, April 29 at MIDNIGHT! The Coors Light "Early Bird" Promotion will again offer another awesome "grand prize" boat package! The awesome Dargel 210 Skout with a Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax motor and McClain trailer - a prize package valued at around \$35,000! Everyone ages 21 and over that signs up now through April 29th 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 April 29th will automatically be entered for the 20 other great "Early Bird" prizes.



2015 EARLY BIRD WINNER! Terry Sharp of Round Rock was the lucky winner of the 2015 Coors Light "Early Bird" Grand Prize - Dargel 210 Skout boat, Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax motor and McClain trailer

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 2016 and older, is eligible to win the prizes being offered even the TAGGED REDFISH DIVISION! You can sign up NOW online at www.startournament.org!!! Don't miss "the



BEST IN TEXAS

2016 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT SuperCab with Haynie 23 Bigfoot, the Redfish Division prize.

boat" or "the truck and boat"... register today!

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 below)



\$10 gift card courtesy of Academy Sports and Outdoors (see details below)



Texas Fish & Game Magazine subscription (see details below)



\$1000 worth of free upgrades with your purchase of a new Tilson home (see ad on page 23)

FORD X-PLAN PRICING - CCA Texas members have been remarkably honored by the Texas Ford Dealers. They approved X-Plan pricing for us; that is, 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 \$30 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!

NEW! TEXAS FISH & GAME MAGAZINE "BONUS DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION!" - We all love FREE stuff, and speaking of FREE stuff many STAR anglers have discovered the benefit and convhhhhhh-nience of using digital technology and have requested we do the same.

Texas Fish & Game Magazine is thrilled to announce 2016 CCA Texas STAR participants will once again be eligible for 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 desktops. 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. Be sure and include your email address when you register for this year's tournament to automat-



ically receive your FREE digital subscription. If you still wish to receive Texas Fish & Game in print magazine form, no problem... a special STAR angler price of \$8 a year (vs. \$17.99/year) is still available, including your access to the digital version at no extra cost! If you wish to take advantage of this special STAR angler discounted print subscription price, be on the lookout in your email or mailbox for details on how to activate this special offer. If you have questions regarding your past or current subscription, please call (800) 725-1134 or email subscriptions@fishgame.com.

TILSON HOMES \$1,000 in FREE Upgrades - Every CCA Texas member who purchases a Tilson Home is eligible for a value discount. Tilson will give you \$1,000 off on any upgrade such as ceramic tile, hardwood floors, kitchen cabinetry and more. See ad on page 23 in this CCA Texas CURRENTS newsletter for more details or call 1 (888) 540-6705.

LOOKING FOR A GIFT FOR YOUR SPECIAL VALENTINE? Register family and friends, of all ages for a CCA Texas membership and 2016 STAR entry. This unique Valentine 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 rainfall supercharges 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 as the Texas State Artist in 2004, Sam's work is already a staple in many CCA member collections. His technique in diluted 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

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.

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 pintail 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 members only, these beautiful pieces commemorate the precious opportunity found in Texas' blessed resources. Package includes your CCA membership (new or renewal), your 2016 CCA Texas STAR entry, plus your choice of either of these fine signed, limited-edition prints created exclusively 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 your order with the STAR Dept., call (713) 626-4222. To ensure delivery in time for Christmas, please place your order by February 1, 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.

2016 PRIZE LINE-UP - 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 do so 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 2016 will continue to offer the same amazing prize line-up this year! Contestants have a chance at winning over 100 prizes including trucks, boats, motors, trailers and college scholarships in the following categories:

Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division - Texas Ford Dealers continue to make this division the "Best in Texas"! They will again give each of the first five registered STAR participants who catch tagged redfish a brand new truck to get to their fishing destination in a tough, dependable and stylish ride. The first five registered anglers to weigh-in a tagged red will receive a 2016 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" truck.

Haynie Boats returns with the awesome Haynie 23 Bigfoot rigged with a motor and Coastline Trailer completing this amazing package. The

COLLECT THE 2016 STAR PLATINUM PRINTS



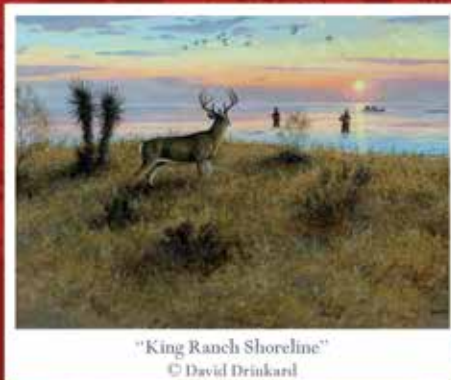
Two choices...one great cause!

Act now to own ONE or BOTH of these signed, limited-edition prints! 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.



"Good Morning Cedar Bayou"
© Sam Caldwell



"King Ranch Shoreline"
© David Drinkard

Proceeds from the sale of these limited-edition packages will help us continue to fund the STAR scholarships.

ccatexas.org ★ startournament.org
(713) 626-4222



All NEW Trout Division Prize - the Mowdy 22' V

next five weighed in will receive the same boat, motor and trailer packages.

For young anglers not of legal driving age and who reel in the famous tagged red, he or she will receive the boat package plus a \$25,000 college scholarship, in lieu of the truck.

Trout Division - ATTENTION TROUT ANGLERS! We are thrilled to announce an ALL new prize offering for this division! Winners in the upper, middle, and lower coast regions will each take home the awesome Mowdy 22' V boat with a Suzuki DF150 motor and Coastline trailer. The 22' V hull design is the perfect boat to handle shallow and rough water



Offshore Division Prize - Polaris Ranger® Crew 570 EPS

and remain completely dry. Mowdy fishermen know that the V-Hull is the most versatile hull on the market. With its 8" draft the Mowdy gives you all of the best that a fishing boat has to offer. In true Mowdy heritage, the 22' offers everything that you expect from the Mowdy name. FRIENDLY REMINDER... If you're unsure a trout is large enough to qualify, consider this "easy rule-of-thumb" - if length is less than 27 inches, chances are it won't meet the eight pound minimum weight requirement for the Trout Division. Unless you intend to mount your fish as a personal best, why not think about

Inshore Division - Shoalwater 19' Cat boat with a Mercury 115 ELPT 4S motor

releasing anything that might not make the cut so she can reseed the bays.

Offshore Division - ATTENTION BLUE WATER ANGLERS! Hoffpauir Auto & Outdoor Store continues to partner with us to provide the offshore angler something that will come in very handy after a long trip on the high seas. An-

glers 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 35sa Trailer!

Inshore Division - ATTENTION INSHORE ANGLERS! We have an exciting new, versatile Inshore Division Boat Prize for 2016! Winners who land the heaviest flounder, sheepshead and gafftop will each take home the awesome Shoalwater 19' Cat boat with a Mercury 115 ELPT 4S motor and McClain trailer. The 19' Shoalwater Cat floats and runs shallower due to less deadrise in the bow and less weight resulting in an excellent ride in extremely shallow waters, plus runs well in moderate chop, due to the tunnel hull design. The 6" draft will allow you to get shallower than most flats boats that are much smaller.

In the past twenty-one years, STAR has awarded \$5,525,000 in college scholarships to 174 fisher-kids across the state, ranging from 6-17 years of age and 2016 continues to offer plenty of reason for everyone to round up their kid(s), a rod and reel and head for the water. And, now we're thrilled to announce even more reason to get your kids and teenagers out on the water! We're increasing the seven \$20,000 scholarships to \$25,000!!!

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

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 6-10 a chance to win a \$50,000 college scholarship for the largest sheepshead caught throughout the summer.

Academy Sports & Outdoors StarTeens Trout Division - This youth scholarship division is open to all New Tide members ages 11-17 and awards a \$25,000 college scholarship for each fisher-teen with the largest trout in the upper, middle and lower coasts. FRIENDLY REMINDER... The minimum weight requirement for the trout is six pounds. For all fish weighing less than six pounds, if no intentions of mounting young angler's prize catch, please take a quick picture and immediately release back into the water.

StarTeens Inshore Division - This youth scholarship division is open to all New Tide members ages 11-17 and awards a \$25,000 college scholarship for each fisher-teen with the largest flounder, gafftop and sheepshead statewide.



Second time a charm for a \$20,000 STAR scholarship winner, Collin Dziuk. Pictured in 2015 with his plaque and his scholarship worth \$20,000 in the StarTeen Trout Division.

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 2016. "New Tide" STAR participants at least, 6 - 17 years old in 2016, are eligible for a bonus drawing that will net one lucky youth a \$25,000 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 Dargel 210 Skout with a Mercury 150 motor and McClain trailer.

Major sponsors for the 27th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament include: Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Home Corporation, Capital Farm Credit, Mercury Marine, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, Rio Ammunition, LP Building Products, KTRK-abc13, Houston Community Newspapers, Haynie Boats, Mowdy Boats, Hoffpauir Polaris, Dargel Boats, Shoalwater Boats, Texas Fish & Game Magazine, Texas Oilman's Charity Fishing Tournament, Coastline Trailers, McClain Trailers, Chris's Marine and Mt. Houston Marine.

For more information, go to <http://www.startournament.org> Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament!

STAR TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR'S NOTES



Mr. Mowdy, as many already know, is a legendary

boatbuilder for Texas waters. For many years demand for this boat line far exceeded supply, and for good reason. Now, thanks to Robbie and



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

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Frank, they build'em like they used to—only better. Check out <http://mowdyboats.com/>



LP Building Products manufactures the game-changing wood composite paneling known as SmartSide.

With a 5/50 year limited warranty, the competitor was never like this. Is it a good thing if your product outlasts your home? Here's the specs: <http://lpcorp.com/products/siding/lp-smartside-trim-siding/>

With great delight, please join us in welcoming these outfits into the CCA STAR Family of Sponsors. Since we don't make a dime on this event, the transparency of our zero budget funnels each sponsor's investment directly into our members' benefit, building a bigger and better tournament for all. Please remember these generous folks when you make your purchases.

Thanks! —Bill Kinney

Director CCA Texas STAR Tournament



Great Foods / Editor Ellen Ohmstede

Redfish in Banana Leaves

with Prickly Pear-Chile Pequin Sauce

The Field to Table Cookbook by Susan L. Ebert (Welcome Books / Rizzoli New York) goes on sale March 2016, and is currently available for preorders on Amazon.

Susan Ebert began hunting, fishing, foraging, gardening and cooking as a child on her family's Kentucky bluegrass farm. She writes about wild game and fish cookery for Texas Sporting Journal and the Houston Chronicle.

Serves 4 to 6

8 banana leaves / 2 redfish (4 fillets), gutted and filleted, but not skinned / Sea salt / 1 mango, peeled and sliced / 1 red jalapeño, sliced very thin / 4 Key limes, sliced very thin / ½ cup Prickly Pear Tuna and Chile Pequin Jelly (see recipe, page 28 if you have the Field Guide Book) or substitute red jalapeño jelly, plus more for serving / ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter / Freshly ground black pepper / Preheat the oven to 500° F. h

Lay a rack in an 11 x 14-inch baking pan with 2-inch-high sides. Place 4 large midsections of banana leaves (each about 18 inches long) on your counter. Position the fillets on the lower third of the leaves and season with sea salt. Top with the mango, jalapeño, and lime slices.

Melt the jelly and butter together in a small saucepan and whisk to combine thoroughly. Pour ¼ cup of this mixture over each of the fillets. Fold the short side of the leaf (closest to you) up over the fillet; bring the back side over the top and wrap it around beneath the fillet. Tie the ends securely with kitchen twine. Place the four packets on the rack in the baking sheet, and boil a full teakettle of water. When the water is boiling, place the baking sheet on the oven's middle rack and, with the rack pulled out 4 to 6 inches, carefully pour the boil-



ing water into the baking sheet. Gently move the rack back into position and close the oven; steam for 15 minutes.

Use long tongs to remove the packets from the rack; you can take the water out after it cools down. Serve by placing a packet on each plate so that guests have the pleasure of peeling back the banana leaves to discover the treasures within.

Pass around more jelly as a condiment—it's a must! —Susan Ebert

Caught Redhanded!

Reports from TP&W Game Wardens



October 27 to early October 28, working with information gathered by Game Warden Rocky Corona, Willacy County Game Warden Oscar J. Castaneda watched three individuals fishing at a Port Mansfield public pier.

After observation, he saw them throw what appeared

to be undersized fish in a bucket. Upon making contact, the fisherman were not being up front with their catch. Warden Castaneda advised the men that he knew that there were more fish in a truck. At the end of the contact several citations were issued with a total of 35 trout seized.

Texas Game Wardens serving Texans since 1895—Law Enforcement Off the Pavement



We want you to fish for us!

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

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

This effort continues to be 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. Contact: Bill Rodney (TPWD) at 281-534-0127

bill.Rodney@tpwd.texas.gov

Or, Bryan Legare (TPWD) at 281-534-0103

bryan.legare@tpwd.texas.gov

Or, John Blaha (CCA Texas)

at 713-626-4222

jdblaha@ccatexas.org



Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR TEXAS MARINE HABITAT

—Continued from page 3

addition, a green dart tag is placed in the back of the fish identifying it as a research specimen. This tag includes HRI contact information, and the public is encouraged to return the fish to the water if caught, and to call HRI and report the capture and release.

Dr. Curtis' project will last for 426 days, which is the life span of the transmitters. Data will be downloaded from the receivers quarterly beginning in spring 2016 in order to start accessing movement, habitat use and residency patterns. 17 receivers are included in the Mesquite Bay / Cedar Bayou array with the focus on the Cedar Bayou area, but there is coverage along the periphery

of Mesquite Bay as well. In addition to tracking the movement of the fish, these transmitters will also be able to transmit temperature values. This will allow the project to combine movement and climate data to look at responses to changes in water temperature that spotted seatrout may exhibit, as well as compare seasonal movement and habitat use patterns. This information will be invaluable in making informed management decisions for the conservation of this key recreational fishery.

Habitat creation and restoration is important in the effort to ensure healthy coastal resources for the future. Equally important

to these efforts is the research and science prior to the execution of the projects and after they are completed. CCA Texas is committed to being a part of all of these efforts and will continue to work to ensure future generations have access to healthy coastal resources.



The tagging team: Quentin Hall, Dr. Greg Stunz, Tara Topping, Jason Williams and Dr. Judd Curtis. Above: Dart tag identifying fish and research specimen with HRI contact info. Please release those tagged fish!



Upper Coast

By Capt. Shawn Hebert

Rule 1-A: Be in casting distance

With hopes of the Trinity River falling and the pocket clearing up, anglers now set their sights on big trout. We should have a good year in Trinity Bay. Good time to make long wades, keying on bait activity and minor depth changes on the flats. When the water gets salty, fish will be making their move to the north end of Trinity in the Jack's Pocket area, which can be tricky to navigate. Places to stay clear of are the islands along the river channel and the north end up around Long Island Bayou.

Good areas when looking for wading regions are east of the spillway, keying on bait activity. If you can find those small depth changes it can pay off big. Also farther east on the East shoreline around the river channel and the Anahuac Pocket, areas can pay big dividends when searching for the big ones.

When wade fishing, I like to use the Maniac Mullet or the Split Tail Mullet with a light jig head. I like the slow sink when I want to really cover area and it has some shell around. If I want to speed things up a little and make a quick pass, I tie on a Fast Sink Maniac or a Split Tail Mullet.

Always be aware of your surroundings. I look for bait, and feel the bottom as I walk along to know what is there. If I get a bite, I make a mental note. Was I on shell or mud? Was I working the lure fast or slow? What was the depth? Did the fish hit high in water column or on bottom? What kind of bait did I see in the area? Take those notes and apply them to the rest of your day.

Always remember when fishing the cold waters of February and into March—**slow it down**. It takes patience to fish for the big ones. Of course, the most important thing is being within casting distance of fish.

Good Luck, everyone. Even when it's nice early, you must be prepared for February and March weather changes. Be safe and courteous to others. —**Captain Shawn Hebert** 281-426-4324 www.trinitybayfishing.com

www.galvestontroutfishing.com

Middle Coast

By Capt. Mike O'Dell

Work slow, deeper guts and humps

February is a good time to be on the water, since a lot of folks won't be out yet to enjoy the spring bite. The water is warming up over mud and shell. The trout will be good over that bottom after cold spells, but after a few days with sunshine they will be working their way back to the grassy areas, but still in 4-6 feet of water.

Most important, think SLOW, then slow down some more. The trout are not aggressive this time of year due to water temperatures, so most of your bites will be a slight thump, and don't be surprised to find a few nice flounder after the thump.

Reds will come up shallow long before the trout, but after or during cold weather you can find them holed up in deeper guts, cuts, and channels. Live shrimp or fresh dead are a welcome offering, and you may find a few nice black drum as well.

On the windy days that come with March, work the inside of islands to protect yourself from the elements. Work the drains and guts on a falling tide, and especially the shell hump for everything, since shell will warm up and hold heat better than sand. Plastics on light jig heads are a go-to this time of the year, dark for dirty water and lighter colors for the clear water. Look for bait working.

As the water warms and the fish move shallow, the top water bite will be on. Start the day with a shallow runner and as the temperature warms up, go to top waters. Now the bull drum run should be on, so take a friend or kid out and let them have a fight to remember. Look for the bulls in the ICW. Sea lice, cut crabs, and shrimp are their favorites.

This is a good time to introduce someone to fishing, or help them get really into it. Always check your drain plugs, fire extinguisher, flares, life jackets, and ropes (anchor and tie ropes). It's time to get your reels and rods in top shape, as well as clean out and repair your tackle for the coming year. Tight lines, and may your fishing always have some catching in it. —**Capt. Mike O'Dell** 361-438-1866 www.afishingfantasy.com

Lower Coast

By Capt. Bill Sheka

Change of tactics can pay off big time

After a crazy winter from huge warm periods to really cold fronts, early spring is now upon us. Expect winds in the advance of fronts; 3-4 days of hard southeast winds, then north winds after the front, then a day of low or no wind. I have had some incredible days on days of hard winds. Trout fishing may not be great, but redfish and black drum go into high gear during this period. With the bottoms of the bays being torn up, organisms arise that black drum and redfish thrive on: small *polychaetes* (segmented worms), mollusks, shrimp species and crabs that are easier to find—an abundance of free-flowing food. A change in your technique for species other than specks can produce bent rods, fine table fare and fun also.

When to fish is a challenge for trout, but be more flexible and adapt your tactics. The muddier the water, the better for those species that hunt by their noses. Consider using dead shrimp on or near the bottom with a deep rigged cork. Don't be afraid to use small live or cut crabs. Sea lice are found during this time of the year at many bait stands, and offer another fine bait for redfish and drum. Use artificials only? You cannot overlook Berkley Gulps with that wonderful fishing-catching-scent formula which works well on trout or redfish, and if used in small cut pieces, can also produce black drum.

For those of you targeting the pre-spawn big-girthed speckled trout, February and March can produce the fattest fish. Baits of choice for this period should be mullet-like forms, Corky lures and other slow sinkers such as the Mirrolures. In soft plastics, again Berkley gulps with 1/8 or 1/4 oz jigs worked slow and easy.

Remember that the water temps will be moving steadily upward as the days get longer. Be safe first, and consider CPR of the big ones. Wishing you the best in your fishing and God Bless —**Capt. Bill Sheka** 361-991-7191 billsheka@msn.com www.billsheka.com

Old salts on the Texas coast know Capt. Bill as a long-time, knowledgeable guide concerned for the resource, and appreciate his military service.

Casting in the fog. Great Action/Scenic Photo by Capt. Aubrey Black



CCA Texas Social Happenings

Video footage documenting the completion of the Oyster Lake Shoreline Stabilization Project in West Galveston Bay has been added to the CCA Texas website. The video can be viewed at www.ccatexas.org/project-vidzeos as well as on our YouTube page at www.youtube.com/ccatexasprojects.

The CCA Texas website is undergoing some exciting changes in the coming months, so be on the lookout for some great improvements!

And finally, Banquet Season is here, so "Like" our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter for the latest updates on 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:

Driscoll Otto shared this photo of his wife Sherry with a beautiful trout she CPR'ed. Driscoll and Sherry are proud new CCA Life Members - Thank you both for your support, and keep on fishin'! (Photo Credit: Jay Watkins)

Twitter:

@sidx: xoxo @Columbia1938
#TestedTough #PFG #BullRed
#Plaid #stuffslikes [@cca_texas tagged in photo]



Instagram: @cca_texas: CCA Texas staffers John Blaha and Kim Ogonosky were delighted to discover several CCA redfish stickers prominently displayed at Shady's in Angleton! Where in the world has YOUR CCA redfish sticker been?? Send pictures of CCA stickers you've found to webmaster@ccatexas.org for a chance to have them shared with our followers! #joincca #conservation

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.

We 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

jccrigler@hotmail.com

Happy New Year! Registration for **Babes on the Bay XVII** is underway. Register today by going to www.BabesOnTheBay.com and click on the registration tab. Online registration will be used exclusively for the event. **Karol** and her team have found some really awesome items for the swag bag this year, so get registered to insure you get the correct tee size. One person registers the entire team, so make sure you have everyone's correct information before you enter the registration process. The last day for regular registration is 4/15/2015. All registrations received after this date and prior to the 4/30/2015 cutoff date will pay a late registration fee of \$120. If you have any questions, email **Karol** at CCABabes@gmail.com or call her at 361-386-0028.

Mark your calendars: **13-14 May 2016: Babes on the Bay**
13 August 2016: **Aransas Bay Chapter**



Above, **Brittney: Babes good luck kiss.**

Below: **Team Picture, Croaker Soakers - Winners, guided any bait, Babes on the Bay 2015**



Chapter Updates have been 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 Chapters.

Banquet Tight lines —Carter Crigler

Austin

Welcome new president, **Josh Cook**
512-656-2964

josh@cookrealestatetexas.com

May 12th, 2016: If you like great food, winning cool prizes, and having an unbelievably good time, all the while supporting CCA, save the date because it marks the **2016 CCA Austin Banquet**. There's simply no event like it, so plan on joining us again. Table and ticket information is available at www.ccaaustin.org. We'll no doubt sell out again this year so get your tickets early and don't miss out.

Our 2016 banquet boat has arrived and raffle tickets are on sale! **Shallow Sport has done it again and this 21' Modified "V"** has about every option imaginable. Sitting on a **Coast-Line Custom trailer** it's a stunningly beautiful rig and ready to explore any water of your choosing. Check her out at **Cabela's** in Buda, and/or get an early look at **Anglers' Night Out** or take a peek at www.ccaustin.org. —Josh Cook

Bay Area

Curtis Anderson
832-421-6377

Brazoria County
Wes Dingee 979-299-8245

Hello Brazoria County CCA Members! We hope you had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year! The

chapter directors are hitting the ground running in preparation for our **upcoming 2016 Banquet. Make sure and save the date for Thursday, April 14, 2016. This will be held at the Dow Academic Center with our Social Hour and Auction items preview starting at 6:00pm followed by dinner at 7:00. Talk About Good and Trent Allen** will be providing a Cajun dinner for

the event, you can guarantee this will make it a great banquet!

We also have a great Sportsman Raffle with tickets currently on sale. We have 20 prizes ranging from guns to coolers to fishing gear! Pick yours up today at **Rossco's Outdoor located at 132 Commerce St in Clute!** Keep an eye out on our chapter webpage at www.ccatexas.org for information on our upcoming General Membership Meeting. We had a record attendance at our last GMM, so let's keep the momentum going!

Also, as always, we are welcoming any new interested CCA Members (or potential members) who are looking to join the Brazoria County Director Board. If you have any questions or comments, please call me at 979-265-6555. — **Dan Johnson** 979-265-6555 djohnson@sparklingclear.com

Brazos Valley

John Ben Strother 979-220-1738

jbsunlimited@yahoo.com

Captain Forrest Vollenstein shared some secrets on his big trout techniques. We had a large crowd of CCA members and also some nice raffle items including a guided trip with **Captain Forrest**. We are setting up another speaker for the spring meeting and hope all Brazos Valley members can attend.

The best thing about the New Year is that it is Banquet time again! **Our Brazos Valley banquet will be Thursday March 3rd at the Brazos Center in Bryan.** This will mark our 24th annual banquet and they keep getting better every year. There will be a great assembly of auction items, games and fellowship with the people that like to fish.

The main thing is to help support CCA and all the things they do to enable us to have this resource. We would like to thank all of our continuing supporters and sponsors in advance because they are the glue that puts this organization together. Plus we do have a few committee members that help and we are always looking for new volunteers.

If you would like to be part of our banquet committee or just attend our meetings, give us a call, text, or e-mail. We meet every **2nd Tuesday of the month at the Brazos Center Pavilion at 6pm.** There is always food, drinks, raffle and lots of fish stories. Look forward to seeing everyone at the banquet and don't forget those red fish license plates. — **John Ben**

Brenham

Dennis Crowson

979-451-2472

The Brenham Chapter will hold our first meeting of 2016 on January 28th, at **Mike Hopkins Distributing.** Guest speaker will be **Dr. Christopher Mace of Texas Parks and Wildlife.** For more information please contact **Dennis Crowson** at 979-451-2471 or dennis.crowson@hotmail.com

— **Dennis**

Brush Country

Hank Henry

361-215-6803

Centex

Wayne Webb

254-405-1300 sheyhunt@aol.com

Central Houston

Todd Buster Mobile, 713-545-1897

The 40th Annual Central Houston CCA Banquet will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2016.

Once again, the banquet will be held at Bayou



Promising morning on a Mustang Island beach by Jeff McDaniel. A Great Scenic photo top prize.

City Event Center, located at 9401 Knight Road, Houston, Texas. We will be raffling a 22' Mowdy powered by a 175 HP Suzuki 4-stroke engine. The boat and engine will be sitting on an aluminum Coastline trailer. Thank you to Mowdy Boats and Coastline Trailers for their continued support of the Central Houston Chapter. If you are interested in purchasing a table, individual ticket, or raffle ticket you can contact Todd Buster at tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com or Coleman Todd at coleman@ccatexas.org. — **Todd**

Colorado Valley

Eugene Ulrich 979-249-7425

Greetings from Colorado Valley! We sincerely hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Our committee members are busy planning a general membership meeting along with

preparing for our banquet. **The banquet will be here before you know it and will take place on March 31, 2016 in La Grange.** Please reserve your tickets/tables early because we had a very full house last year. Please contact me at 979-249-7425 or **Trish Kubena** at 512-582-2588 for information or ticket purchases. Hope to see you there! Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all! — **Eugene Ulrich**

Corpus Christi

Jay Gardner 361-658-7159

tarponchaser@mail.com

Greetings from Corpus Christi! **We are just a few short weeks away from our 38th annual fund-raising banquet on March 10th at the American Bank Center.** We are looking forward to hitting another one out of the park this year. Banquet Chairman **Cliff Johnstone** has been getting it

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together nicely. Food and Beverage Chairman **Jake Herring** says that the food venue this year is going to be even better, and I can almost taste the grilled quail and shrimp now. Live Auction Co-chairs **David Harris** and **Corey Survant** say that the Live this year will include some new and exciting trips and items.

Boat Chairman **Joseph Briones** informs us that ticket sales for our **Majek** are doing well, please drop by during the weekends at Academy on SPID in Corpus Christi and get a ticket while you still can. Also make sure to contact **Jake Herring, Barrett Fines, Mike Henry, or David Norris** to donate items for the Blackboard Auction.

Get ahold of **Judy Arnold** and **Valerie Chilton**, our Silent Auction and Raffle Chairmen, to donate items, or if you'd like to sponsor a package for either. Table Sales Chair **Lauren Hollon** is getting things all put together. If you need to get ahold of someone in the chapter, give me or **Cliff** a call and we'll direct you. You can also call the CCA-Corpus Christi Chapter phone (being handled this year by **Courtney Johnstone**) at 361-882-5199 to donate, sign up for tables, if you have a line on puppies for the banquet, or to be a sponsor.

Starting this year, you can also sign up online at <http://www.ccatexas.org/corpus-christi> and you can always call and bug **John Blaha** at 979-709-1085. We would like to thank **Nyati Services, Inc.** for being our hat sponsor again this year, thanks YT and Virginia. See y'all at the Banquet March 10th! -**Jay Gardner**

Dallas / North Texas **Hal Thomas 972-612-1684**

The Dallas Chapter has a new home for chapter meetings. Our friends and long-time sponsor **Tailwaters Fly Fishing Company** have relocated to their new facility located at 1933 E. Levee Street, Dallas, Texas 75207 and have invited CCA Dallas to take up residency for all future scheduled chapter meetings. We are very grateful to have a home for our local chapter meetings and look forward to many great evenings of fellowship and speakers throughout the years to come. We believe having a consistent location and schedule will help all local members get more out of being or becoming a member of CCA.

David, Travis, Sean and everyone else at Tailwaters, THANK YOU!!!! Our first meeting of 2016 is scheduled for January 28 – we are proud to have a program presented by longtime CCA Texas State Board member and tournament angler, **Captain Forrest Vollentine**. Forrest knows the Texas Coast through his many years of hands on experience and is willing to share his knowledge to improve our angling abilities.

The Dallas Chapter banquet committee swings into action with its kick-off meeting in January. **The Dallas Chapter banquet is scheduled April 21, 2016 at the Frontiers of Flight Museum in Dallas** and is sure to please all in attendance. Once again, G-Texas will cater the event.

The committee is looking for additional people to help plan and execute the event. Table sales are now open and committee members are beginning to solicit donations and are looking for sponsors to make this year's event even better. If you would like to join the effort as a volunteer, sponsor or table buyer, please contact any of the local chapter committee members or send a note to Drew Adams in the CCA Houston office.

—**Henry A. (Hal) Thomas**

East Texas
Dr. Jim Norman 936-554-3165
jnorman7@suddenlink.net



A boater anchors off the newly planted Bird Island Cove Project in West Galveston Bay. Photo by Kim Ogonosky

Fort Bend **Robb Gaston 281-239-9755**

Fort Worth

Hunter Baird 817-437-8351

The Fort Worth chapter is busy planning our annual banquet. **Mark your calendars for Cinco de Mayo, May 5, and make plans to attend our annual banquet in the Garden at Joe T's.** Tickets and tables are on sale now. You can look for more information on our web page or contact any one of our board members. We will have some great trips again in this year and super raffles. We will also be hosting a general membership meeting this spring. Details to follow. We are looking forward to a great year!

Galveston

Dr. Ken Ellis 713-962-7731

We hope all of you had a safe and happy holiday and had an opportunity to hit the water a few times. We are looking forward to an action-packed 2016. We'll be hosting our spring general membership meeting and plans are in the works for our **Second Annual Kids Tournament**.

In addition, we are going to be putting together a ladies fishing tournament for late spring. Stay tuned. We'll provide the details as soon as plans are secured.

Mark your calendars... the 24th Annual Banquet and Fundraiser will be held at Moody Gardens Convention Center on Saturday August 6th. We are in the process of securing a fan-

tastic raffle boat package this year. Look for details in the next issue. Our banquet committee will be working hard to put together several exciting new auction items and plenty of cool raffle packages. As always, we'll be offering top of the line guns on our gun raffle. This will be a great event and one you won't want to miss. If you are interested in participating with our chapter please contact us! We would welcome the help and input. To all of those chapters who have Spring events, we wish you the best of luck! Tight Lines —Ken Ellis

Golden Triangle Welcome new president, Tyler Coco

tylercoco7@yahoo.com

Hope you and your families had a great holiday season. We are looking forward to a prosperous New Year and great fishing in 2016. The Golden Triangle Chapter Board elected a new President for 2016, **Tyler Coco**. He was our banquet chairman for 2015 and did a fantastic job. For 2016, we also elected **Capt. Jason Kuchera** to be our banquet chairman.

Dates are set for events for 2016. First event will be the General Membership meeting which promises to be not so general this year. We are renaming the event to be **Annual Angler's Night**. It will be held February 25th, 2016 at The Event Centre located at 700 Crockett, Beaumont, TX 77701.

Also, save the date May 26th for our **Annual Banquet at the Beaumont Civic Center**. Finally, we still hope to set a date in 2016 for an inter-chapter tournament between the Golden Triangle, Sabine-Neches, and Orange Chapters. Stay tuned for future updates on this.

It's been an honor to serve as your Chapter President this year. Thanks to all those who have held the office before paving the way and good luck to **Tyler** and all those to follow. Best wishes and tight lines —Joel N. Foxworth 409-466-2614

Greater Sugar Land

Richard Lindley

832-270-0398

richardlindley@att.net

Greater Woodlands

James Kay 281-363-4417

www.ccatexas.org/

greater-woodlands

Guadalupe Valley

Jon Eric Rodriguez

361-243-1017

Hays County

Tim Young 512-573-7939

hayscountycaca@gmail.com



Another CPR redfish coming your way, courtesy of Adam Gilvarry.

Heart of the Hills

Jim Simmons 210-380-5709

fishtxsurf@AOL.com

Hill Country

Miles Engelke 830-303-1827

Happy New Year! 2016 will start with our **4th annual social at the Red Barn in Seguin**, the tentative date is Sunday April 3. Next will be our Spring tournament and three general meetings (dates to be announced). **Our banquet will be Thursday August 25, 2016**. Please join me for another exciting HCCA year as we move forward. Cast me a call if you would like to get involved 210-260-8968. Treasure the trips —Miles

Houston Homebuilders

Mack Davis 832 381-6130

On behalf of the Houston Homebuilders Chapter, I'd like to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

With our successful first annual fundraising banquet behind us in 2015, we are now looking forward to **our 2nd Annual Fundraising banquet which will be held at the Sam Houston Race Park on Thursday, March 24, 2016**. This banquet is one of the best networking events in the Houston home building industry and promises to be better than ever before! Don't miss this one!

If you are involved in the Houston home building industry and would enjoy spending some quality time with some of Houston's top home builders and vendors, be sure to mark your calendar for this event! **Goode Co. BBQ** will again be hosting the event and there will be plenty of great silent and live auction opportunities available for you and your guests. Be sure to call or email me to reserve tickets as we expect

this event to quickly sell out!

I want to thank all our chapter board members, corporate sponsors, with special thanks to **Coleman Todd**, who have contributed so much to the success of this up and coming CCA Texas chapter! I look forward to seeing you at the banquet. —**Mack Davis** 832-381-6130 *mhdavis55@hotmail.com*

Houston Real Estate

Dale Couch 281-953-2510

Our annual banquet is set for Tuesday Feb. 9th. Expecting a sell out. I want to thank Bruce Grover, Peter Barnhart, Travis Stone, Sam Yager III, Michael Cox, Mike Moody, Stephen Ray, and George Kopecky for helping tot together a trip to be taken in November that will greatly benefit the chapter. —Dale Couch

Katy

Laredo

Jesse Martinez

jesse@laredo.twcbc.com

956-763-5555

Lee County

Byron Kalbas 979-540-0056

Live Oak

Brad Kotrla 979-732-1669

Lower Colorado

Tim Munos 979 332-2876

Lower Laguna Madre

Oscar Garcia III 956-491-8148

Mainland

Eric Minor 281-534-6242

Matagorda Bays

Chad Hensley 979-543-2734

I hope everyone enjoyed the Holidays and New Year celebrations. As of now, the chapter has jumped ahead and has our banquet boat on order. We should take delivery of it in the next couple weeks. The great guys with **Dargel Boats** put us together a loaded package on a **2016 233 Attackafat**, with a **175 Suzuki** sitting on top of a **McClain double axle all aluminum trailer**. The boat should be out and about the area in the next coming weeks, so keep your eyes peeled. I'm sure it will turn heads.

If any members of our chapter are looking for a great guided fishing trip be sure to check out one of these local guides: **Capt Charlie Pardoski, Capt Nick Stillwell, Capt Rob Cumming, Capt Leighton Keen, Capt Jimmy Riddle, Capt Scott Reeh, Capt Kenneth Hauf III, Capt Stan Sloan, Capt Kenneth Hauf II, Capt Ozzie Arnold, Capt Walt Schelle, Capt Troy Keen, Capt Walt Wendtland, Capt Charlie Paradoski, Capt Lee Warmke, Capt Mark Talasek, Capt Bink Grimes, Capt Ken Sabin, Capt Kit Caston, Capt Kevin Kosick, Capt Nate Koenig, Capt Tommy Alexander, Capt Rob Bayyor and Capt Mike Rolf.**

This group of guides support Matagorda Bays Chapter as well as other CCA chapters up and down the coast. Each year we hold the **Jim Ehman Memorial Guides Cup** in Matagorda. The trips can only be purchased at our banquet and would not be possible without the support of these great guides. We are looking forward to a great 2016, and again, big thanks to all our chapter members, and our continued support from our sponsors. For any information about the chapter feel free to contact me. —**Chad Hensley 979-543-2734**

MidCoast

David Jenkins 361-578-5580

Happy New Year! The CCA Mid Coast Chapter and I hope you had a great Holiday Season! **We will begin our planning and organizing for our yearly banquet soon, which will be held on May 6, 2016 at the Victoria Community Center.** As for more information about our Banquet, please feel free to call me or email anytime.

We still have plenty boat tickets for sale for the Give-a-way boat. Again, call or email me if you are interested in trying to win this beautiful boat. You can also get your tickets from any board members, **Victoria All Sports**, or **The Tackle Box**

of Victoria.

This year's boat is a **fully loaded 23' Haynie cat, 250 Mercury Sport XS, Coastline aluminum trailer. Only 1000 tickets will be sold for a chance to win this boat!**

If you are interested in becoming one of our fun-loving, hard-working board members, give me a call. Would love you to join us! —**David Jenkins 361-578-5580 jenkins12@sbcglobal.net**

Northeast Houston

Welcome new president, Casey Eakin 713-948-5799 ceakin@texascitizensbank.com

Northwest Houston

Alan Massey 281-414-6341

We thank **Game Warden Captain Fred Ruiz** for an informative presentation at our December meeting. We will be hosting a **TP&W** speaker for our February meeting to discuss bacteria. The meeting will be held on **February 2** at **Houston Distributing 7100 High Life** at **7 PM.**

Also coming up is our **Annual Member Appreciation Fish Fry** with all the fixin's, so bring your appetites on **April 5**, also at **Houston Distributing**. Our speaker will be **Jim Blackburn** who is an environmental lawyer and planner who has litigated Texas coastal issues his whole career. He teaches in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Dept. at Rice University and wrote the **Book of Texas Bays**. **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!** —**Alan Massey**

Orange County

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

As we settle in for the year 2016 in the Orange County Chapter, the buzzing in the county is another major fishing tournament heading to our waters. The **Elite Redfish Series** will kick off the **2016 Classic Series in Orange, Texas on April 8, 9, 10.** This will bring in some of the best saltwater guys in the business. As CCA members we need to have a presence around the event. We will be in the process of finding out ways we can help in welcoming the pros to our area, so be on the lookout for emails from the leaders.

To be a part of what this year will bring to our chapter, you will need to attend our meetings on the **2nd Monday** of each month at **Roberts Steakhouse** at **6pm.** Contact Info: **Scott Bandy - scottbandy77@yahoo.com / Louis Moore - louis_moore@yahoo.com / Davis Dixon - dcdixon149@yahoo.com**

Port O'Connor

Bill Moore 361-983-4690

Well, Christmas has come and gone, but it looks like the duck hunters got their Christmas present, as I've never seen so many redheads. Also, those wetting a line did well and I have a picture of one over 8 lbs. So, happy holidays from POC and again, we want to thank all the members whose tireless efforts helped make the 16th Annual CCA banquet a success.

We also give thanks to our table sponsors: **Bull Red Tables- Branding Works, LTD, Ray Distributing Co., First National Bank /POC Branch, Ray/Sharp/Luster, Action Oilfield Supply, Wade Wilson, Central Drug, Cindy Spears Real Estate, Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine, Dr. John Morange, Sam Smolik, Tigrett Real Estate/Costa Bonita Properties, Fishing Tackle Unlimited, Harold Fisher, Jack Bates (2), Bill Moore, Ron Elkins Guide Service, Coastline Trailers, POC Pirate Fishing, Bad Investment, Liftwater Construction, Capital Farm Credit, Ganem and Kelly, Gaetjen, and JBH Enterprises. Trophy Trout Tables: Joe Greenleaf, Salty Dogs I, Salty Dogs II, Rain King, Inc., Dublin Real Estate, Mid Coast CCA, Killebrew Dodge, Russell Cain Real Estate, Port O'Connor Rentals, and Sonny's Marine.**

Also, if you made any New Year's Resolutions, we hope one was to keep CCA in mind and to stay involved. As the weather warms, the chapter will hold another membership/banquet appreciation meeting. We will also be scheduling regular chapter meetings and everyone will be notified. So, if you are interested in getting involved, contact us, or plan to attend any meetings you can in POC "Where it all began" —**Bill Moore**

Prairie

Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103

Hope everybody had a great Holiday. We are looking forward to a great year of fishing and having fun and enjoying good times. The chapter enjoyed our annual Christmas Party December 12 at **Randy Goebel's** place. We had a Chinese gift exchange seems like everyone that picked a gift was happy with it there was not a lot of stealing of gifts. Thanks to all the board members who brought food and snacks, and a special thanks to **Mark Switzer** for bringing the turkey stew. It must have been good, because it didn't last long!

Midcoast's banquet boat this year is a fully loaded 23' Haynie cat, powered by a 250 Mercury Sport XS, on a Coastline aluminum trailer. Only 1000 tickets will be sold for a chance to win this boat! See Mid-Coast's update for complete information. Win it, and take the Currents editor fishing.



This month we are starting to work on our fundraiser banquet that is scheduled for April 7 at the Cat Spring Hall and again we will be serving Prime Rib and boiled shrimp catered by **Mikeskas BBQ**. That night we will be having a raffle, silent and live auction. If you are interested in purchasing a corporate table contact **Kirk Hoppe at 979-885-8868**. We are also looking for sponsors for our Cap and Card Game.

On February 19, we will have our annual General Membership Chili Dinner at the Cat Spring hall Tin Building. Your board members will be serving the famous Hoppe chili. That night, besides having a great meal, we will have a guest speaker along with a raffle and silent auction. It will be a fun night so try to make it.

Our CCA Polaris raffle is going great; there are only 300 tickets available, and going fast. If you would like to purchase one, see any of the board members. The drawing will be the night of the banquet. Thanks, and have a great year — **Ron Chess 979-525-9254**

Redfish Bay

Norman Oates 361-758-0266

The Redfish Bay Board hopes that you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We also hope that one of your resolutions for 2016 was to continue to support CCA and use good conservation practices in our bays and offshore.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming events: **The annual Redfish Bay Banquet will be on April 23**, the **Take a Kid Fishing event** will be on the first weekend of June, and the **annual Beeville Fish Fry** will be on the Thursday evening before dove season. There will also be General Membership Meetings throughout the year, and more information will be provided when dates are set. We on the Board do everything we can to make our events enjoyable! Thank each of you for your support in 2015; we can't do it without all of you. Now, let's make 2016 another banner

year for CCA! — **Norman C Oates 361-758-0266 H 361-790-2748 C**

Rio Grande Valley

George McCaleb 956-984-8688

gmcceleb@hotmail.com

Greetings fellow RGV members. 2015 was a great year for the chapter. The 2015 banquet held its first-ever 52-gun raffle in May. The chapter Board is already at work planning 2016 events and we look forward to seeing everyone at **our banquet to be held on Thursday, April 28, 2016 at the Boggus Ford Event Center in Pharr**. This year's event is shaping up to be another great one.

We want to give a big shout out to **L&F Distributors** for once again stepping up to sponsor our annual boat drawing. **Shallow Sport Boats** is providing this year's boat and tickets are moving fast. **The boat is a 21' Sport with an Evinrude 150 HP motor and trailer, and all the bells and whistles you can imagine**. We are only selling 500 tickets at \$100 each, so don't miss out. If you are interested in buying a ticket, contact **Louis Zimmerer at 956-373-0799** or **John Blaha at 800-626-4222**. Thank you once again, **L&F Distributors and Shallow Sport Boats**.

The RGV Chapter will be manning a booth at the All Valley Boat Show in McAllen **February 26 thru the 28th**. We will be selling CCA memberships and STAR entries as well as boat raffle tickets and banquet tickets. Be sure to come out and see us there.

The RGV chapter encourages everyone to be an active participant in the conservation of Texas' coastal resources. We are always looking for new volunteers and welcome them. If you are interested in attending RGV Board meetings, please contact me at 956-984-8688 or CCA Texas Assistant Director **John Blaha at 800-626-4222**. — **George McCaleb**

Sabine-Neches

Darin Johnson 409-790-9855

Happy New Year! 2016 is here and the Sabine Neches Chapter is running at full speed! It sounds like a broken record but we are **planning for our Banquet/Crawfish Boil!** It's never too late to join the board and meet some great people along the way. This has quickly become one of the hottest tickets around, don't wait until the last minute! **Save the date, Thursday March 3rd @ the Bob Bowers Civic Center in Port Arthur, Texas!**

Not much else to report, big trout are close to doing their usual thing on Sabine Lake, 2015 was a weird year fishing but we caught some solid fish, here's to 2016 being a better year! Until next time, Tight Lines to All — **Darin M Johnson 409-502-1010**

Sam Houston

Brandon Kolaja

281-797-6908

I hope everyone had a great holiday and is looking forward to another great year. With warmer weather right around the corner it is that time to switch from hunting in the fields to spending some time on the water. Don't forget to share your catch on our Facebook page CCA Sam Houston Chapter. — **Brandon Kolaja**

San Antonio

Welcome new President, Mike Sarosdy

210-863-7288 urodoc@satx.rr.com

The San Antonio chapter is well into the planning stage for an active 2016 beginning with the **San Antonio Boat Show January 28th thru the 31st** at the Alamodome. Come by and renew your membership, check out our **Banquet Jeep** or just bring us a new fish story and pictures.

Next on my list is our 3rd annual **"Hooked on Clays"** Sporting Clays shoot **Friday March 25th** to be held at the National Shooting Complex, 5931 Roft Road, San Antonio. Check In begins at 11:30am. Teams will be composed of 4 shooters. There will be great prizes for the top

The RGV Shallow Sport 21' Sport with an Evinrude 150 HP motor and trailer, plus all the bells and whistles you can imagine.



teams, give a ways, live music and dinner 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. Our web site will have all the details or call **Bob Brumby** at 210-862-2421 or email Bob at brumbo@gvfc.com

On to our 2016 BANQUET scheduled in May. Doors open at 5 pm. This year's Banquet is going to be a premier event that you really don't want to miss. We have some great new sponsors, and have secured new auction items including trips from Costa Rica, New Zealand, and our very own Gulf Coast.

Thanks to our generous sponsors we will again give you a great chance to win a new boat, 4 wheelers, rods, reels, guns and the list goes on. Plan to enjoy an evening with friends, business partners, and CCA volunteers at an event that always gets bigger and better. More details, tables costs and individual ticket information is on our web site or contact **Joe Eaton** at jeaton@eatondeev.com jeaton@eatoncontracting.com 210-599-3690 – OFFICE.

This is our start for 2016 but I promise more fun events to come. Your CCA Chapter is always looking for individuals to volunteer their time, resources, and thoughts as to how we can better serve this great organization in a most productive way. Come join us and have some fun working on our banquet committee, the clay shoot, crab trap pick up, or be a part of our InterChapter fishing team. You will enjoy our group and get satisfaction knowing you contributed to our efforts to improve our coastal marine habitat. We have fun, enjoy putting events together, do a little fishing and would welcome you to our group. As Always, Thank you for doing your part. Until the next Currents travel safely, take family, friends, and kids fishing. Regards – **Jimmy Gibson**

San Bernard

Jayson Zahradnik 832-535-7738

jayson.zahradnik@alleytonrsource.com

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Just wanted to remind everyone of our upcoming banquet. **Our annual banquet will be held on Thursday, February 25 in East Bernard, TX at Riverside Hall.** There will be plenty of food, fun, and refreshments for all. The meal will be topped off with a ribeye steak. As always, we will be selling raffle tickets prior to the event. This year's raffle will consist of the following: **Grand Prize: Polaris Ranger 570 Crew, Second Prize: Club Car Precedent custom lifted golf cart, Third Prize: Bushmaster Patrol .223, Fourth Prize: Beretta A300 Outlander 12 Ga., Fifth Prize: Weatherby VGD2 7mm Mag, Sixth Prize: 65 Quart Yeti Cooler, Seventh Prize: GoPro Camera.**

Tickets will be \$100 each and there will be only 400 tickets sold. Last year we sold out weeks before the banquet so please get them while they are hot! For ticket information, you can call board member **Jared Montagino** at 281-772-5797.

— **Jayson Zahradnik**

San Gabriel

John Melnar

512- 497-8284

San Jacinto

Jim Wilson

713-828-7639

Southwestern

Robert Hart

830-879-5541

TAMU

Ian Kocher Mays Business School

512-632-9222

ikocher12@gmail.com

Texas State University

Alex Limon

817-880-4044

arlimon26@gmail.com

Tomball/Magnolia

Matt Maddox 281-770-7858

Tri-County

Christian Hildebrand 830-534-2730

Trinity Bay

Gerald Payne 281-385-2894

Chapter Board elections recently took place and everyone had a great time at our January 2016 meeting. Although we are months away from the **annual August banquet**, members are beginning to reach out to new and past sponsors who have made this event one of the best along the Upper Gulf Coast. The 2015 banquet was a complete sell out and we plan on that being the case again this year. In addition, the chapter will be gearing up to host the various crawfish boils purchased by our many loyal sponsors at the banquet.

How many times have you seen a CCA hat, tumbler or other logo on a piece of outdoor gear? Title, visor, and tumbler sponsorships are available and are a great way to represent your company while contributing to the success of CCA. If you are interested in sponsorship or participating in any of our chapter functions please let us know. We have monthly meetings in Baytown, Texas, on the first Wednesday of each month. We have a great bunch of individuals who dedicate themselves towards the work of CCA and have a lot of fun doing so. --**Gerald "Get er Done" Payne 281-728-6278**

Trinity Valley

John Hebert Jr 936-334-2528

West Houston

Mike Ayers 832-248-9352

West Texas

Craig McDonnold

432-682-3499



CCA Plates for Projects



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.

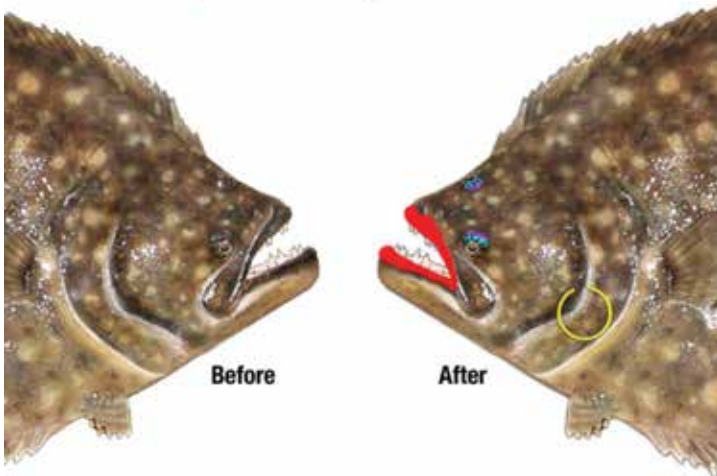
It will take you just a few minutes to order for your truck, car, or boat trailer. To place your order, input in your network browser (Google works best), **TxDOT Special Plate Order Application**. Follow the next thread to Coastal Conservation Association. These plates would also make great gifts for 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!



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- > Sam Caldwell
- > Herb Booth
- > David Drinkard
- > Al Barnes



Charlie's Gallery

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www.charliesgallery.com

After the fight, a quick CPR and adios to a fine silver king. Great Wildlife photo by Chase Stanzel.



Want to share even more of your Great photos?

Currents had many fine images submitted again this year. Limited space means we can use only a few photos, but there is a good option for your Great Photo: send it to CCA via our new social media. See Page 7 for connections to Facebook and Instagram. Every entry there will also be an entry in the Currents Great Photos Competition.

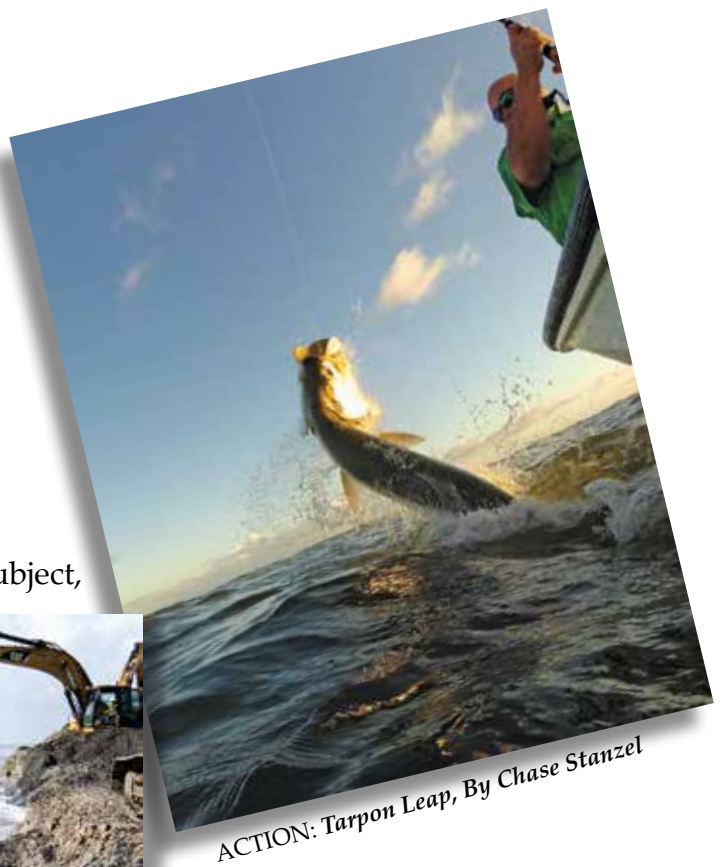
Enter Great Photos 2012

Categories:

***Best In Show / Action / Scenic / Humor
Kids / Wildlife / CPR***

Important: for jpegs, be sure you include name of subject, title, your name and address. On back of prints, write your name and address, as well as the names of anyone in the photo. email jpegs to: sam@samcaldwell.com Color prints to: CCA Great Photos Editor / 6919 Portwest Dr., Suite 100 Houston, Texas 77024

***Art prints for Best In Show,
First, Second and
Third Place winners.
Give us your best shot, and keep
Currents an
award winning newsletter.***



ACTION: Tarpon Leap, By Chase Stanzel



BEST IN SHOW, 2015: Cedar Bayou Opening Moment

KIDS: *Happy Fisherman* was submitted to the Social Happenings column, via Facebook. Photo by Eric Mui, at the Poco Rojo Kid Fish event. It was Kaiden's first time fishing. Get a load of that smile.

HUMOR: *Boy Meets Gulls, Beginning of a Great Romance.* Photo by Pauline Osborn.



CPR: *Joseph Sanderson released this magnificent, fly-caught speckled trout.* Photo by Scott Sanderson. Published in the Social Happenings column.



SCENIC and ACTION: Jeff McDaniels captured both elements in this image of long-time Currents photo contributor, Pamela Parsons.

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Abandoned Crab Traps, Big Shell Beach and East Cut Cleanup are on CCA agendas

This year's Abandoned Crab Trap Closure

*will begin on February 19 and run 10 days, through February 28. The main event day will be Saturday, February 20. The site list has not been finalized as **Currents** goes to press, but full details will be listed on the CCA Texas*

website:
<http://www.ccatexas.org/>



Greetings from Friends of Padre!

This year will be the **21st Annual Billy Sandifer Big Shell Beach Cleanup**. The date is set for February 27, 2016. We are hoping to make this the biggest and best cleanup to date. In order to do that, we need your help. We will update our site as the event approaches so check in often for new information: www.friendsofpadre.com and our Facebook page. We look forward to seeing everyone out there!
Friends of Padre, Inc.



Three national Sports Afield Magazine "Heroes of Conservation" visit at the Port Mansfield East Cut Beach Cleanup. Kathy and Miller Bassler enjoy a comment from Capt. Billy Sandifer.

Port Mansfield: East Cut & Beach 8th Annual Cleanup, Saturday, March 19

Last year, CCA members cleaned a huge area of the Mansfield East Cut and PINS beach.

Join us again for lots of fun and a collector T shirt. We'll start at 7 am, the Port Mansfield CC Pavilion where breakfast will be served. A free box lunch will also be provided. Afterwards, enjoy drinks and Texas chili at PELICAN'S PUB.

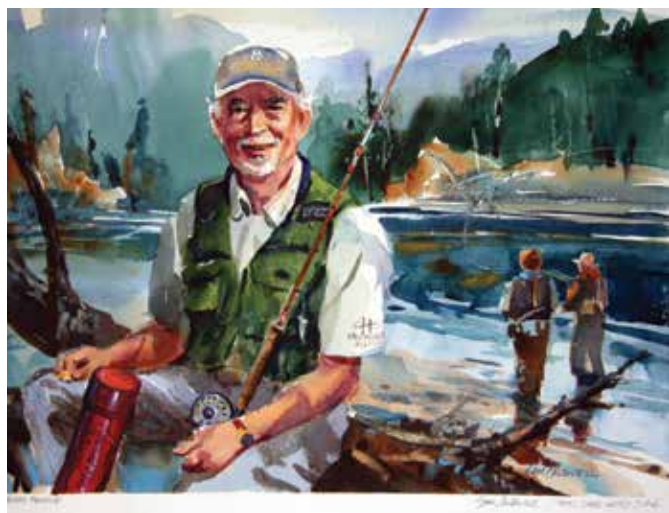
Cash donations welcomed, and we could use some boat captains willing to provide ferry service. Free housing will be provided by our generous sponsors on an availability basis with priority given to youth groups of any kind.

—**Miller and Kathy Bassler**
979-324-5555 Miller
979-204-5185 Kathie



The Last Laugh

Easy winner in an Ugliest Fish contest, a *cabezon sculpin*, or "Mother-in-law" fish. Usually found near Florida waters, I caught one near the Port O'Connor jetties after a heavy storm. Listed as edible, this one went back for further ugly duties.
—Sam Caldwell



Harvey Briscoe / Hexigraph Rods developer, on a Chilean River. Watercolor.

A few new **Informal Portraits**. And, some ancient, old, and fairly new paintings, many now available as Glee art prints. The website has been redesigned, with advice from multiple experts, most of whom I ignored. Drop by and judge for yourself.



www.samcaldwell.com

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CURRENTS NEWSLETTER

February / March 2016

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Port Aransas: 361-749-5217
Port O'Connor: 361-983-2616
Freeport: 979-233-3801
Houston, Galveston: 409-766-5620
Sabine: 409-971-2195

The Texas Parks & Wildlife website is
your starting point for almost anything
you need to know about outdoor Tex-
as, 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
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Thief. Drop by and put this website on your
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ASSOCIATE: \$15 _____ Per each family member. All membership privileges except TIDE and CURRENTS.
PRINT MEMBER: \$100 _____ All of the above plus CCA Texas print of your choice.
LIFE MEMBER: \$1000 _____ CCA Life Membership piece, print, plus member gifts. Payable in four \$250 installments.
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Same as above, plus "FREE" STAR Tournament entry. Age: _____ Date of birth: _____

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