CURRENTS
August / September 2017

6th Annual
CONCERT FOR CONSERVATION
Saturday, September 9th
at SAM HOUSTON RACE PARK

Eli Young Band
Ray Wylie Hubbard

Reckless Kelly
Roger Creager

TICKETS AVAILABLE
at CCATEXAS.ORG
or SHRP.COM
The announcement in early June of action to extend the Gulf of Mexico recreational red snapper season is a welcomed boon to anglers who have been painted into a corner by a federal fisheries management system that does not understand us, and would often just rather ignore us.

On the plus side, anglers are right to be encouraged by the willingness of this administration and the Department of Commerce to improve recreational access to a historically robust Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery. This alone is a tremendous achievement. The recreational angling community should feel vindicated, and we should take heart that after years of being systematically sidelined by NOAA Fisheries, our efforts to encourage our government, and that is a very good thing.

As a result of our passion and our refusal to just wait to sue and claim “back” this overage? How many years might it be before we can fish for red snapper again? One year? Two years? Five? Are environmental groups just waiting to sue and claim that an overage proves state management of red snapper is a failure? Furthermore, this action will increase access for some anglers, but will decrease access for others as it essentially trades state-water season days for some fraction of a federal-water season day. This is truly uncharted territory, and some anglers are understandably uncomfortable with anything that enables federal fisheries managers to impose their will on state fisheries regulations. The Gulf Coast states, for the most part, have been the only allies to recreational anglers in this decades-old red snapper mess.

Trading state days for federal days is not any way to manage a fishery for the long term. Widespread Congressional outrage should not be necessary to properly manage a fishery. Direct intervention by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce in a fishery is an extraordinary development. Requiring all three of these profound measures to limp to a bearable conclusion speaks to the abject failure of federal fisheries management of red snapper over the last decade.

This extension by the Department of Commerce is a step in the right direction, and the

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A Break in the Management Storm for Red Snapper

By Ted Venker

Most encouraging thing to tug on the lines of recreational anglers in a long time. But, there is much work to do here, well beyond the action announced today. We need the Secretary and our champions in Congress to stay engaged and help us build a functional, fair, state-based management system for red snapper and for the countless species behind it like amberjack and gray triggerfish that are on the same federal management track to a dead end.

This order signifies that we have left the ramp, but we still have a long run ahead of us. We must ensure that this renewed scrutiny on the inherent problems in the federal management of this fishery leads to meaningful reforms to the Magnuson Stevens Act and ultimately results in a permanent solution that allows the Gulf States to fully manage the unique fisheries that exists off their coasts, from Key West, Florida to Brownsville, Texas.

In late June, the recreational fishing and boating community received more praise-worthy news when Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross announced the 2017 Regional Fishery Management Council (RFMC) appointments. Selected to serve on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council were Phil Dyskow of Florida, Dr. Bob Shipp of Alabama, and Dr. Greg Stunz of Texas.

Given his diverse knowledge of marine fisheries issues and proven business leadership, Dyskow will be a balanced, educated, and effective Council member. Now retired following a successful career with the Yamaha Marine Group, culminating in his 13 year tenure as President, Dyskow has now devoted much of his free time toward fisheries conservation and management efforts. He has served on the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee and on the National Boating Safety Advisory Council.

Dr. Shipp is an exceptionally well-qualified candidate to represent Alabama on the Gulf Council, as he is considered one of the foremost experts on red snapper, triggerfish and other species of concern to Gulf Coast anglers. He has admirably served on the Gulf Council for 18 years, including as Chairman of the Council, and has also served on the Council’s Science and Statistical Committee. As Chair Emeritus of the Department of Marine Science at the University of South Alabama, he brings a scientific and pragmatic perspective to difficult fishery management issues that is very much needed at the Gulf Council.

Dr. Stunz is one of the foremost authorities on Gulf of Mexico marine science and he brings a much-needed, balanced perspective to federal fisheries issues. Dr. Stunz is the endowed chair for Fisheries and Ocean Health and executive director of the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation at the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies. He is also a professor of Marine Biology at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi College of Science and Technology and is an author of more than 40 scientific papers in national and international journals. With more than 20 years researching marine fisheries, he is well-versed with the issues facing the Gulf Council.

And to top off a summer of welcomed news, Senators Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), Bill Nelson (D-Fla.), Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), John Kennedy (R-La.) and Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) introduced the Modern Fish Act in early July. The "Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017" (Modern Fish Act) would improve public access
Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

John Blaha

Photos by Lisa Laskowski

From A Recreational Angler Community Idea to Reality – Rio Grande Valley Nearshore Reef

In 2014 and perhaps earlier, brothers Bob and Gary Glick began talking about the fact that the Gulf of Mexico bottom – in particular in the Lower Texas Coast – lacked habitat that would support marine life for the entire life cycle.

Growing up in the Rio Grande Valley and spending endless hours fishing the Gulf of Mexico out of Port Isabel, the Glick brothers had a vision, a vision that in a very short time period became a movement that brought the community together to establish the largest permitted nearshore reef in Texas state waters.

With a vision in mind, countless hours were spent researching and meeting with researchers such as Dr. Richard Kline and Dr. David Hicks at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, local recreational fishermen, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s Nearshore Reefing Program leader, Dale Shively, to find out what we needed to do in order to get a reefing permit. Dale advised us to build a group of stakeholders, so we took his advice and built a group of politicians, academicians, local fishermen, conservationists, fishing tournament organizers and others to move the effort forward to get a new nearshore reefing area permitted off of South Padre Island.”

CCA Texas and the Rio Grande Valley group visited several times in 2014 about what they would like to accomplish. CCA Texas, local recreational fishermen, local academicians and community leaders met with TPWD in early 2015 to pitch a new nearshore reef site for South Texas. Strong leadership and support from the local recreational fishing community, as well as a lot of up front data collection and planning, was very telling at this meeting.

TPWD supported the idea, and was so impressed with the efforts of the local community, that they began the permitting process almost immediately. The long-term vision was to have low relief materials in the reef site for the small marine life and fish, and higher relief.

Continues on page 7

TPWD Offers Additional Protections to Public Oyster Reefs

In the May TPWD Commission meeting, the Coastal Fisheries Division presented a suite of proposals with regards to the management of oysters. They are as follows:
1) Closure of Mondays, resulting in a 5 day fishing week (Tuesday-Saturday)
2) Reduce the commercial sack limit from 40 sacks to 25 sacks/day
3) Reduction in undersize tolerance from 15% to 5%
4) Establish Oyster Sanctuaries by closing the following minor bays to all oyster harvest:
   > Christmas Bay, Brazoria County
   > Carancahua Bay, Jackson and Matagorda County
   > Keller Bay, Calhoun County
   > Powderhorn Lake, Calhoun County
   > Hynes Bay, Refugio County
   > St. Charles Bay, Aransas County
   > South Bay, Cameron County
5) Close areas within 300 ft. of shorelines to all oyster harvest

As we mentioned in the previous edition of Currents, our public oyster reefs play critical roles in our ecosystems and are the foundation of our bay systems. It is time that we treated them as such. TPWD staff will hold public hearings along the coast in early August and the TPWD Commission will vote on these proposals on August 23-24, 2017 in Austin. Please watch your inbox for an email with detailed information and opportunities to show your support for these proposals. If you would like to know more about these proposals please check out Episode 16 of the Coastal Advocacy Adventures Podcast, read our blog or feel free to shoot us an email.

Shane Bonnot, Advocacy Director

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Next up from Sabine Lake is Ryan Pyburn:

"I let my four-year-old son, Jack, talk me into going fishing that morning. I noticed that the tide had slowly started out. We had 18-inch trout. My turn: my cork went under immediately. Another nice trout? About 25 feet from the boat, I saw the tag. I thought my heart was going to jump out of my chest. After three runs under the boat, I got the net under the fish. We got the fish registered. That's a memory Jack and I will never forget. Thanks again to CCA for the opportunity."

Next up is CCA Life Member Mike Laskowski:

"My son, Michael Jr., had prefished the day I traveled down for the ICC. We were on the water by 5:15 am and headed to our prime spots. I released a trout that was over the 25" tournament limit, moved to a flat and caught and released probably a dozen reds between 20 and 23" but couldn't find a good one. Wading, I cast into some flooded grass and hooked a red. No big deal, until I saw it go swimming by me in the knee deep, clear water, with a red tag sticking out of its back. My heart skipped a beat, I can promise you. The fish rolled on its side, my son, Michael read the tag, "Tag 900 CCA STAR 2017," and what an unreal feeling of pure joy! The ICC Social on Saturday night was awesome, everyone was super excited for me to have actually caught a tagged red during a CCA event. Our Hill Country chapter took 3rd place, and Mike Jr. took 2nd place for his redfish. I would just like to talk to the person that caught a tagged redfish. I would like to thank you to CCA Texas! Being the first Life Member to catch a tagged red is pretty dang cool as well!"

Editor’s Note: due to space limitations, we had to edit Juan Ibarra, Ryan Pyburn and Mike Laskowski’s adventures. For their full stories, go to the STAR website: www.startournament.org

On right are 2017 Winner Jose (Joey) Mendoza of Corpus Christi, and 2017 Winner Holly Clark of Port Arthur.

Be on the lookout for more STAR Winner stories to come! As you make your plans to head off to stock up on gear and register for STAR, if you haven’t already, head over to our great sponsor Academy Sports + Outdoors, where you can find any gear you might need and register in person in one quick stop.

MEMBER BONUS DRAWING- Think that you won’t have time to fish? Lucky for you, we will be giving away another Dargel 210 Skout, Mercury outboard and McClain trailer to one lucky participant, just for entering!

CCA TEXAS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS- On top of helping to make this event what it is, our amazing sponsors continue to add value to your CCA Texas Membership. Remember to take advantage of the following benefits our sponsors provide you with your CCA membership!

Ford X-Plan Pricing (see details below)

$10 gift card courtesy of Academy Sports + Outdoors

Texas Fish & Game Magazine online subscription (see details below)

$1,000 worth of free upgrades with your purchase of a new Tilson home (see details below)

CAT generator with qualifying Mustang CAT purchase (see details below)

Whataburger coupons once a year!

Ford X-Plan Pricing- CCA Texas members will again have the great honor from Texas Ford Dealers of using X-Plan pricing. For just a $35 membership any CCA member can purchase (or lease) a Ford vehicle at Ford employee pricing!! Our Ford Partner Code # is CCA61; go to www.fordpartner.com, if you are considering a purchase.

A SPECIAL BONUS FROM ACADEMY SPORTS + OUTDOORS- Just one of many great reasons to register for STAR is that Academy Sports + Outdoors will be mailing a $10 gift card later this year just in time for dove season! Thanks again to Academy Sports + Outdoors for this great benefit...and for sponsoring THREE $25,000 SCHOLARSHIPS!!

TEXAS FISH & GAME MAGAZINE “BONUS ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION!”- Not many people can say no to free stuff and “Texas Fish & Game Magazine” is back again this year offering a FREE one-year (12 issues) online subscription to all 2017 CCA Texas STAR participants. This subscription gives you access to the latest and most in-depth outdoors information anywhere. Whether you are lying in bed or sitting in the office, you will always have access. So be sure to include your email address on your registration form to receive your free subscription! If you prefer the print version don’t worry! You can still receive a print version, along with your online access, for only $8 a year (vs. $17.99). Be on the lookout in your email or mailbox for details on how to activate this offer! If you have any questions regarding your past or current subscriptions, please call (800) 725-1134 or email subscriptions@fishgame.com

28th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers’ Rodeo

RECORD SHATTERING START AND STILL ROLLING

"From Port Mansfield to Sabine and everywhere in between” seems to be the mantra for this year’s tagged redfish division! The summer heat has paled in comparison to how hot the fishing has been. At the time of press we have had TWELVE TAGGED REDS CAUGHT, with fish being caught by anglers fishing out of Port Mansfield, Corpus Christi, Aransas Pass, Rockport, Port O’Connor, Matagorda, Freeport, Galveston, Trinity, and Sabine Lake. Sadly, only six were entered and eligible (don’t let that be you.) Our first five winners have been certified and will all be receiving a BRAND NEW FORD F-150 to pull their new HAYNIE BOAT package, while our sixth winner has to provide his own truck to tow his new Haynie 23’ Bigfoot home. Don’t worry though, we have saved MORE HAYNIE BOAT PACKAGES JUST FOR YOU!

Let’s hear from a few of this year’s winners just to see how it feels.

First up from Galveston Bay is Juan Ibarra:

"I made my regular trip to Academy to register for the CCA and STAR Tournament. My dad has registered my brothers and me since 2000, and my dad won a boat with the heaviest sheephead back in 2002. I got a Saturday off, and it happened to be day one of STAR. My second red didn’t make the cut, then I set the hook on another and the fight was on. My brother Luis was ready with the fish net, and shouted that he saw something on the red’s dorsal fin. Luis brought the red on board and the tag was obvious. We quickly verified the year and made room in the Yeti. Thank you CCA!"

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

On top of

DON'T FORGET THE BONUS FROM ACADEMY SPORTS + OUTDOORS when you register for STAR. Ford X-Plan Pricing gives you access to the latest and most in-depth outdoors information anywhere. Whether you are lying in bed or sitting in the office, you will always have access. So be sure to include your email address on your registration form to receive your free subscription! If you prefer the print version don’t worry! You can still receive a print version, along with your on-line access, for only $8 a year (vs. $17.99). Be on the lookout in your email or mailbox for details on how to activate this offer! If you have any questions regarding your past or current subscriptions, please call (800) 725-1134 or email subscriptions@fishgame.com

On right are 2017 Winner Jose (Joey) Mendoza of Corpus Christi, and 2017 Winner Holly Clark of Port Arthur.

TILSON HOMES $1,000 in FREE UPGRADES!!
Every CCA Texas member who purchases a Tilson Home is eligible for $1,000 in free upgrades, such as ceramic tile, hardwood floors, cabinets and more. See their ad in this issue of Currents for more details, or call 1 (888) 540-6705.

As the authorized dealer for Caterpillar, Mustang Cat is a Houston-based, family-owned business that has been active in the community since 1952. As lifelong Texans, they also recognize the value of investment in the great outdoors of the region they are proud to call home. CCA Texas is grateful to welcome Mustang Cat as a partner in our mission to ensure our marine resources are available for the enjoyment of future generations to come.

CCA Texas STAR Platinum Print Membership Package, Series VII- Don’t forget about the 2017 CCA Texas STAR Platinum package It’s On and Scholarship on the Line, created by renowned artists David Drinkard and Sam Caldwell. We hope you love these prints as much as we do! Your CCA Texas Platinum package includes your CCA membership (new or renewal), your 2017 CCA Texas STAR entry, plus one signed, limited-edition print of your choice created exclusively for STAR, all for only $125!! These are one-of-a-kind-prints worth this price alone. If you are considering one, or several, of these limited edition packages, go to: www.startournament.org for more details or call (713) 626-4222.

2017 Prize Line-Up- Our goal has always been to keep STAR fees as reasonable as possible. We would not be able to do this without our great sponsors! In 2002, we were able to begin offering youth (ages 6-17) the opportunity to fish the tournament for FREE! We have been blessed for 28 years to offer the region winners will each drive home with an awesome Mowdy 22’ V boat, 150 HP motor and Coastline trailer. The next five anglers will receive the same boat, motor, and trailer package.

Tilson Homes, Inc.

STAR has reached $5,850,000 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.
Major sponsors for the 28th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament include:

Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Home Corporation, Capital Farm Credit, Mercury Marine, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, LP Building Products, Mustang CAT, Hoffpaur Polaris, Shiner Beer, KTRK-abc13, Haynie Boats, Mowdy Boats of Texas, Shoalwater Boats, Dargel Boats, Texas Fish & Game Magazine, Coastline Trailers, McClain Trailers, Chris’s Marine, Mt. Houston Marine, Costa

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

STAR REDFISH WINNER, CCA INTRACOASTAL TOURNAMENT WINNER! The Hill Country chapter scored big in the CCA Intracoastal Tournament, with member Mike Laskowski as a tagged STAR Redfish winner. Then, Mike Jr. took Second Place for Redfish. Photo by Lisa Laskowski
materials such as pre-constructed pyramids for higher relief habitat and larger fish, thus creating a “life-cycle” reef. Long term visions also included sinking a large vessel for habitat and diving opportunities.

“Recreational fishermen in the Valley are excited to have a new nearshore site with easy access for fishing and what we feel will offer excellent fishing opportunities for many species,” commented Bob Glick, treasurer of Friends of RGV Reef. Glick added “The vision of the local active members of this effort is to create a nearshore site that isn’t just a one-time effort, but a continuous effort to reef the entire site and create a habitat within it that supports the entire life cycle of the Gulf fishery.”

With support from the local CCA Texas chapters Rio Grande Valley and Lower Laguna Madre, the CCA Texas habitat program, Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT), put together a funding proposal and submitted it to the CCA Texas Management Committee. HTFT and the Management committees met with local CCA Texas representatives from the Rio Grande Valley and TPWD law enforcement to address questions from the Management Committee members. A $100,000 funding proposal was then submitted and approved by the CCA Texas Executive Board in August of 2015. HTFT also approached Building Conservation Trust (BCT), CCA’s National habitat program, for matching funds.

BCT matched CCA Texas’s grant of $100,000, earmarking $200,000 for the Rio Grande Valley Reef. BCT contributed another $55,000 to the reef at its 2017 budget meeting in January 2017, giving CCA a total commitment of $255,000 to the reefing site to date.

The Rio Grande Valley grassroots group driving the effort quickly realized that in order to effectively fundraise and move forward they must establish themselves as a non-profit organization. Friends of RGV Reef was established as a 501 (c)(3) organization, and the local efforts continued. TPWD continued its efforts to secure a United States Army Corp of Engineers (US-ACE) permit and a Texas General Land Office surface lease for the new site, and the permit and lease were secured in mid-2016. The normal size for TPWD Nearshore Reefing program reefing sites is 160 acres. With the plan presented by the Friends of RGV Reef, this new site was permitted for 1,650 acres, making it the largest permitted reefing site along the Texas coast.

It was time to begin gathering materials for deployment into the site. Friends of RGV Reef was able to secure a storage site on the Brownsville Port Authority’s property and began collecting hard substrate materials, such as concrete rubble and culverts. They also secured two boats, an old tug boat and an old shrimp boat.

CCA Texas funds were to be used for purchasing over 67,000 cinder blocks for low relief habitat, and for deployment costs of the cinder blocks and other materials.

TPWD was able to secure a Coastal Management Program grant of $400,000 and agreed to match another $400,000 for pyramids to be deployed within the site. Researchers from Texas A&M and The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley secured research funds

Continues on page 8
The STAR Tournament is in full swing, and what an exciting year it has been! There are still fundraising banquets going on in the dog days of summer, as well as the Annual CCA Concert for Conservation on September 9, so be sure to check out all of these exciting events at www.ccatexas.org. And as always, be on the lookout for more information on the great habitat work CCA Texas has lined up!

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

Facebook: Thank you to all of the chapters who participated in this year’s ICC! 2017 was one for the books!

Twitter: @CCA_Texas: Listen in to our podcast, Episode 17: Steve’s Lures!
www.ccatexas.org/blog

Instagram: @cca_texas: Today we are celebrating 70 years of conservation with our staff—ers Pat Murray, President of @ccanational (20 years at CCA), Robby Byers, Executive Director of CCA Texas (20 years at CCA) and Tina Wilson, Bookkeeper of our Accounting Department (30 years at CCA)! We love our staff and thank you for your dedicated years of service with us!

The “Life Cycle” reefing concept has become reality. Habitat is now in the water for the early life stage fish, the young fish and the mature and larger older fish. Friends of RGV Reef and CCA have plans for more materials into this site in the future and will continue to work together.

This critically important habitat will grow the bio-mass of species such as red snapper by the hundreds of thousands annually. This reefing site not only provides services to the fishery, but it provides an easily accessible opportunity for recreational anglers to fish in the nearshore waters of Texas. CCA Texas and Building Conservation Trust are committed to creating and restoring habitat along the entire Texas coast. The Texas Reefing Initiative of BCT will continue to raise funds for nearshore reefing opportunities as they arise.

CCA Texas and BCT are working hand in hand with TPWD and local community groups to give Texas’s recreational anglers fishing opportunities that will last for generations. Please be sure to visit www.ccatexas.org and www.buildingconservation.org to see the habitat work of CCA. For more information about Friends of RGV Reef, visit www.rgvreef.com.
Upper Coast
By Capt. Jim West
Location, location, location
Good news on the Upper Coast: In early August, there are lots of locales to find fish—and a lot of fish. Start early, and work those shallow shorelines where the best bite will get going by 6 am. My favorite lures here will be tails, rigged with light heads—but don’t hesitate to tie on your favorite topwater. I like the Tidal Surges, Bass Assassins and MirroLures. Live bait will produce, of course, but as the day and the sun progresses, hit the big pond, thinking five to nine feet deep with those light tails and again, give the topwaters a good try. We have had some nice fish come up to surprise us.

Got wind? If it hits 20-plus, I call clients to come another time. But if you’re here and tough, find a lee shoreline, and on a high tide, push into the back lakes. Got a light southeast wind? Think seriously about the jetties, and that occasionally great surf. Instead of a ‘bull’ tide on the beach, I prefer a low tide to start, with plenty of incoming movement to stir the fish. And, you won’t have the freshwater problems that can cause lockjaw inside the bays.

September will be much the same until it cools down. Of course, catching fish anywhere is location, location, location. Except for any new rain floods, there will be good water clarity, so eyes peeled.

A five fish limit on speckled trout is my personal idea of conservation, and could enhance a patriotic month! It’s all about Red, White, and Blue. Redfish, White-winged dove, and Blue-winged teal, that is. For a cast and blast opportunity, give us a call. Keep your crew safe, send those oversized reds and large spotted ladies back for further duty. —Capt. Mitchell Holder (979) 543-1109 waterfowlspecialties@gmail.com

Middle Coast
By Capt. Mitchell Holder
Time for Red, White and Blue
August never seems to lack triple digit temperatures and calm, humid days on the coast. You might want to take full advantage of these light august winds and hit the surf during the hottest part of the year. Head to the beach at dawn or dusk and watch for any bird action, as they never seem to lie, and the trout can be plentiful. Bright colored Skitterwalks and Mirrodines are typical go-to lures in a calm surf.

East Matagorda bay has produced some monster trout yet again this summer. We have had some nice fish come up to surprise us.

As you wear out August, watch for massive schools of reds around the East Cut and the Land Cut regions. While you’re near the East Cut, be advised that there is some superb tarpon fishing available in the wade-out surf, as well as from your boat. For a thrill, luck into some silver kings available in off-color water.

If you’re lucky enough to launch and go on one of those balmy lower coast days, you’ll be able to spot the v’s a long way off, and maybe drift onto tailing reds. Pick a big one and sight cast. Go-to lures in that case are different flavors of Nortons, usually with 1/8 oz lead heads. The bull minnow in red and white is a producer, with the roach color doing well. Throw topwaters! Miller Bassler likes the Skitter Walk. I use a Norton quick-connect to avoid tying knots. You will look for clear water and nervous bait, but concentrations of reds and specs can be held up in off-color water.

As July gales ease off and milder August breezes ease in, we’ll be chasing schools of large redfish, and watching for the occasional big speckled lady. No secret about reds and black drum; the cousins will be in skinny water early, then ease into deeper areas as the sun heads for the meridians. So, concentrate your efforts on shallow stretches where you have a chance to spot ‘em at a distance and sneak up quietly.

As always, remember that the big spotted ladies need a chance to spawn again. Be safe, and remember that courtesy on the water is catching. —Capt. Rene Hinojosa (956) 966-0719 shallowcharters@gmail.com

Lower Coast
By Capt. Rene Hinojosa
Schools are now in session!
As July gales ease off and milder August breezes ease in, we’ll be chasing schools of large redfish, and watching for the occasional big speckled lady. No secret about reds and black drum; the cousins will be in skinny water early, then ease into deeper areas as the sun heads for the meridian. So, concentrate your efforts on shallow stretches where you have a chance to spot ‘em at a distance and sneak up quietly.

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As always, remember that the big spotted ladies need a chance to spawn again. Be safe, and remember that courtesy on the water is catching. —Capt. Rene Hinojosa (956) 966-0719 shallowcharters@gmail.com

Ray Wylie Hubbard
Eli Young Band
Reckless Kelly
Roger Creager

Coming your way
May 21!
Sixth Annual CCA Concert For Conservation
Information and tickets available at ccatexas.org or shrp.com
Red Snapper Violators Caught In Action

A Texas Parks & Wildlife (TP&W) Game Warden received a phone call from TPWD Dispatch. The United States Coast Guard, during a routine patrol between the Freeport Jetties, had stopped four individuals who had been fishing. During their inspection, they noticed the boat had a large amount of red snapper. The Coast Guard followed the boat to the Freeport Marina where two Game Wardens arrived, and jumped on the boat to see a large amount of red snapper. The individuals removed all the snapper from their boat to dry land where they were laid in rows of 20. The total was 170 red snapper. Violations included: over the daily bag limit of red snapper, undersized red snapper, over the bag limit of sharks and no fishing license.

While patrolling Galveston Bay, TP&W Galveston region wardens made contact with a vessel with two fishermen coming back in from a day of fishing. The fishermen had eight legal red snapper in a cooler on deck. Upon further inspection, a compartment inside the vessel was found to have a false floor. The compartment contained 81 red snapper, many of which were undersized. A fine of $8,500 was assessed. Below, a photo of the hidden compartment.

CCA Staff, Contributors Gather National Top Awards

The Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA) recently announced work by several TIDE, Currents writers and contributors as best works in national outdoor writing:

- **Newspaper/News Website Contest**
  - Conservation or Nature Category
  - First place: David Sikes, “Choking the Gulf,” Corpus Christi Caller-Times

- **Book/E-book Contest**
  - General Audience Category
  - First place: Susan Ebert, “The Field to Table Cookbook” (Recipes provided to the CCA Currents)

- **Illustration/Graphic Contest**
  - General/Overall Category
  - First place: Sam Caldwell, “Distribution Disagreement,” Coastal Conservation Association

It’s A Family Tradition

On July 10, Briley Byers, age 10, visited Sea Center Texas on a CCA staff tour trip and caught this redfish from one of their kid’s fishing ponds. The fish was hugged and released.

Below, Isabel Friedrichs at age 15. A redfish is on, and 4-year old Jackson Henry Friedrichs is netting the fish. At right is Isabel at one year of age, fishing with Gerald, her dad. Another generation of fishermen is starting.

—Ronnie Luster

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Celebrating 40 Years - Scales - Long Sleeve Tee
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www.joinccaastore.com
CCA Texas has partnered with a new fishing TV show that has come to Texas named “Texas Insider Fishing Report” (TIFR) featuring host Captain Rick Murphy.

This unique show’s format has been popular in Florida for over 14 years with the Florida Insider Fishing Report. Logo’s for CCA Texas, STAR and BCT (Building Conservation Trust, CCA’s National Habitat Program) will be promoted throughout the show. In addition, CCA will have an educational script in each episode that will reach a potential viewership of 11 million people. Our hope through this exciting opportunity is to continue branding CCA, as well as educating more people about the great work your organization is doing.

The show runs through September 28, and airs every Thursday on Fox Sports Southwest at 11pm-12am and repeats each Friday and Saturday from 7am-8am.

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

Babes on the Bay XVII has been another success! The Aransas Bay Chapter thanks the teams that participated, the TP&W Game Wardens and the dedicated chapter volunteers who make the tournament a success year after year. A special thank you to Karol Scardino for her continued dedication and commitment as the Tournament Director of Babes on the Bay.

The 17th Annual Aransas Bay Chapter Banquet will be held on August 12, 2017 at the Paws and Taws Convention Center in Fulton, Texas. It will be a fun-filled evening, consisting of a live auction that includes trips, sculptures, art, etc.; a raffle; door prizes; and a silent auction. Tickets are available online at www.ccatexas.org/aransas-bay, or by contacting Carrie Cox at txaangelgrl@yahoo.com or (432) 230-9069. Tickets include dinner, open bar and a CCA Membership. Catch ‘em up! – Bud Kittle

Austin
Josh Cook 512-656-2964

The 38th Annual Austin Chapter Banquet is officially in the record books! Because of your generosity, we were able to top the $1.2 million revenue number again this year. We had over 1,700 people in attendance, Charlie Robison’s singing was outstanding and it took us all of about 23 minutes to sell 175 Yeti Coolers. To our extensive list of sponsors and generous patrons, thank you for all that you did to help us accomplish this monumental task!

Please visit us at www.ccaaustin.org to see a list of all the sponsors who helped make this happen, as space constraints don’t allow us to acknowledge all of them in this letter. From the “who’s who” in the Austin culinary world to corporate powerhouses in the Austin business scene, we have the best group of sponsors in the state.

Congratulations to Dana Arnold of Austin who won the 20’ Shallow Sport Classic! And, another congratulations to all of the winners from our stellar live auction and our vast array of other stand-alone games. We truly couldn’t do this event without all of you and cannot wait to see you again next year.

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 77072. Phone: 713-626-4222. FAX: 713-961-3801. www.ccatexas.org
Editor, Sam Caldwell
sam@samcaldwell.com
This is the issue of August/September 2017
Vol. 35, Issue 5

If you submitted images and they’re not all published, you may find them on your chapter’s web page, and your chapter’s area in the CCA website: www.ccatexas.org/chapters

Alvin-Pearland
Emery Sadler 713-501-2778
Our “Anglers’ Night Out” Monthly General Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at Spring Creek BBQ, located at 9005 Broadway, Pearland, Texas, 77584. For more information, visit our chapter page at www.ccatexas.org/alvin-pearland. We will have a raffle at each meeting!

Our chapter hosted its 2017 Annual Banquet on June 15. I would like to thank all of our amazing sponsors for their continued support, and a special thanks to our Title Sponsors, Common Wealth Financial and Sunbelt Valve! We cannot thank you enough for your support. I also would like to thank the chapter board members for all their hard work! It is truly a pleasure working with all of you.

2017 Chapter Meeting schedule: July/August: GONE FISHING / September 5: Speaker TBD / October 3: Speaker TBD

We welcome new board members who would like to get involved. Our monthly chapter meetings have a great speaker lineup and will have a raffle. Bring a friend, bring a kid and get plugged in! – Emery Sadler, (713) 501-2778

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~12~
Next up on the calendar is our Angler’s Night Out (ANO) on July 19, featuring Captain Chad Kinney. With over 20 years of guiding both bay and offshore (from Rockport to South Padre and all waters in between), he comes to our July ANO knowing where the fish are swimming. Captain Kinney is a veteran of both artificial as well as bait fishing, and his knowledge of seasonal targeting provides useful information for those he guides. This is one you don’t want to miss! ANO is held at 6:00 pm at Abel’s on the Lake, which is located at 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., Austin, TX 78703.

Get out there and go fishing this summer. We look forward to seeing all of you at ANO on July 19! – Josh Cook

BAY AREA
Curtis Anderson 832-435-0257

Brazoria County
Wes Dinge 979-299-8245

Brazos Valley
John Ben Strother 979-220-1738

Brenham
Brandon Marth 979-277-0151

We have regular monthly meetings at Mike Hopkins Distributing at 6:00 pm on the fourth Thursday of each month. Entry forms will be available for our Chapter Tournament. You must be a member of the Brenham Chapter to participate. Tournament dates are August 4-5, 2017 in Port O’Connor, Texas.

Also, I would like to brag on our chapter for placing 2nd overall in the ICC Tournament. Thank you to all the participants and volunteers for another great tournament! Thanks – Brandon

BRUSH COUNTRY
Brenda Ballard 361-296-4037

Our 2017 Baffin Bay Shoot-Out was a great success! The winners were: Ciara Almeida, 1st Place Drum; Scott Rutkowski, 2nd Place Drum; Hunter Rutkowski, 3rd Place Drum; Ray Borrego, 1st Place Redfish; Ernesto Hinojosa, 2nd Place Redfish; Ernesto Gutierrez, 3rd Place Redfish; Robert Ochoa, Jr., 1st Place Trout; David Perales, 2nd Place Trout; Logan Longoria, 3rd Place Trout; and we had one Oversize Redfish winner, Israel Lara. Thank you to all the participants and volunteers for another great tournament!

Please “Like” our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/CCA TexasBrushCountry) to find out about upcoming events! – Brenda Ballard

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

Next up on the calendar is our Angler’s Night Out (ANO) on July 19, featuring Captain Chad Kinney. With over 20 years of guiding both bay and offshore (from Rockport to South Padre and all waters in between), he comes to our July ANO knowing where the fish are swimming. Captain Kinney is a veteran of both artificial as well as bait fishing, and his knowledge of seasonal targeting provides useful information for those he guides. This is one you don’t want to miss! ANO is held at 6:00 pm at Abel’s on the Lake, which is located at 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., Austin, TX 78703.

Get out there and go fishing this summer. We look forward to seeing all of you at ANO on July 19! – Josh Cook
by all. A full stringer was entered, but unfortunately the Dallas Chapter’s name will not be placed on the trophy this year.

On June 22, we held our 2nd Annual Hooked on Clays Sporting Clay Shoot. A special thanks goes to our sponsors:

- Academy Sports + Outdoors, Beretta, Brinson Powersports, GameGuard, Highland Park ER, The Whitehorse Steakhouse and Southern Glaziers.

We were able to double the attendance with almost 100 people coming out to participate in the festivities. Not only did this event provide an opportunity for our members to get together, we were able to raise over $13,000! Thank you to all those who helped bring the event together.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Our next General Membership Meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on August 31, 2017, at Tailwaters Fly Fishing Co. Our Guest Speaker will be Shane Bonnot, Advocacy Director for CCA Texas.

I hope everyone enjoys the remainder of their summer! Remember to take plenty of photos of those fish as we would love to show them at our 37th Annual Banquet set for April 26, 2018 at 6500 Cedar Springs (new venue)! – Matt Scherer, (214) 995-6777 matthew.f.scherer@gmail.com

Fort Bend
Donnie Powers 281-850-9023

Fort Worth
Hunter Baird 817-437-8351
Gone fishin’ for the summer! Headed upstream, downstream, to the lakes and to the coast. Feel free to reach out if you are interested in getting involved or have any questions! – John Black

Galveston
Dr. Ken Ellis 713-962-7731
The Galveston banquet was underway as Currents went to press. Next issue, we’ll let you know who won Galveston’s Haynie 23’ boat, and now has dozens of new best friends. - Ken

Congratulations, and good luck next year. Below, the Galveston boat.

Fort Bend walked away as the overall ICC winner with a nice 20 lb. stringer.

Golden Triangle
Jason Kuchera 903-780-8618 jlkuchera@yahoo.com

Greater Sugar Land
Robert Bailey 713-819-5534 rbailey@robertbaileypc.com
We held a Kids Fish at the Mark McGrath Municipal Park in Meadows Place before breaking for the summer. The event was well attended and all had a great time! Lots of fish were caught and released – Colene Cabeza, Parks and Recreation Director for the city, had made sure the lake was well stocked. Thank you to Colene and our Kids Fish Chair, Judy Kveton, for putting the event together, and to our volunteers, Jeff Flasik, Buford Jurica, Regis Platek, Bob Nipper and Weems Turner, for helping make the event a success!

Our General Meetings will resume on September 5, 2018 and in The Fountains Shopping Center, Stafford / - Third Wednesdays, starting September 20, 2017: Board Meetings, La Escondida in Missouri City (location tentative) / - October 21, 2017: Chapter President’s Cup (held out of Sargent) - February 10, 2018 (tentative): Crab trap pickup in conjunction with Texas Parks & Wildlife (held out of Sargent) - April 5, 2018: Annual Challenge / - Various dates to be announced: Kids Fish events That’s it for now, but in the meantime, we at the Greater Sugar Land Chapter all hope that you have been having a great summer and in the water, and we hope to see you in September! – Robert Bailey

Greater Woodlands
Charlotte O’Dell 832-368-8263

Guadalupe Valley
Chuck Howard 361-275-9464 chuck.howard@att.net
We’re right in the middle of the summer, and chapter members are still having a great season! Conditions have heated up, but mornings are cool, and the bite sometimes is unbelievable. Evening fishing into the late dusk has been magical, as the wind lays and the water cools, bringing the flats alive with bait and hungry fish following them. In my opinion, the last several years the fishing in the coastal bend area has been doing nothing but getting better.

We still have a good handful of raffle tickets for the Polaris Ranger ATV. Only 200 tickets will be sold, and the drawing will be held on November 2 at our 2017 Greater Sugar Land Chapter Banquet / - June 9, 2018 (tentative): Inter Chapter Challenge / - Various dates to be announced: Kids Fish events
Annual Guadalupe Valley Chapter Banquet. You don’t have to be present to win. All we need is payment, and we’ll send you a ticket. Guadalupe Valley will begin selling tickets to the November 2 banquet to be held at The Venue in Cuero, Texas at the next Quarterly Meeting coming up on August 16. Get your tables reserved now. We expect a sellout!

The 2017 CCA/ICC Fishing Tournament held the second week of June was well represented by CCA chapters from as far away as the Dallas/Fort Worth area. We had great conditions for the event, and some really nice trout and reds were brought to the weigh in. Fort Bend County walked away as the overall winner with a nice 20 lb. stringer. Stacy Cordes, Paul Lucas and Cliff Weber all caught trout over 24 inches and hung out around the 5-lb. mark. First and second place trout went to Paul Lucas and Stacy Cordes. You could have thrown all of the trout into a barrel, drawn them out, and any one of them would have been a winner. Great job! – Chuck Howard

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Matagorda Bays
Chad Hensley 979-541-3239

The “Sold Out” signs were once again pulled out and taped to the front doors of the El Campo Civic Center for our 32nd Annual Matagorda Bays Chapter Banquet! This is the 9th year in a row that the banquet has sold out. All of this could not be possible without the continued support from the generous donors and members of our chapter. Banquet guests enjoyed a fun-filled evening with chances to win the pick of the litter cap raffle sponsored by Prasek’s Hillje Smokehouse, El Campo Boating Center and Mustang Caterpillar; a koozie raffle sponsored by First State Bank and Quality Hot Mix; and a tumbler raffle sponsored by Polasek Construction and Energy Construction. Another great ribeye steak meal with all the trimmings was prepared, served by board member Slade Stary and his top-notch cooking crew.

The live auction sponsored by Full Auto Firearms, Wiese Crop Insurance and Gulf Coast Lease Service was full of great items that ranged from fishing and hunting trips from around the world, to guided fishing trips right here on the Texas coast. This year’s banquet program cover titled “CCA Oyster Reef Trophies” was a beautiful piece by Sam Caldwell, and our chapter was fortunate enough to be able to have Sam in the crowd when we auctioned off the actual print. The Jim Ehman Memorial Guides Cup trips were once again a big hit among buyers. This tournament is sponsored by Duckett Bouligny & Collins, LLP; Harbor Bait and Tackle; and Multi Fab Metals. It is held every year in September in Matagorda, and can only be entered by purchasing a trip in our live auction.

Though the live auction lasted a little longer than expected, the highlight of the evening of course was the drawing for the fully rigged 25’ Dargel KUDA with a 250 HP Yamaha SHO sponsored by Dargel Boats and by longtime chapter supporter Polasek Construction. A big thanks goes out to these guys for their continued support. This year’s lucky winner was another long time CCA supporter, Bob VonDerAu from El Campo, Texas!

As always, I wish I could list everyone who donates and contributes to our chapter, but here are a few who are there year after year: Cedar Creek Woodshop, Multi Fab Metals, Eichorn Gonzales & Miller Jewelers, Matagorda Que, Capt. Troy Keen, Capt. Kenny Hauff Jr. and Salt Grass Lodge, Del Papa Distributing, Hartman Distributing, Texas Coast Limo Services and Full Auto Firearms.

Once again, thank you to our chapter. I look forward to seeing all the Guides Cup buyers in Matagorda Sept 25-26! Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the chapter. – Chad Hensley, (979) 543-2734

Hello CCA members!

After our very successful and profitable 2017 Midcoast Chapter Annual Banquet and the fun Inter Chapter Challenge Tournament, we look ahead to our next main meeting at Francis Marie’s Restaurant on Tuesday, July 11 at 6:15 pm.

We will finalize specifics for our next event, which will be the Midcoast Chapter Speedy Stop Guides Cup. Twenty top Midcoast guides will again fish in this tournament. These 20 guides sold for over $40,000 at our recent banquet, an average of over $2,000 per guide! A huge success goes to Speedy Stop, who has sponsored this event again this year!

Fishing – or should I say “catching” – continues to be well above average for all those who have hit the Middle Coast past month and plan to do so through Labor Day. Make sure you are entered in the CCA Texas STAR Tournament if you know that you are going to be fishing in saltwater. You do not want to miss out on a new boat by catching a tagged redfish and not being entered. And remember to stay hydrated when out on the water during...
the next few months! Have a safe and fun summer – Captain Danny Goyen

Northeast Houston
Jason Law 713-898-8594
jlaw1899@yahoo.com

Northwest Houston
Alan Massey 281-414-6341

Orange County
Scott Bandy 409-988-3667
scottbandy77@yahoo.com

As the temperatures heat up, so does the chapter, with the 8th Annual Orange County Banquet! In anticipation of the banquet on August 10, 2017, we are busy getting our information packets out to you in the mail. We still have a few spots for members who want to help out with the planning of our banquet. If you would like to lend a hand, please contact Scott Bandy (scottbandy77@yahoo.com), Louis Moore (louis_moore@yahoo.com) or Davis Dixon (dcdixon149@yahoo.com). – Scott Bandy

Port O'Connor
Bill Moore 361-983-4690

We hope everyone is having a great summer! The crowds we’ve seen on the weekends indicate that many people are taking advantage of the great activities offered in our area. Without taking anything away from the summer fun, we want to remind everyone to come join us on Saturday, October 21, 2017 for our 18th Annual Port O’Connor Chapter Banquet. The banquet will be held at the POC Community Center, and will include great trips, a silent auction, live auction, door prizes and several card games. The last several years have sold out, and the chapter is working to make this one another success.

We wish to express our appreciation to several POC businesses for assisting in our table/ticket sales. These include Coastal Boat Services, Coastal Bend Marine, Port O’Connor Rods, Sonny’s Marine and Tigrett Real Estate. Tickets may also be purchased from CCA Assistant Director Taylor Rieck (713-626-4222) or from any POC CCA member. POC CCA has another nice golf cart that is being raffled off for this year’s banquet. The golf cart has been on display at Coastal Bend Marine, and tickets are currently available. Once again, Fred Carr and Sam Caldwell will provide a treasured collector’s item, a signed and remarqued Change of Tides book — the sold-out history of the CCA, voted Best Outdoor Book of 2011.

The POC chapter wishes to express its condolences to the family of Milton “Lefty” Ward. Lefty was not only an active member for many years, but also a good friend. He will be missed. So, as we continue to work to support our resources, come join us on Saturday, October 21 in POC. “Where it all began.”- Bill Moore

Prairie
Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103

During the Prairie Chapter Meeting on May 10, we held our officer election. Please join me in welcoming Patricia Walters as our new President and the officers as follows: Don Walters, Vice President; Ron Chess, Secretary; and Lori Cruz, Treasurer. It will be a great year!

We are in the planning stages on putting together our Annual Kid Fish. This year it will be on August 19 from 4:00-6:00 pm at Larry and Sandy Wietstruck catfish pond, located at 3094 Wietstruck Road in Bellville, Texas. All kids and their parents are invited come and enjoy a great day of fishing. Just bring your fishing pole, chairs and a pop up canapé (if you have one), and all the bait will be supplied! If you would like to be a sponsor for this event, or want more information, call Lori Cruz at (713) 992-7874. After the tournament we will award prizes to the winners. Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be served, and there will be a silent auction with some great gifts.

At our July meeting we discussed our board member Rockport Madness Chapter Fishing Tournament that will be held in Rockport, Texas. The date will be released at a later time. Thanks and have a great summer! – Ron Chess, (979) 525-9254

Redfish Bay
Norman Oates 361-758-0266

The Redfish Bay Chapter continues to have a great year, thanks to our board, volunteers and members! The 2017 Redfish Bay Chapter Annual Banquet exceeded our expectations with higher attendance and revenue than previous years. The Take-a-Kid-Fishing event is always a wonderful time, with well over 100 fisherpersons. This is an annual event on the first weekend of June, and it is just for the kids; it includes a shrimp boil on Friday night and awards ceremony and hot dogs on Saturday – the only rule is that kids have fun! Our General Membership Meeting in March had great attendance and was very entertaining with Jay Watkins as a speaker – our thanks again to Jay.

Look for more information on the Annual Beeville Fish Fry. It is traditionally on the Thursday night before dove season starts. More information to follow in e-blasts. – Norman Oates

Rio Grande Valley
Louis Zimerer 956-373-0799
Lmz01@yahoo.com

Sabine-Neches
Darin Johnson 409-790-9855

Sam Houston
Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908

San Antonio
Mike Sarosdy 210-863-7288
urodoc@satx.rr.com

Thanks to the crew that fished the ICC with great standing. A fun time was had by all, with a great finish – And thanks Bill Bauder, Bubba Stinson, and Tim Kiker, as always!

The 2017 San Antonio Chapter Annual Banquet may be behind us, but with busy volunteers at work, Mark Your Calendars for some upcoming chapter events!

First, put the CCA San Antonio Happy Hour/Liards Club on Tuesday, August 8 at 6:00 pm at the Barn Door on your calendar. We have had fantastic turnouts at the first two, with great new folks and lots of fun, so plan to join us! Send your recent fish pics to Robert Colunga (rfc3/rfc3.com) by Sunday August 6, and they will be spooled on the overhead. Photoshop not allowed.

The 2nd Annual “Hooked on Golf” Tournament will be Friday, September 29 at The Quarry, so watch your emails for details, and get ready to rock! The event last year was a great time – Eddie Gammill, Tim Kiker, Rick Neitzel and the other volunteers promise this one will be out of the park.

October 17 will be our Chapter Fall Social, and our special guests will be a famous guide, as well as CCA Texas Executive Director Robby Byers, who will update us on everything going on with CCA Texas.

Again, many thanks to all of the volunteers and sponsors who make all of these events possible. And remember, take a kid fishing! – Mike Sarosdy

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

The San Bernard Chapter hosted our first social event of the season with an all-you-can-eat Crawfish Boil on June 1! The event was a great success and a wonderful opportunity for our board members to interact with members of our community and friends of CCA on a personal level. Our speaker, Shane Bonnot, gave an informative presentation on the oyster system and harvest. It was very interesting to learn about how something we take for granted has such an impact on our fisheries. People in town are still talking about it – Great job Shane! Thank you to Matt and Jenna Kopycinski for their support and for providing the venue, S-Curve. We will be hosting our second event in August of this year. Steaks and lobsters are on the
Special Gift for New LIFE MEMBERS brought to you by ENGEN COOLERS THE Original HIGH PERFORMANCE COOLER COMPANY

For a limited time, a CCA Texas Life Member ($1,000 + $25 shipping) can receive a 123 qt. Engel Cooler OR an 80 qt. Engel Cooler with 4 (30 oz.) Engel Tumblers Tax Deductible amount: $430

Please expect 3-4 weeks for delivery. No P.O. Box addresses
You MUST return this form to the CCA office completely filled out to receive your gift (This offer is NOT available online.)

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CCA Member ID# ________________________________
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Phone __________________ Email __________________

Method of Payment $1,025.00

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

Credit Card Number __________________ Exp. Date __________
Signature ____________________

CCA Texas | 6919 Portwest Dr., Ste. 100 | Houston, TX 77024
Phone 713.626.4222 | afritchman@ccatexas.org | www.CCATexas.org
menu, and our speaker will be a guide from Matagorda….to be named later! Check our Facebook page - (www.facebook.com/SanBernardCCA) for details on the event and how to get your tickets before they sell out. For additional info on chapter events, please contact our Social Network Director, William Wilcox, at (281) 753-1445, and “Like” our chapter page on Facebook!

Thank you to all of the board members who contributed to the success of this first event. Without the help and planning, these events would not be possible. Thanks especially to William for tackling this chore, taking it by the horns and making it happen. It was a flawless effort and result.

Our next chapter event is the San Bernard Board Cup. Seven boats of our board members were auctioned off at the banquet in February, and the fishing tournament is set for July 29, 2017 in Matagorda. All bets are off, as the winner has changed hands three times in the last three years. Good luck to all, and may God bless us with beautiful weather!

Congratulations are in order for Junior Board Member Dayne Macha. As of this writing, Dayne is currently leading the 11-17 year Old’s Middle Coast Largest Trout Division in the CCA Texas STAR Tournament with an 8 lb. 9 oz. whopper! Great job to Dayne and his partners Doug and Jack. Good luck to all STAR anglers, both young and old. Fishing has been steady, with reports of stringers of midsize trout being caught on croaker, shrimp and Down South Lures. I have seen an increase in the number of large fish being posted online with Down South Lures over deep shell and wading mid bay reefs. Thanks to all who release the big girls!

At this year’s Annual San Bernard Chapter Banquet, which is held every 4th Thursday in February, my wife Mindy was the proud recipient of an Alaskan vacation donated by All Alaska Outdoors. The trip was spectacular and one that I would urge everyone to take a long look at before your next banquet. Our fishing guide, Monte, was wonderful as a guide, but even more educational when it came to the salmon that we were chasing.

We talked at length over the three days of fishing about the lifespan, growth, migration and conservation of the fish species. Monte, a fishing guide with 32 years of experience – 25 on the river we fished – explained the need for additional conservation and education in their region. He was extremely knowledgeable and cares deeply about our organization, which is why he donates 50 trips per year to the CCA. I enjoyed our discussions as much as I did the fishing. The land is large and vast with views that cannot be described with any justice. It was a trip I will never forget, and I will always long to return the Kenai in search of that 70+ lb. King Salmon. Tight lines and safe travels – Ross Kutach

San Gabriel
John Melnar 512-497-8284
As Currents travels to you in the mail, we are having our San Gabriel banquet on August 3. Full details next issue. - Darryl Hansen

San Jacinto
Jim Wilson 713-828-7639
Southwestern
Veronica Oliver 830-765-6228
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 832-571-7638
Tri-County
Christian Hildebrand 830-534-2730
Trinity Bay
Gerald Payne 281-728-6278
August is here, and that means things are starting to happen along the upper Gulf Coast of Texas! Folks are gearing up for football season and hoping to get that last-minute entry before the 2017 STAR Tournament ends. The season also brings...
Your banana is not the Plague in a Peel.
Or Poseidon’s Yellow Middle Finger of Doom.

It’s a fruit.
From the tropics.
Beloved by babies, monkeys,
and baby monkeys.
Despite popular myths,
bananas possess no fish-frightening powers.

Just vitamins. And potassium.

So go ahead.
Bring your snack aboard.

Forget superstition. You have science.
You have the clarity of 580 technology.
the excitement of some fast wing shooting and the much-anticipated cool snap that will soon follow. Adding to all the excitement is the 2017 Trinity Bay Chapter Annual Banquet. Don’t wait – Mark your calendar for this premier event taking place on Friday, August 25, 2017 at the Nuevo Leon Social Events, 1000 Park Street, Baytown, Texas 77520.

We anticipate another sellout crowd and for 2017 to be yet another record setting year! We look forward to seeing all of our dedicated sponsors for an evening full of food, drinks, raffles and games.

The Trinity Bay Chapter meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. If you would like further details on becoming a member or sponsor, please contact us – We’d be glad to hear from you! – Gerald Payne, (281) 728-6278

Trinity Valley
John Hebert Jr 936-334-2528

Summer is in full swing, and we’ve really been enjoying it! We recently had our 4th Annual Trinity Valley CCA Fishing Tournament. Everyone had a great time, and we’d like to thank some of our sponsors; BJ Ford generously sponsored our caps, and Giglio Distributing and Delpapa Distributing sponsored all of our door prizes. Our tournament winners were as follows: Dennis Yarbrough with biggest flounder; John Sincox with biggest trout; 4th Place – Team Xtreme with CJ Evans, Charlie Evans and Wesley Evans; 3rd Place – The Whaler Boys with Cody Elledge, Jeremy Mills and Jeff Choates; 2nd Place – Triple T with Ray Burnett, Scott Gilbert and Ronnie Lee; and saving the best for last at 1st place – Anchor Management with William Parker, Kim Tucker and Charley Nelms. Thank you to everyone who participated! We look forward to next year’s tournament.

If you’d like to join us or would like more information about our chapter, please contact our Chapter President, John Hebert at (936) 334-2528 – Jennifer Creel

West Houston
Ruben Delgadillo 281-808-1434

Well, by now you are probably dodging storms, watching the surf and – let us not forget – chasing those tagged reds! As we wind down another successful banquet year, we will also have some time to hit the water. Our 2017 West Houston Chapter Annual Banquet this past May was held back at the Houston Farm and
Serve this sparkling-fresh ceviche with organic blue tortilla chips for a pop of color and a satisfying crunch. Serves 6 to 8 as an appetizer.

- 4 medium speckled trout fillets (about 2 pounds), cut into 1/2-inch chunks
- 3/4 cup Key lime juice, freshly squeezed
- 1/2 red onion, peeled and diced
- 1/2 red bell pepper, stemmed, seeded and diced
- 1 jalapeño, stemmed, seeded and minced
- 1 avocado, diced
- 1 mango, diced
- 1/4 cup roughly chopped cilantro leaves
- 2 tablespoons agave nectar
- Sea salt, to taste

Place the fish chunks in a medium bowl, pour the Key lime juice over them, and toss gently with clean hands. Cover with plastic wrap and marinate in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours. Remove from the fridge and add the remaining ingredients. Toss gently with clean hands to mix. Refrigerate until you are ready to serve.

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Remove from the fridge and add the remaining ingredients. Toss gently with clean hands to mix. Refrigerate until you are ready to serve. Serve with organic blue corn tortilla chips. Note: Ceviche does not keep well. The acid in the lime juice continues to break down the fish, and will turn it mushy.
Silver At the Pass
This is a study for the Port O'Connor Caldwell painting. Come to POC for the big event, October 21. A Change of Tides book will be signed by authors Fred Carr and Sam Caldwell, and Sam will do a color tarpon remarque while you watch. Bid ’em up in the Live Auction.

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Tilson Homes is a proud supporter of the CCA Texas and the STAR Fishing Tournament.
The Texas Parks & Wildlife website is your starting point for almost anything you need to know about outdoor Texas, including links to many areas. Visit www.tpwd.texas.gov
To focus on fishing and boating, visit www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish
www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat

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

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Sixth Annual CCA Concert For Conservation

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Port Aransas: 361-739-3217
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