

CURRENTS

August / September 2017

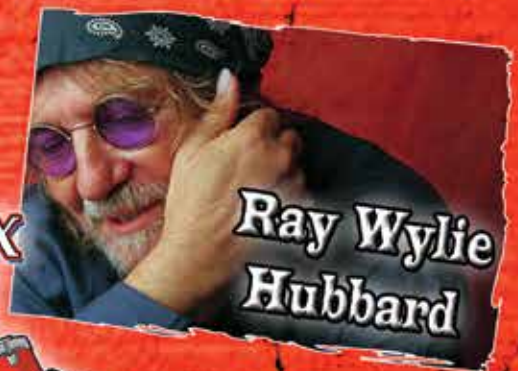
6th Annual



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



Eli Young Band

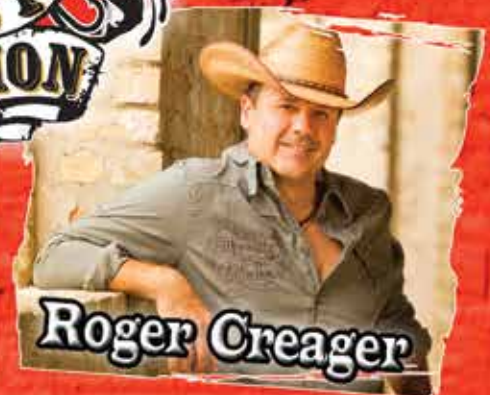


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A Break in the Management Storm for Red Snapper

By Ted Venker

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 elected officials in Congress to engage in this man-made management disaster are yielding results. We are being heard at the highest levels of our government, and that is a very good thing.

As a result of our passion and our refusal to be cast aside, anglers will be allowed to venture into the Gulf of Mexico with their family and friends on weekends throughout this summer in pursuit of the most popular offshore fish in our waters. We owe our champions in Congress and the Secretary of Commerce our deepest thanks. But with this action, we are also truly launching into a void in the future.

This intervention by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce does not address the fundamentally flawed federal management system that got us here in the first place. There are concerns that by NOAA Fisheries' own peculiar methods of accounting, recreational anglers may already be over their quota this year in just the three days we were allowed to fish before this extension. How far over our quota will NOAA say we went over after an additional 39 weekend days? What will happen when NOAA's regulations shut down the red snapper fishery until anglers "pay 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

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.



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. — Ted Venker, TIDE editor

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

to America's federal waters, promote conservation of our natural marine resources and spur economic growth.

A companion bill, H.R. 2023, was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on April 6, by Congressmen Garret Graves (R-La.), Gene Green (D-Texas), Daniel Webster (R-Fla.) and Rob Wittman (R-Va.). The Modern Fish Act addresses many of the challenges faced by recreational anglers, including allowing alternative management tools for recreational fishing, reexamining fisheries allocations, smartly rebuilding fish stocks and improving recreational data collection.

The bill aims to benefit fishing access and conservation by incorporating modern management approaches, science and technology to guide decision-making.

The summer of 2017 has been quite busy and these recent developments demonstrate the power of effective partnerships coupled with grassroots efforts. If you want to learn more, please visit the newsroom at <https://www.ccatexas.org/newsroom/> or <http://www.joincca.org/articles>.

—Shane Bonnot, Advocacy Director



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

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 (TPWD) Nearshore Reefing Program and CCA Texas. The next step was determining the best way to establish a new nearshore reef off of South Padre Island. The plan was clear, and the local community had to put together a proposal for TPWD that couldn't be

ignored.

"My brother and I both felt there was a lack of suitable hard substrate structure in the Texas nearshore waters, and everything we wanted to do would likely land us in trouble," commented Gary Glick, president of Friends of RGV Reef. Glick continued, "We reached out to 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 tournaments 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 academia and community leaders met with TPWD in early 2015 to pitch a new nearshore 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



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 sheepshead 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!"



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; perfect for the particular spot we were passing. We pulled in and dropped anchor. I put a shrimp on my rod and cast it out for Jack. As soon as the cork hit the water it went under. He set the hook and reeled in what turned out to be about an 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: When the Stars Line Up.

"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, and once in my hands, everyone in St. Charles Bay that day probably heard me. 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 say 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 on 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 MustangCAT purchase (see details below)
- 🔥 **Whataburger coupons** once a year!



BEST IN TEXAS

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 \$30 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



BEST IN TEXAS



2017 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT SuperCab with Haynie 23 Bigfoot, the Redfish Division prize.

COLLECT THE 2017 STAR PLATINUM PRINTS



"IT'S ON"
© David Drinkard



**TWO CHOICES...
one great cause!**

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



"SCHOLARSHIP ON THE LINE"
© Sam Caldwell

Act now to own ONE of these signed, limited-edition prints! Renowned artists Sam Caldwell and David Drinkard showcase their unique styles exclusively for CCA Texas STAR 2017. Pick your favorite or BUY BOTH!

CCA Membership and STAR registration included with your purchase ★ ccatexas.org ★ startournament.org ★ (713) 626-4222

**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 de-
tails, or call 1 (888) 540-6705.



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Mustang Cat is a
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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 packages *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
members of all ages amazing prize packages and
college scholarships. This year's tournament will be

**STAR has reached \$5,850,000
in scholarships awarded to
children 6-17 years of age.
Many thanks to our spon-
sors for making this happen.
Without them, it would not be
possible.**

no different, as we will be offering another spectac-
ular prize line-up! This includes over 100 prizes in-
cluding trucks, boats, motors, trailers, and \$325,000
in college scholarships in the following categories:

**Texas Ford Dealers Redfish
Division-** Texas Ford Dealers
continue to make this division
the "Best in Texas"! Our first
five redfish winners are taking
home a brand new 2017 **Ford
F-150 Texas Edition** truck to
tow their **Haynie 23 Bigfoot**, rigged with a **Mercury
ProXS OptiMax** sitting on a **Coastline** trailer. The
next five anglers will receive the same boat, motor,
and trailer package.



BEST IN TEXAS

Trout Division- Again
this year, upper, mid-
dle, and lower coast
region winners will
each drive home with
an awesome **Mowdy
22' V boat**, 150 HP
motor and **Coastline
trailer**. (Eight pound
minimum weight,
please release all fish
under 27")



*Trout Division Prize: Mowdy 22' V boat with
a 150 HP motor and Coastline trailer.*

Offshore Division-
**Hoffpauir Auto & Out-
door Store** is back again
providing anglers who
land the heaviest King-
fish, Dorado and Ling an
awesome **Polaris Ranger
Crew 570 EPS UV** in
Polaris Pursuit Camo
on top of a Big Tex 35sa
trailer to cruise around
in when you're back on
shore!



*Polaris Ranger Crew, the
STAR Offshore Division
first prize.*

**Inshore Divi-
sion-** Regis-
tered anglers
who turn in the
heaviest floun-
der, gafftop
and sheeps-
head will get
to drive off
into the sunset
pulling a new
**Shoalwater 19'
Cat boat** with a
115 HP motor,
all on top of a **McClain** trailer.



*Inshore Division - Shoalwater 19' Cat boat
with a 150 HP motor and McClain trailer*

In 27 years, STAR has awarded \$5,850,000 in college
scholarships to youth anglers, and 2017 continues to
offer kids a great reason to grab a rod and wet a line!

StarKid Division (ages 6-10, \$150,000 Total):
Flounder Division- \$50,000 scholarship for heaviest
flounder!!

Gafftop Division- \$50,000 scholarship for heaviest
gafftop!!

Sheepshead Division- \$50,000 scholarship for
heaviest sheepshead!!

StarTeen Division (ages 11-17, \$175,000 Total):

**Academy
Sports + Outdoors
Trout Division-** \$25,000
scholarship for heaviest
trout in upper, mid-
dle, and lower coast
divisions!! (Minimum
weight requirement of
six pounds for entry)

**Gafftop, flounder, and
sheepshead-** Anglers
with heaviest fish in
each category will re-
ceive a \$25,000 college
scholarship!!

THE PRIZES DON'T END THERE!

1st through 4th runners-up in all divisions
will receive various gift cards from our
longtime partner
**ACADEMY
SPORTS + OUT-
DOORS!!**
**Youth Member
Drawing-** All youth
STAR participants (age 6-17) are eligible



for a bonus drawing for a
\$25,000 college scholarship,
even without wetting a line!!

Member Bonus Drawing-
One lucky STAR entrant will
also take home a brand new
Dargel 210 Skout, 150 HP
motor, and McClain trailer
simply for registering!

STAR continues on page 6

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, Hoffpauir 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!!



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2011 "STAR Redfish" © David Drinkand



2012 "STAR Sighting" © David Drinkand



2013 "School is in Session" © David Drinkand



2016 "Good Morning Cedar Bayou" © Sam Caldwell



2014 "Working the Spoils" © David Drinkand



2015 "Split Screen" © David Drinkand



2016 "King Ranch Shoreline" © David Drinkand



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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*



Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR TEXAS MARINE HABITAT



Rio Grande Nearshore Reef from page 3

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

that would deploy 50 pyramids into the site in configured patterns for their research that would help establish best practices.

Reefing became reality in November of 2016. The "TIFT Tug" and "Max's Wreck" were both sunk in the new reefing site, and marine life was immediately drawn to the boats.

In late June 2017, the 50 pyramids that were part of some of the nation's finest academic research were deployed by Lil Mo Marine Services and Atlantis Marine Habitats. Soon after, on July 5, 2017 Lil Mo Marine Services began deploying the 67,000 cinder blocks and other concrete rubble that had been collected.

In the near future, TPWD's Nearshore reefing program will deploy several hundred pyramids into the site as part of their CMP grant secured in 2016.

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.

CCA Texas Social Happenings

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!



Facebook: facebook.com/CCATexas

Twitter: twitter.com/CCA_Texas

Instagram: instagram.com/cca_texas

YouTube: youtube.com/ccatexasprojects

CCA Texas blog: ccatexas.org/blog

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 staffers 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!

#ccatexas #saveourwaterBCT #joincca #conservation



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 continue to expect concentrations and keep your eyes peeled.

A five fish limit on speckled trout is my personal idea of conservation, and could enhance larger size fish in the Upper Coast region. Go fish, but remember to think safety and courtesy on the water. —Capt. Jim West (409) 996-3054 captjimwest@yahoo.com
www.bolivarguideservice.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. Wet wading the shoreline early in the mornings with top waters have been successful, and will only get better. If you can stand the heat later in the day, try moving out to the middle, and drift over scattered shell and deeper reefs. *Gulp* shrimp of all colors, under a popping cork, seem to be the ticket recently. If the wind happens to be whipping, don't be shy about staying close to the ditch in East Bay.

As we move into September, our focus shifts. Cooler weather is more wishful thinking than actual fact; deciding whether to grab the rod and reel or the shotgun can be tough, as we are greeted by another hunting season—the ultimate cast and blast month. Schooling redfish make their way down the shoreline and into the back lakes, while waves of teal come back home with the first full moon of the month. So, September is 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

Lower Coast

By Capt. Rene Hinojosa

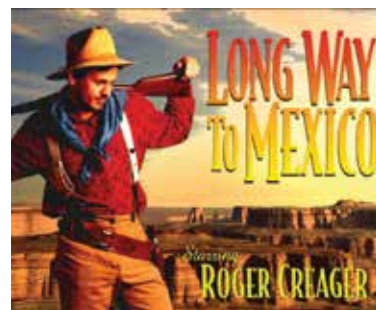
Schools are now in session!

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.

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. My 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 holed up in off-color water.

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 in pods, rolling on top. Don't get caught without some heavy gear!

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**

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Concert For
Conservation**

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tickets available at
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Caught Redhanded!

Reports from TP&W
Game Wardens

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 fisherman 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.



*Texas Game Wardens,
Serving Texans since 1895
Law Enforcement Off
the Pavement*



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



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
Second place: Sam Caldwell, "Dawn Ambush," Coastal
Conservation Association

CELEBRATING



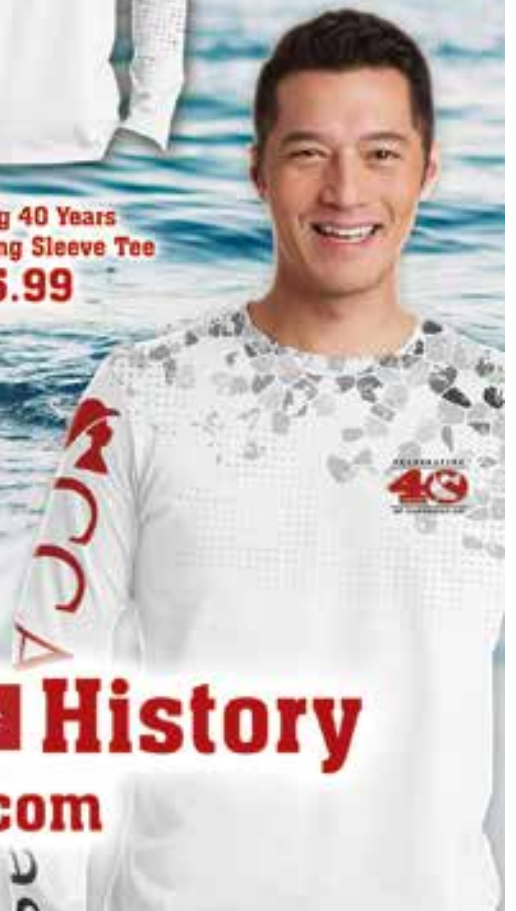
OF CONSERVATION



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Celebrating 40 Years
- Scales - Long Sleeve Tee
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Own a piece of CCA History
www.joinccastore.com

Partners in Conservation



TexasInsiderFishingReport.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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www.ccatexas.org

Editor, Sam Caldwell
sam@samcaldwell.com

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Chapter Updates

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

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.

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 Dingee 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 and winning the biggest redfish!** 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/CCATexasBrushCountry) to find out about upcoming events! – **Brenda Ballard**

Centex

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



On the way on the the Lil' Mo, and splash-down—material for the Rio Grande Near-shore Reef

Central Houston

Todd Buster 713-545-1897

Colorado Valley

Eugene Ulrich 979-249-7425

Corpus Christi

Jake Herring 361-244-0258

jakecherring@hotmail.com

Howdy, Partners in Conservation! It has been a great summer down here on the coastal bend of Texas. Some nice rains in the early part of the summer have kept our back bays in prime nursery condition for all the juvenile fish, shrimp and crabs that call our estuaries home. Speaking of young things...we are happy to announce that the Corpus Christi Chapter is once again bringing back our **Poco Rojo Kid Fish Tournament, which is hosted at the CCA Marine Development Center off of the Mother Lagoon in sparkling Flour Bluff, Texas**. A huge thanks to board members **Mike Henry and Dr. Robert Vega, along with Dr. Vega's Texas Parks & Wildlife Department staff** who make this event possible. Go ahead and mark your calendars for **Saturday September 9**, and be on the lookout for an e-blast from CCA Texas containing all the Poco Rojo event and

registration details.

Right on the tail of our **Poco Rojo event**, the Corpus Christi Chapter will be hosting our **Babes on Baffin All Ladies Fishing Tournament**. This event will be held on **October 6-7 at Marker 37 Marina**. Registration is currently open, so go ahead and get your teams together for this fun-filled event, held in the name of Coastal Conservation. **Check out the pictures on the Babes on Baffin Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ccatexasbabesonbaffin)** from past tournaments. Looks like a good time to me! This is not one to miss. **Registration details and sponsorship opportunities can be found online at www.babesonbaffin.org, or by calling Valerie Chilton, Tournament Director, at (361) 882-5199.**

Following Babes on Baffin, our chapter will be kicking it into high gear rolling out plans for our **40th Annual Corpus Christi Chapter Fundraising Banquet to be held on February 22, 2018 in Corpus Christi, Texas**. We are working very hard to make this banquet the biggest and best to date! Please plan to join us, as we will have some unique items, some surprise items and hopefully some vintage items and pictures from the early days of CCA Corpus Christi. **Thanks to our Banquet Chair Ms. Judy Arnold** for stepping up to help steer our chapter through our 40th banquet. We are looking for sponsors and donors to help us bring this banquet home – **If you feel called to sponsor or donate, please shoot us an email at CCA_Corpus@hotmail.com.**

If you have ever been a part of helping out the Corpus Christi Chapter, I would like to extend my personal thanks for helping us get to where we are today. You HAVE made a difference, and I tip my hat in your direction. Thank you! **Yours in Conservation – Jake Herring, (361) 244-0258, jakecherring@hotmail.com**

Dallas / North Texas

Bill Graswich 214-226-2118

wbgraswich11@gmail.com

Summer is upon us, but the heat has definitely not deterred us from being active, as the folks in our chapter have been busy! Four of our female anglers headed down to the coast in late May and fished in **18th Annual Babes on the Bay**. The ladies grinded out a full day of wade fishing and turned in a Top 35 stringer! That same weekend, one of our chapter's top sponsors, **Tailwaters Fly Fishing Co**, invited us to come out and celebrate their 10th year of business. At the event, we were able to share the great deeds of CCA and sign up a dozen new members.

The weekend of June 10 your Dallas board members headed down to the coast and fished in the **CCA Texas InterChapter Challenge (ICC) Tournament**. It was a spectacular event, and a great time was had

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**

East Texas

Brent Rogers 936-554-4866
brent.rogers@merck.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**



Fort Bend walked away as the overall ICC winner with a nice 20 lb. stringer. Congratulations, and good luck next year. Below, the Galveston boat.



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 6, when Bryan Treadway will get us in the mood for the fall flounder run. His topic is "The How & Tactics Approach to Catching Flounder." Bryan is an entertaining speaker with an unrivaled depth of knowledge about how to net beaucoup flounder. His talk is not just for beginners. Please join us in welcoming Bryan at

our September 6 meeting at 7:00 pm at Otto's Barbecue in The Fountains Shopping Center in Stafford.

Our upcoming events, details to follow as they develop, are: - First Wednesdays, starting September 6, 2017: General Meetings, Otto's Barbecue & Hamburgers 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**

Greater Sugar Land Chapter Banquet / - June 9, 2018 (tentative): Inter Chapter 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 on 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**

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**

Hays County

Tim Young 512-573-7939
hayscountycca@gmail.com

Heart of the Hills

Kelly Parks 210-669-3732
bucksdelucks@yahoo.com

Hill Country

Miles Engelke 210-260-8968

Houston Homebuilders
Mack Davis 832-381-6130

Houston Real Estate

Dale Couch
281-953-2510

Katy

Gary Mancini
281-850-2212

gman091753@aol.com

Laredo

Javier C. Villarreal 956-206-7953
jcvillarreal13@gmail.com

Lee County

Jake Horne 979-540-6117

Live Oak

T.J. Harkness 832-723-6723
tandmenenergy@gmail.com

Lower Colorado Stephen Zapalac
972-244-6633

stephen.zapalac@capitolfarmcredit.com

Mainland

Eric Minor 409-370-7379

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**;



The Matagorda Bays banquet was again sold out. Longtime supporters Mike Prasek Sr., Troy Prasek and Mike Prasek Jr. enjoy Mike Sr.'s win of an item at the Live Auction.

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 the members of our great 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**

MidCoast

Danny Goyen
361-564-7471

goyenfishing@yahoo.com
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 big thanks 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 the 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 Tigroff 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 remarked **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 contin-

ue 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/Liars 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



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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

ikochoer12@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

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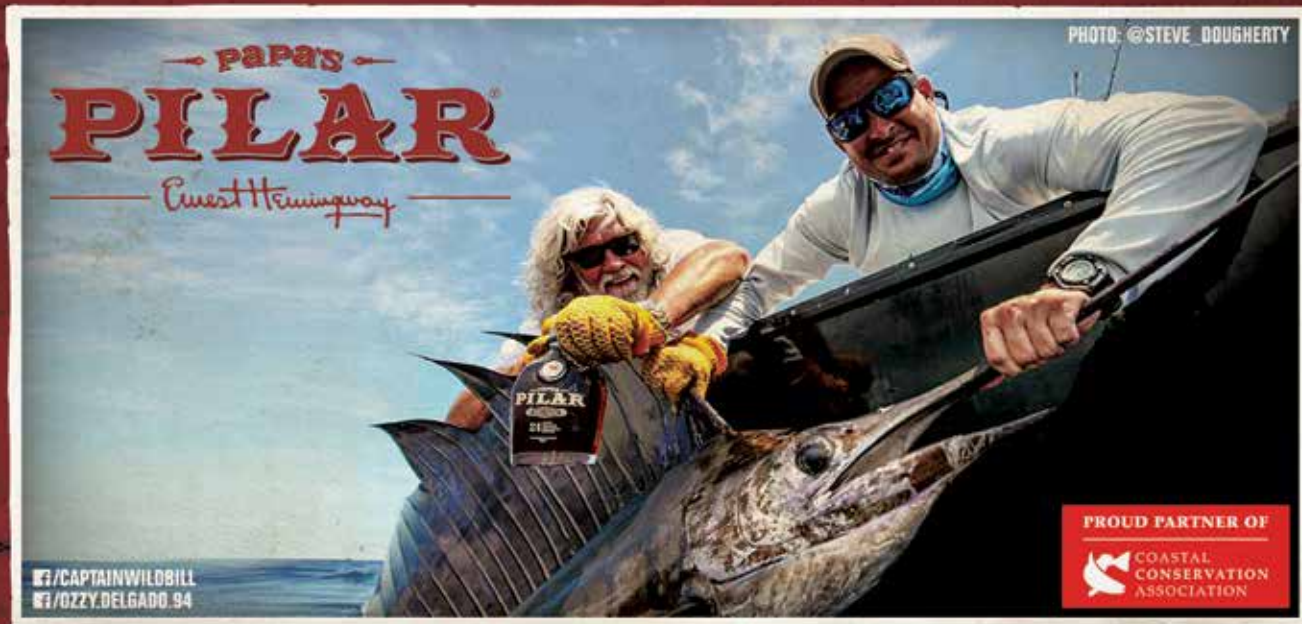
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the excitement of some fast wing shooting and the much-anticipated cool snap that will soon follow. Adding to all the excitement is the **2017 Trinity Bay Chapter Annual Banquet**. Don't wait – Mark your calendar for this premier event taking place 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**

Sincx 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**



The Polaris Ranger winner: John Doe. Ruben Delgadillo and Mac Delaup celebrated an auction win.

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**



Ranch Club, and was outstanding as usual! The weather cooperated, and we had close to 400 people in attendance. Countless helpings of crawfish and catfish were served, which resulted in no one going home hungry. **We want to thank all of our sponsors and those who continue to contribute to our West Houston Chapter year after year.**

This year we honored our very own Assistant Director **Matt Still** for leading the way to making 2017 so memorable. We were also able to recognize **Mac Delaup and John Eagle Honda** for their continuous donations to our chapter. I also want to thank our Junior Members and next generation of anglers for their hard work during our banquet – **Luke Delgadillo, Ethan and Alec Hernandez, and Isabella, James and Charlie Vaquero.**

We raffled off a Polaris Ranger this year, and John Doe was the lucky winner! On behalf of all of our West Houston Board Members, I thank you once again for your kind words of encouragement and support for our chapter. **Please look out for a General Membership Meeting coming soon!** I will keep you posted! – **Ruben Delgadillo**

West Texas
Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499



Great Foods Recipes sponsored by Costa Del Mar
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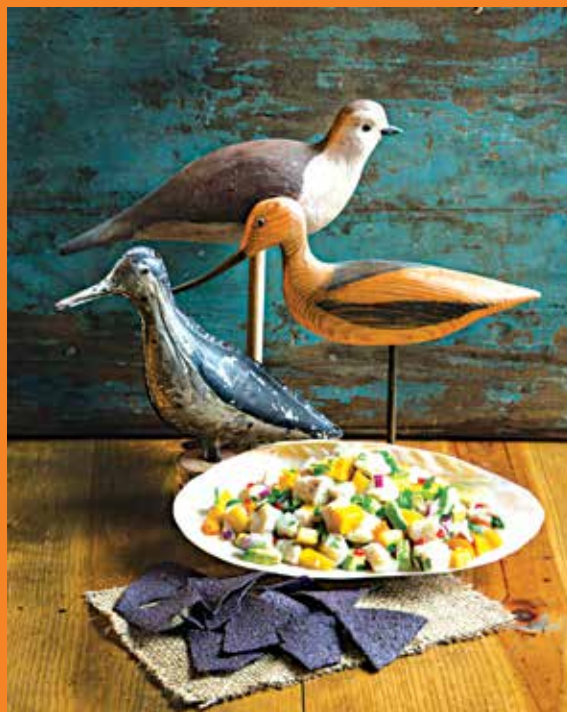
Serve this sparkling-fresh ceviche with organic blue tortilla chips for a pop of color and a satisfying crunch. Serves 6 to 8 as an appetizer.

- > 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. 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.

The Field to Table Cookbook garnered First Place, Book Division, in this year's Outdoor Writers of America Excellence in Craft Awards. Susan Ebert resides in the Houston area with her husband Shannon Tompkins, outdoor



writer for the Houston Chronicle. Susan is the former Publisher and Editor of Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine and currently is a freelance magazine writer, photographer and renowned outdoor cuisine chef. Visit her website at www.field2table.com.



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