Among the first Texas coastal citizen groups to take on a massive cleanup chore was the Corpus Christi CCA chapter. In 1996, the group enlisted help from other CCA chapters, as well as state and federal services. They succeeded in eliminating a great deal of dangerous debris from the IntraCoastal canal and area waterways. Troy Williamson, the CCA’s Corpus Christi chapter president, was featured on a national news program.

Not long afterward, Art Morris of the state’s Coastal Fisheries Division decided that, like the Corpus Christi cleanup, citizen help was needed. He said, “Derelict crab traps had become a serious problem in the bays. We knew that ‘ghost’ traps continue killing crabs and other species for years. They’re also a hazard for boats and boaters and wade fishermen, as well as harming the resource.”

Morris noted that there was no legislation in force that could allow anyone but wardens or the trap owners to remove the offending devices. “Enter Ronnie Luster,” said Morris. “Ronnie resented the hundreds of abandoned traps he encountered in Port O’Connor back bays. He got friends from CCA involved, and after some intense work in Austin, they achieved legislation to try and solve crab trap problems.

“Among other regulations CCA worked for,” he said, “traps are required to have degradable panels or connections that, after some six months, can allow trapped critters to escape. But most important, we now have a closure time frame that allows volunteers to locate and remove derelict traps.”

By definition, if a crab trap is in the water during the closure, it is legally abandoned and can be removed.

“This year,” Morris said, “the closure dates begin on February 15 and will run 10 days, through February 24. Our main event day will be on Saturday the 16th.”

The Coastal Fisheries Division chief said that the derelict trap removals have made a major difference in the health of Texas bays. “Other states have seen the Texas results, and added their own programs. So far, Texas is way out in front—through last year, some 29,500 traps, many of which would have continued killing blue and stone crabs, or wound up in your prop, or damaged your lower unit, have been picked up by CCA volunteers.”

Morris said, “All those crabs, and folks who appreciate the roles crabs play in the bays and on their tables, owe a debt of gratitude to Ronnie Luster and the CCA.”

—Art Morris

Ronnie Luster was named a National Conservation hero by Field & Stream magazine in 2006.
This year’s Abandoned Crab Trap Closure will begin on February 15 and run 10 days, through February 24.

Our main event day will be on Saturday the 16th. The site list has not been finalized at this time but will be similar to last year’s list with the glaring exception of Conn Brown Harbor in Aransas Pass which is undergoing renovation and will not be open to the public until sometime in March or April. That site will likely move to Ransom Channel Park Public Ramp (unattended site) also in Aransas Pass. Folks can contact their local coordinators as listed below or me for more information and assistance. Email crabtrap@tpwd.state.tx.us for any questions.

CCA is providing gloves for every volunteer and plenty of fresh water.

At least one CCA chapter, Port O’Connor, is continuing its tradition of providing a hot meal for volunteers after the San Antonio Bay trap dropoff.

Thanks again for the CCA’s involvement. We look forward to working with you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

— Art Morris

Fishery Outreach Specialist
Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.
Coastal Fisheries Division
6300 Ocean Drive Unit 5845
Corpus Christi, TX 78412-5845
(361) 825-3356
art.morris@tpwd.state.tx.us
Join the Tarpon Observation Network

Abandoned trap collection sites

SABINE LAKE – Local TPWD coordinator, Jerry Mambretti (409) 983-1104 (ext. 222)
GALVESTON BAY – Local TPWD coordinator Bill Balboa (281) 534-0110
MATAGORDA BAY – Local TPWD coordinator Leslie Hartman (361) 972-6253
SAN ANTONIO BAY – Local TPWD coordinator Norman Boyd (361) 983-4425
ARANSAS BAY – Local TPWD coordinator Chris Mace (361) 729-5429
CORPUS CHRISTI BAY – Local TPWD coordinator Tom Wagner (361) 729-2328
UPPER LAGUNA MADRE – Local TPWD coordinator Faye Grubbs (361) 825-3353
LOWER LAGUNA MADRE – Local TPWD coordinator Mark Lingo (956) 350-4490

Just a few of the derelict crab traps that will no longer ‘ghost’ kill, foul your prop and ruin your lower unit. More than 29,500 abandoned traps have been picked up to date by CCA volunteers.
Happy New Year, STAR Anglers! The 24th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament promises more excitement for 2013! Is this your year to claim your share of the $1,000,000 in prizes offered? Sharpen your hooks, your fishing skills and GET READY! Warmer weather will be here before we know it and fish populations for spring are anticipated to be at or near long-term highs. Get signed up now to make the Early Bird Drawing!

Starting sunrise Saturday, May 25 through 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 2 (Labor Day), anglers from all across the great Lone Star State can once again begin the summer-long quest to try and win one of many prize packages in the 2013 CCA Texas STAR Tournament, including truck/boat packages, boat packages and scholarships. As you start making plans and taking inventory of your fishing gear keep in mind our great partner, Academy Sports + Outdoors, will once again offer some bargain at prices before they're all gone!

We will again offer some great incentives for anglers to sign up before the tournament starts. Don't forget to sign up ahead of time and get your shot at landing one of the many great prize offerings just for registering early. Your early registration into the 2013 CCA Texas/Fishing Tournament qualifies you to win the perfect rig to get you to your favorite fishing spot in style. The Coors Light “Early Bird” promotion will again offer another awesome “grand prize” boat package! Your early registration into the 2013 CCA Texas/Fishing Tournament qualifies you to win the awesome Dargel 210 Skout with a motor and McClain trailer – a prize package valued at around $35,000! Everyone age 21 and over that signs up now through May 24 will automatically be entered into this special drawing, along with the 20 other great prizes being offered. Everyone age 20 and under that signs up now through May 24 will automatically be entered for the 20 other great “Early Bird” prizes.

This special offer includes your CCA membership (new or renewal), your 2013 CCA Texas STAR entry, plus a signed, limited-edition print created exclusively for STAR, all for $125! School Is In Session is one of a-kind special painting, worth this price alone. If you would like to consider one, or several, of these limited-edition packages, go to: startournament.org for more details or place your order the STAR Dept. by calling (713) 626-4222. The proceeds from the sale of all Platinum Packages will help us continue to fund the STAR scholarships. Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament!

You’ve got to be in to win! Time to get spooled up and ready for another great season of fishing fun! A friendly reminder to all anglers who plan to fish the Texas Gulf Coast during this time… in order to win one of a $1,000,000 in prizes being offered in Texas’ largest, richest, summer-long saltwater fishing event, an angler must be a CURRENT member of CCA, in addition to being registered as a 2013 Texas STAR entrant. The STAR tournament entry fee is still an awesome bargain at only $20 for ages 18 and up! Membership fee is $25 annually, plus $20 STAR Tournament for a total of $45. In order to win at STAR, an angler must be registered and be a current member of CCA. You know you’ll go so might as well do it now! Remember, everyone entered in the STAR Tournament, who will be 21 and older in 2013 and older, is eligible to win the prizes being offered (even the TAGGED REDFISH DIVISION)!!! Get everyone signed up for the 2013 STAR. Be sure and enter now to take advantage of some great early bird incentives… see details below.

Price of a $10 CCA “New Tide” Membership. We thank our generous sponsors for making it possible for us to offer young anglers this great opportunity. Keep in mind, signing up as a “New Tide” membership does NOT automatically register member in STAR. “New Tide” Members MUST BE at least 6 years of age in 2012 to be eligible to fish STAR and under age 18 to enter for FREE. It is the “New Tide” Member’s responsibility to register each year for STAR.

2013 Early Bird Drawings - We will again offer some great incentives for anglers to sign up before the tournament starts. Don’t forget to sign up ahead of time and get your shot at landing one of the many great prize offerings just for registering early. Your early registration into the 2013 CCA Texas/Fishing Tournament qualifies you to win the perfect rig to get you to your favorite fishing spot in style. The Coors Light “Early Bird” promotion will again offer another awesome “grand prize” boat package! Your early registration into the 2013 CCA Texas/Fishing Tournament qualifies you to win the awesome Dargel 210 Skout with a motor and McClain trailer – a prize package valued at around $35,000! Everyone age 21 and over that signs up now through May 24 will automatically be entered into this special drawing, along with the 20 other great prizes being offered. Everyone age 20 and under that signs up now through May 24 will automatically be entered for the 20 other great “Early Bird” prizes.

Early Bird STAR entrants can win this Dargel 210 Skout with a motor and McClain trailer.
2013 STAR Early Bird Drawing Deadline to enter is May 24th.  

*** GRAND PRIZE ***

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

***20 MORE GREAT PRIZES***

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

Don’t miss “the boat” or “the truck and boat”… register today! You can sign up NOW online at www.caetexas.org or www.startournament.org!!!

CCA TEXAS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS - Our most generous sponsor offerings still continue to add more value to your CCA Texas Membership.  Be sure and remember to take advantage of the following wonderful benefits your CCA membership affords you!

- Ford X-Plan Pricing (see details below)
- $10 gift card courtesy of Academy Sports and Outdoors (see details below)
- Texas Fish & Game Magazine subscription (see details below)
- $1000 worth of free upgrades with your purchase of a new Tilson home (see ad on page 23)

FORD X-PLAN PRICING - CCA Texas members have been remarkably honored by the Texas Ford Dealers.  They approved X-Plan pricing for us; that is, every current member can buy (or lease) any Ford product at the same price Ford employees must pay.  This means we can save up to $1,000 or much more, just by having a valid $25 CCA membership card!!! Our Ford Partner Code # is CCA 61; go to www.fordpartner.com, if you are considering a purchase.  And please share your gratitude with the dealers for helping to make this great offer possible for CCA Texas members.

SIGN-UP EARLY AND RECEIVE A SPECIAL BONUS FROM ACADEMY SPORTS & OUTDOORS - One more great reason to sign up!  Academy Sports + Outdoors will mail a $10 gift coupon in May just in time for fishing season!  This is a limited time offer, so do it before it’s too late!!!  Special thanks to Academy Sports + Outdoors for continuing to make your CCA membership and STAR entry such an awesome value!

TEXAS FISH & GAME “BONUS” SUBSCRIPTION!!! Texas Fish & Game will again honor this year’s STAR entrants with a ONE-YEAR (12 issues) subscription to Texas Fish & Game Magazine.  Please be advised your subscription WILL NOT be sent automatically.  If you wish to take advantage of this special bonus you must declare on your application form.  If you have already signed up for the 2013 STAR, but did not declare that you would like this special offer and/or have questions regarding your past or current subscription, please call (800) 725-1134 or email hgerke@fishgame.com.

2013 PRIZE LINE-UP - This year’s contestants have a chance at winning over 100 prizes including trucks, boats, motors, trailers and college scholarships in the following categories:

Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division - Texas Ford Dealers continue to make this division the “Best in Texas”!  They will again give each of the first five registered STAR participants who catch tagged redfish a brand new truck to get to their fishing destination in a tough, dependable and stylish ride.  The first five registered anglers to weigh-in a tagged red will receive a 2013 Ford F-150 “Texas Edition” truck.  Haynie Boats returns with the awesome Haynie 23 Bigfoot rigged with a motor and Coastline Trailer completing this amazing package.  The next five weighed in will receive the same boat, motor and trailer packages.

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

Trot Division - With winners in the upper, middle and lower coast regions, each winning angler will take home the Shoalwater 22’ Legend with motor and McClain trailer.  SPECIAL NOTE: If you’re unsure a trout is large enough to qualify, consider this “easy rule-of-thumb” - if length is less than 27 inches, chances are it won’t meet the eight pound minimum weight requirement for the Trout Division.  Unless you intend to mount your fish as a personal best, why not think about releasing anything that might not make the cut so she can re-seed the bays.

Offshore Division - Blue water anglers who land the heaviest kingfish, dorado and ling (cobia) will each win the awesome Explorer by Dargel 216 Blue Water Series boat prize to cruise the big waters along with motor and McClain trailer.

Inshore Division - Each winner that reels in the largest flounder, gafftop and sheepshead will be handsomely rewarded with Blue Wave’s 180 V Bay boat, motor and McClain trailer.

In the past fifteen years, $4,635,000 in college scholarships has been awarded to fisher-kids across the state.  And 2013 continues to offer plenty of reason for everyone to round up their kid(s), a rod and reel and head for the water.

Capital Farm Credit Starkid Sheepshead Division - This division gives entrants age 6-10 a chance to win a $50,000 college scholarship for the largest sheepshead caught throughout the summer.

FS Southwest StarKid Gafftop Division - This division gives entrants age 6-10 a chance to win a $50,000 college scholarship for the largest gafftop caught throughout the summer.


STAR has reached $4,635,000 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.
The 18th annual Big Shell Beach Cleanup is set for Saturday, February 25.

This event can't happen without the help of our volunteers, and your help is needed again. Volunteers will meet at Malaquite Pavilion on PINS and the event will commence at 7 a.m. Gloves, water provided, gourmet hot dogs afterward from CCA Corpus Christi. See you there!
— Capt. Billy Sandifer

For complete details, drop by the website: http://www.billysandifer.com/cleanup.htm

Capt. Billy Sandifer was named a National Conservation hero by Field & Stream magazine in 2010.

Just when you thought all the gill nets were out of the water...

On Dec 6-7, Galveston County Game Wardens Bobby Kana and Adam Clark patrolled a piece of the ICW in Bolivar, looking for a reported gill net. The wardens used the guise of wade fishermen. A net was found, and both wardens set up in nearby brush waiting for the poacher to come back and run his net.

Throughout the night, the wardens could hear the splashing of flounder caught in the net. Around 4:30 am, using night vision provided by CCA, the wardens observed an individual returning to the area on a four-wheeler.

Wardens Kana and Clark waited for the subject to load the net full of flounder on his ATV before coming out of the brush and identifying themselves as Texas State Game Wardens.

In total there were 30 flounder and one oversized black drum in the approximately 150’ net. The subject was arrested and transported to the Galveston County Jail and booked under a class B misdemeanor charge (possession of illegal gill net). Civil Restitution and other class C charges were filed as well. This individual was a long time gillnetter who would sell his illegally caught flounder and other fish. The word of the netter being caught spread rapidly in Bolivar and among other known outlaws/netters, hopefully curtailing their illegal activity for at least some time. — William F. Skeen

Major Game Warden / TPWD Law Enforcement Division Region IV / Houston, Texas

“Texas Game Wardens serving Texans since 1895 - Law Enforcement off the pavement.”

For 17 years, hundreds of Americans of all ages have joined CCA volunteers to help Capt. Billy Sandifer leave the Padre Island beach better than they found it. Below- Corpus Christi chapter volunteers provide cover and hot food after the Cleanup. Sam Caldwell photos.

In mid-November, Game Wardens Bobby Kana and Adam Clark also seized these gillnets and flounder off the east end of Galveston. The nets totaled 1,800 feet.
Welcome to the CCA Texas Online Auction

Sponsored By Costa Del Mar

We have some great merchandise up for grabs this month!

Texas Slam Map by Steve Whitlock
A great print that depicts the Texas Slam across a map of the Texas Coastline. Trout, redfish, flounder with all your favorite bays and fishing spots shown. Limited edition, framed print, 109/500. Straight out of the CCA Texas inventory, yours today for supporting the fish and CCA Texas.

A Day to Remember by David Drinkard
Two anglers wading and working topwaters for big trout. Number 7/60 issued to CCA Texas. Yours with the right price, and always know when you support CCA Texas you are supporting the fish and the future of fishing.

Coming up will be a variety of unique art packages, as well as new merchandise never seen before. Look great and support the CCA this hunting season.

Available online from Feb. 11-15.
To bid and win, go to ccatexas.org and click on the link (left hand side) online auction. Good luck! —Erich Schneider

Sponsored by our friends at Costa.

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Great Foods / Food Editor Ellen Ohmstede

Seafood Lovers Seafood Gumbo

This recipe is courtesy of Steve Edwards and the Seafood Lover in Beaumont. It’s a fantastic seafood shop that offers a variety of beautiful fresh seafood and some outstanding prepared items as well. Thanks for sharing, Seafood Lover. If you are in the Golden Triangle area, check them out. Address, 4389 Calder, 77706 or give them a call: 409-892-1093.

1 ½ lbs. medium shrimp, peeled / 1 lb. redfish or other mild fish fillet (cut into 1 inch pieces) or 1 lb. claw crabmeat / 4 tablespoons vegetable oil / 4 tablespoons flour / 1 onion, chopped / 1 bell pepper, chopped / 2 cloves garlic, chopped / 1 cup celery, chopped / 2 bay leaves / ½ Teaspoon thyme leaves / 1 ½ teaspoons salt / 2 teaspoons black pepper / 2 quarts seafood stock, heated (can substitute clam juice or chicken stock)

In a heavy pan, heat oil and add flour gradually over medium-high heat. Stir frequently until dark brown. Add vegetables and cook until soft. Add heated seafood stock, bay leaves, thyme, salt and pepper. Simmer for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add seafood and bring to a boil and remove from heat. Serve over rice. Enjoy. Note: Adjust seasoning to taste.
CCA 4th Annual Redfish Shootout

Clay birds and shotgun hulls were flying at the handsome Rio Brazos Hunting Preserve, November 30.

This year’s event featured 18 teams with 4 shooters per team on a 75 target course at Rio Brazos Hunting Preserve in Simonton, Texas.

Rio Brazos is a great venue that offers a challenging course with great scenery. The Redfish Shoot Out would not be the same without their support and expertise in shooting events.

CCA Texas and Academy Sports and Outdoors sponsored an amazing raffle after the shoot. Goode BBQ catered one of the best burger lunches you could have asked for. We had multiple winners of great prizes including CCA Texas fishing rods, hunting packages and some great art pieces donated by Sam Caldwell and Les McDonald.

CCA Texas would like to thank everyone that helped made this a great event. Make sure you get into the 2013 event because the shoot is getting bigger every year.

We had multiple people tied for the lead at the event, and did not get the final names of the winning team, shown below. We’ll get that corrected on the CCA website, and in the next Currents.

—Eric Schneider

For information on Rio Brazos Hunting Preserve: Kathy Wheately, 281-346-2095 / Sporting Clays contact: Connie Parker, 713-854-5876 email: connie@shootpromotions.com

And the winners are—to be announced after we hear from them.

The Fifth Annual Port Mansfield EAST CUT & Beach Cleanup is set for Saturday, March 16

Last year was a tremendous success, thanks in large part to all the CCA members who cleaned a huge area of the Mansfield East Cut and PINS beach. Join us again for lots of fun and a collector T shirt. Start at 7 am, the Port Mansfield CC Pavilion where breakfast will be served. A free box lunch will also be provided. Afterwards, enjoy drinks and chili at PELICAN’S PUB. We could use some boat captains willing to provide ferry service. Free housing will be provided by our generous sponsors on an availability basis with priority given to youth groups of any kind.

—Miller and Kathy Bassler, 979-535-4593, or cell phones 979-204-5185 or 979-324-5555. For photos from last year’s event, go to the YouTube site below. Music included by Craig Carter! Type this url into your browser: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TX1321HA8vl
CCA Texas partners with Harte Research Institute to expand Lap Reef restoration project

CCA Texas recently partnered with the Harte Research Institute (HRI) to expand an existing 3.8 acre restoration site in Copano Bay. This approximately 1.5 acre addition to the project is located in Copano Bay on the Lap Reef complex. HRI’s previous work on this restoration project was through a partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). With the completion of this additional work funded by CCA Texas’ Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT) program, the total restoration effort will sit at 5.3 acres. This $75,000 commitment by HTFT is made possible by CCA National’s Building Conservation Fund.

The highlight of this restoration effort is the construction method used. A 3-dimensional reef complex with high vertical relief to enhance oyster and finfish abundance will be used, and will minimize sedimentation by design. These complex reef structures provide habitat for many fish and invertebrate species and in this project, the 3-dimensional reef will be constructed as a series of reef mounds.

This method of construction was used on the original 3.8 acre restoration effort and increased fish and invertebrate abundances have been observed through follow-up monitoring. The project location was identified as part of a larger mapping effort (Pollack et al., 2012) to identify and prioritize locations for oyster reef restoration based on long-term water quality and oyster health.

In addition, pre-construction monitoring has been conducted to verify the location has suitable bottom conditions to support the weight of new oyster reef and it is adjacent to existing live reef.

The actual construction of the reef will be through the use of recycled, clean crushed concrete or other suitable base materials such as limestone, river rock or porcelain. After the base has been created, reclaimed oyster shells will be used for the top layer. These reclaimed shells will come from a stockpile that is part of the Oyster Shell Recycling program created by Pollack/TAMUCC/HRI. These reclaimed shells are secured from area restaurants and processing houses.

With funds in place and amendments for expansion to the original permits in process, CCA Texas looks forward to seeing the completion of this project in the very near future.

CCA Texas, HTFT and CCA National’s Building Conservation Program fully understand the importance of the restoration of oyster reef systems throughout Texas’ coastal waters and they are committed to this effort and others along the coast. —John Blaha
Upper Coast
By Capt. Steve Hillman

Half Empty Stringer?

If catching large quantities of trout is what gets you fired up then February and March may not be two of your favorite months. Everyone enjoys a consistent bite whether choosing to release fish or keeping a few to eat. However, the word “consistent” is seldom used in the same sentence with these months when referring to catching speckled trout in Galveston Bay.

Wait! Don’t hang up that rod just yet. Besides, the consolation prize could be a big trout. This is one of the best times of the year for it. Here are a few guidelines on how to get the most out of your late winter fishing trip.

Fish during the afternoon hours. This is often the most aggressive feeding period. Water temperatures rise over the course of the day causing bait and, subsequently, trout and redfish to become more active. Some of our best action has actually been after sunset. An added bonus to fishing late is that there is far less boat traffic.

Shrink your fishing area. Try to spend more time casting into high percentage water. Cast in and near guts lined with mud and shell where mullet are present as opposed to blind casting over open flats. Focus on off-colored water created by wind or current. Stay put once you start getting bit. Persistence is a must.

Stay in the strike zone. Cold water-induced low metabolism results in trout not expending as much energy to hunt for food. Slow sinking plugs such as MirrOlure’s Paul Brown Originals or MirrOdines are effective baits for this situation. Salt Water Assassins rigged on 1/16 ounce jig heads are solid offerings as well and present a similar suspending effect. Good colors include pink, chartreuse and plum.

By eliminating unproductive water and staying focused you can make the most out of what is generally a slow time of year. Try to keep a positive mindset by not viewing the stringer as half empty. After all, most of us fish for the enjoyment of the sport not because we’re hungry. Good Luck! —Captain Steve Hillman 409-256-7937
www.hillmanguideservice.com

Middle Coast
By Capt. Jay Watkins

Kick Off Time!

Fishing in the Rockport area in February and March is usually kick off time for many anglers. Temperatures can warm quickly after fronts and warming water temperatures bring multiple positive factors to our fishing plate. Grass begins to grow; bait fish begin to migrate from deeper water or Gulf water onto shallow shorelines and grass flats. Waters on my home turf are clear which afford us the luxury of being able to see our bottom structure. Structure and bait fish around such structure are keys to success.

During periods of extreme cold I will concentrate my efforts in back bays over scattered shell and softer bottom. St. Charles Bay is a favorite of mine as well as Port Bay’s west shoreline. Softer muddy bottom in these areas hold mullet and warmer water temperatures. I’ll be throwing Bass Assassins in the 5” Shad series, Paul Brown’s, Corky and Minnowlure Top waters over the shallow water flats and along the barrier islands of San Jose and Matagorda Island.

With more rain this winter than 2012, I expect to see more growth in the sea grass department as well as a sweetening of our bays, which I personally believe makes for more productive days on the water and the better over-all health of our bay systems.

May Your Fishing Always Be Catching.
—Capt. Jay Watkins 361-729-9596
http://www.jaywatkins.com

Lower Coast
By Capt. Aubrey Black

Baffin Bay Spring Outlook

The burning ember that drives those who seek true trophy size trout is much stronger than the biting chill of a South Texas winter. This is the time of year when dreams of that once-in-a lifetime catch can become a reality. Baffin Bay is where it can happen.

Start your search along Baffin’s north shoreline in areas semi-protected from north winds, such as the Tide Gauge Bar or East Kleberg Point. Work the areas over with dark colored plastics rigged on the lightest possible jigheads. Saltwater Assassin makes a very effective lure often used this time of year called a Die Dapper. It’s a big bodied seven-inch long paddletail lure which can be bounced slowly around the rock formations and drop-offs.

As the days begin to warm the water, seek out the sand bars and shallows of Alazan Bay where many of Baffin’s huge trout have been caught. Small natural color paddletails such as Saltwater Assassins Sea Shad can be used to cover these areas quickly. Make long casts and swim these baits along drop-offs, edges and grasslines.

Once you’ve located an area where the big trout reside, probe the waters slowly and steadily with suspending lures like Paul Brown’s Corky Fat Boy. A super slow walk-the-dog type of retrieve is very effective on large trout and the occasional redfish.

Don’t forget to layer up underneath those waders. The frequent cold fronts this time of year can make for a miserable day on the water. Y’all be safe and I’ll see ya on the water.
—Capt. Aubrey Black 361-205-0624
www.baffinbayrodandgun.com

Kathie’s Personal Best / CPR, sent back for further duty in the Lower Laguna Madre / Caldwell photo

Sunrise On A Great Fishing Day. “My Dad and I were fishing in Port Mansfield as the sun was just starting to light the sky.” Great Scenic Photo by John Blaha.

—Capt. Jay Watkins 361-729-9596
http://www.jaywatkins.com

Kathie’s Personal Best / CPR, sent back for further duty in the Lower Laguna Madre / Caldwell photo
Carter Crigler 435-830-5984
jcrigler@hotmail.com

Happy New Year. First of all, I would like to thank all the members and volunteers who helped make 2012 a great year. Members of the Aransas Bay Chapter have high hopes for the opening of Cedar Bayou in 2013 and are hopeful that we are just months from the start of dredging, a project that can be enjoyed by all.

As in the past we are planning to support the Crab Trap Cleanup, area kids fishing events and beach cleanup efforts.

By the time you read this registration for Babes on the Bay will have been in progress for a full month. As stated in the previous issue, starting with the 2013 Babes on the Bay tournament, online registration will be used exclusively to sign up for the tournament. Please visit the site (www.babesonthebay.com) and review the registration process to determine if you have any questions. The last day for regular registration is 4/15/2013. All registrations received after this date will pay a late registration fee of $90. If you have questions contact Kari Scardino at 361-386-0028.

Mark your calendars: May 17-18, 2013: Babes on the Bay / August 10, 2013: Aransas Bay Chapter Banquet

Tight lines — Carter

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

FIRST, we congratulate our very own long-time Board Member, Capt. Stephen Boriskie on his new employment with Bay Flats Lodge. The owners of the lodge, Chris Martin and his wife Debbie, are longtime supporters of the Austin Chapter as well as other chapters, all over the state. Tight Lines and Best Fishes to Capt. Stephen Boriskie!

Fresh off a record fundraising year in 2012, Austin is in full swing preparing for an even better 2013. The pinnacle will be our banquet May 9.

With our chapter members and sponsors unbelievable support, we’ve grown to the point that we’ll take over the entire Palmer Events Center that night. That’s 75,000 sqf of boats, 4WDs, fine guns, cool fishing gear, trips, a live auction and that night. That’s 75,000 sqf of boats, 4WDs, fine guns, cool fishing gear, trips, a live auction and that night. That’s 75,000 sqf of boats, 4WDs, fine guns, cool fishing gear, trips, a live auction and that night.

And the best part is, you’ll get to share it all with your fellow CCA Members. If you haven’t been to the Austin banquet you’re missing out, so plan to join us. There’s nothing like it! SAVE THE DATE May 9. For ticket, table and sponsorship information go to www.ccaustin.org.

Our banquet boat is in port and she’s another beauty. This year we have a 21’ Shallow Sport in Laguna Green, complete with a 150 E Tec, iCommand system, raised console and much more, all sitting on a double axle Coastline Trailer. She’ll be moored in front of Cabela’s until the banquet so go have a look in person.

Raffle tickets are only $100 and this year it’s easier than ever to get yours. You can buy online at www.ccaustin.org, pick up an order form at the Cabela’s fishing counter, or contact our Boat Captain Blake Masters at blakeatc@gmail.com.

Tickets sold out well before the banquet last year, and only 600 will be sold so buy early and don’t miss out. If you buy before March 31st you’ll be entered in an early bird drawing for a special prize.

Anglers’ Night Out in November was a home run with Capt Kevin Cochran, and Dr Greg Stunz was up next in January. You won’t want to miss GLO Commissioner Jerry Patterson who will join us on March 20. Join us for ANO at Abel’s-it’s fun, free and you’ll get a great meal courtesy of Smokey Denmark!

Friend us on Facebook by searching Coastal Conservation Association Austin Chapter or go to www.ccaustin.org to keep up. If you aren’t receiving Austin communications, call the CCA Texas office at 713-626-4222 and ask them to put you on the Austin mailing list.

Best wishes for a wonderful 2013 — Scott Sanderson scott@mbsquoteline.com

Bay Area
Curtis Anderson 832-421-6377

Mark your calendars! Our banquet is scheduled for April 4, 2013. If you would like to help us plan and/or work the banquet, contact Curtis Anderson at 832-435-0257 or cla1965@att.net or Kent Lacy at 832-632-2045 or klmacp@comcast.net. See you there. “

Wes Dingee

Brazoria County
Wes Dingee 979-299-8245

It’s that time of the year again! Brazoria Chapter will be holding their 31st Annual Banquet on Thursday, March 21 - located at the Lake Jackson Civic Center. We are holding a pre-sale raffle this year consisting of 10 guns and 10 Yeti coolers. Included in the 10 guns is an AR-15 .223!! That’s right; y’all know how hard it is to find an AR-15 these days, so purchase your raffle tickets while you still can in hopes of winning that AR!

I would like to give special thanks to our raffle sponsor, our good friends at Beef ‘O’ Brady’s. Swing by Rossco’s Outdoors to pick up your raffle tickets. They are located at 445 E. Plantation Drive in Clute.

We will be hosting a General Membership Meeting in the upcoming month, so keep your eye on our webpage for info: www.ccatexas.org – under the chapters tab, click Brazoria County. Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information on sponsoring the banquet. This gives you a great opportunity to highlight your business in front of a great audience, all for a great cause! — Wes Dingee

Brazos Valley
Larry Purifoy 979-229-4752

Howdy! Cooler weather and lots of rain haven’t dampened our spirits as we start to plan this
GEAR UP FOR FISHING

Selection and prices vary by store.

**14.99**
**EVERYDAY!**
CCA Game Lip Grabber
Style CCA-15A
- Designed for single-hand operation
- Stainless steel construction lipped with heavy-duty spring action

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- Includes four utility boxes
- Water-resistant 600D poly construction

**BAIT AND TACKLE**
Also Available: Live Worms and Assorted Frozen Baits

**4.99 each**
**EVERYDAY!**
H2O Xpress Hover Shads

**4.99 each**
**EVERYDAY!**
H2O Xpress Top Notch Topwater Baits

**7.99 each**
**EVERYDAY!**
Paul Brown’s Originals or Fat Boys
CCA and Academy Sports + Outdoors
CCA makes marine conservation a reality. In addition to relentless efforts to educate the public, CCA also partners with organizations like Academy Sports + Outdoors to promote and enhance the present and future availability of coastal resources.

Academy
SPORTS+OUTDOORS
RIGHT STUFF. LOW PRICE. EVERYDAY!

Prices good through March 31, 2013

169.99
EVERYDAY!
Waterloo Rod Series
Style
• Carbon graphite blank
• Fuji® reel seat
• Alps/316 stainless steel guides, plus tip.

99.99
EVERYDAY!
CCA Low-Profile Baitcast Reel
Style CCA-68871
• Gear ratio: 7:1:1
• Six bearing system
• Line capacity (yds/lbs.): 120/12
• Weight: 7.6 oz.

shop academy.com | stay connected
year’s banquet. Lots of new ideas and designs have been set forth as we forge ahead with the planning for our banquet to be held on March 7, 2013 at the Brazos Center. We will have barbeque dinner, great raffle items as usual, auctions and games, and hope to get “a girl or two” to attend to win our diamond necklace. Last year the gentleman that won was very excited to present the diamond bracelet he had won to his wife...another incentive to attend this year!

As always, we will include anyone who is interested in fishing or would like to help out a worthy cause. Our chapter meets each second Tuesday of the month. Information can be obtained by calling Scott at 979-820-3101 or Larry at 979-229-4752. Happy fishing and Gig ‘Em!

—Tammy Aaron  
Secretary

Brenham
Dennis Crowson  
979-451-2472
Dennis.crowson@hotmail.com

Brush Country
Hank Henry  
361-215-6803

Centex
Brad Hensel  
254-776-3411

Central Houston
Todd Buster Mobil,  
713-545-1897
The 37th Annual Central Houston Banquet will be held on April 18, 2013. It will be held at the Bayou City Event Center, a great centrally-located facility. For the first time in a long time the Central Houston Chapter will have a boat raffle in connection with its annual banquet. Be on the lookout for raffle ticket information. In addition to the boat, we will have several other great prizes. If you are interested in purchasing a table for the banquet, please contact Todd Buster at tbuster@bustandcogdellbuilders.com. Tight Lines! —Todd Buster

Colorado Valley
James Loehr 979-250-3958
The Colorado Valley Chapter is in high gear preparing for our 13th Annual Banquet and Fundraiser. We have an enthusiastic banquet committee and chapter board this year and they are working hard to bring in some great donations and items for this year. So, save the date, Thursday March 21st at the KC Hall in La Grange. You won’t want to miss this year’s banquet.

Our Sportsman’s Raffle tickets are available and we have some quality prizes this year. We had a General Membership Meeting on January 23rd. Fayette County Game Warden Calvin Harbaugh came out and gave our chapter a fantastic and informative presentation.

He was followed by Capt. Tommy Alexander of Alexander Guide Service. Capt. Alexander gave an equally informative and entertaining presentation. We had a good turnout and gave away several door prizes and some raffles prizes as well.

Thanks to longtime chapter friend and supporter Bennie Rooks for providing the delicious chili and all the fixings. Check us out on the CCA website or contact me at 979-250-3958 for more information. —James Loehr

Corpus Christi
Andy Poelma 361-851-1129
r_poelmacpa@sbcglobal.net
Happy New Year! We hope 2013 brings you prosperity and a lot of time on the water.

We’re now in banquet mode as this article is being published. The 35th Annual Dinner Banquet is scheduled for March 7, 2013 at the American Bank Convention Center. The banquet will start at 5:30 pm with cocktail hour and then on to the raffles and auctions. Our Banquet Chairman is Blake Laird and his supporting committee members are: David Harris - Live Auction, Lauren Hollon - Silent Auction Chairman, Mark Azrak – Red/Blue Raffle Chairman, Barrett Fines - Blackboard Auction Chairman, Joseph Briones - Boat Chairman, Cody Roesener - Guides Cup Chairman, Cliff Johnstone - Facilities Chairman, Blake Laird - Table Sales Chairman, Jay Gardner - Advertising & Banquet Program Chairman.

Gold Sponsors for this year’s event are L & F Distributing (John Deere 4x4 UV), Andrews Distributing (21’ Shallow Sport w/150 Evinrude and McClain Trailer), Corpus Christi Caller Times (advertising in paper and online). Silver sponsors for this year’s event are Academy Sports & Outdoors and Gulf Coast Marine.

Our chapter volunteers are displaying the boat and selling tickets weekly at Academy Sports & Outdoors in Corpus Christi on Thursdays thru Sundays until the banquet on March 7th.

Tickets are $10 ea. or 6 for $50. You need not be present to win and the winner is responsible for all taxes, titles, and registration fees. The raffle drawing will take place at the Banquet on March 7th. Coming off a record setting year in 2012, the chapter is hard at work to break that record in 2013.

Record attendance and funds raised were vital to many conservation projects in 2012. CCA Texas spent $1,767,114 in 2012 and $1,345,714 in 2011. These funds are vital to many conservation projects in 2012.

Hello All. Our Ft. Bend committee members have been on the ball this year making plans and coming up with some great ideas for our 27th annual banquet. For this year’s Grand Prize, we are maintaining the cap on the tickets at 600 tickets. You will have a chance for a 16’ Tran Baby Cat w/90 HP Suzuki from Tran Sport Boats in

Dallas / North Texas
Craig Jones 817-239-6200
I hope everybody had a great holiday season and is off to a great start in the new year. We are ready to start planning for the upcoming banquet on April 18th at the Frontiers of Flight Museum. Make sure to save the date! Also, please be on the lookout for chapter events that we will hold in the coming months. Make sure you are receiving correspondence from us - We need updated email and address info. Check out the Facebook page at dallasca - and submit your fishing pictures, both old and new!

We had a booth in January at the Dallas Safari Club show, and it was a great success. A Big thanks to DSC for providing the booth to a fellow conservation organization. We picked up some great hunting and fishing trips at the show and signed new members. It’s a great time to be a part of CCA! Contact us at - president@dallascca.org Regards —Craig Jones

East Texas
Dr. Jim Norman 936-534-3165
jnorman7@suddenlink.net

Fort Bend
Clint Shepard 832-595-5375
Hello All. Our Ft. Bend committee members have been on the ball this year making plans and coming up with some great ideas for our 27th annual banquet. For this year’s Grand Prize, we are maintaining the cap on the tickets at 600 tickets. You will have a chance for a 16’ Tran Baby Cat w/90 HP Suzuki from Tran Sport Boats in

Mothers Day Out. Great Scenic/Action/Humor photo. The fisherlady is Robin Hensley. She writes, “My husband Chad is a Director in the Matagorda Bays Chapter. He is a huge fisherman, and has taught me the love of fishing and will shortly be teaching our daughter, Sadie, the love of fishing. Photographer, Alicia Stary.
Palacios, Texas, with custom aluminum work by Aluma Tech, and wrap by AMJ Designs in Rosenberg, Texas, or five chances to receive gift cards valued at $100, and 15 chances to receive gift cards valued at $50.

In addition to our Grand Prize Raffle and other great items, we have some real surprises in store for everyone this year. As usual, our gracious donors are coming out in droves to help make this year’s banquet a huge success. It is scheduled for April 25th at the F. T. Bend Co. Fair Grounds Bldg. C, in Rosenberg, Tx. Doors open at 6 p.m. to preview auction items and begin silent auction bids, and supper is served around 7 p.m. Contact either me or Matt Meyer 832-595-4855, Banquet Chairman, for details. To reserve tables contact Ren Davis 281-342-6828 or George Guest 281-384-7582.

We hope to see you all there! Mark your calendars: The “Ladies Only” fishing tournament, The Lingerie On The Bay is scheduled for June 15th, 2013 in Matagorda. Entry forms will be posted at www.matagordabay.com and www.wadefishing.com. The Jimmy Guest Memorial Kid’s Fishing Tournament in Matagorda on July 13, 2012. Information for this event can be found at www.matagordabay.com. Till next time — Clint

Fort Worth
Fearn Mastin 817-291-1302

Save the date! Our banquet will be held Thursday May 2, 2013 at Joe T’s. This year we are raffling a Haynie 23′ Bigfoot with a Mercury 150hp L Optimax and Coastline Trailer. Tickets are $100 and we are only selling 300. This is a fantastic package and the odds are great so don’t miss out on an opportunity to purchase a ticket. Tickets are on sale now. Contact any Fort Worth Chapter board member to get your ticket or call Mitzi Gholson at 817-332-1010, Mitzi@gholsonlectric.com. Visit the chapter webpage for more information at WWW.CCATEXAS.org.

The drawing will be held at the banquet Thursday May 2nd at Joe T’s. We will be hosting another General Membership meeting at the Rahr Brewery on March 7. We hope to see you at one or both of these upcoming events. — Fearn Mastin

Galveston
Dr. Ken Ellis 713-962-7731

We are getting ready for an incredible 2013 in many ways, and we hope that you and your friends will join us at one of our special events we are putting together for you and Galveston. You may have seen us on the Strand during the Yaga Chili Festival. We had a CCA booth set up, selling CCA memberships, 2013 STAR entries, and raffle tickets for our 21′ Shallow Sport “Bahia” that will be raffled off at our banquet, August 3, 2013 at Moody Gardens. We are only selling 350 chances.

We will have hosted a General Membership Meeting with a local game warden on January 24 at M&M Restaurant in Galveston. The Warden will be there to answer questions. We enjoyed great appetizers and swapped fish stories. Stay tuned for the next event. If you are interested in helping with the banquet my cell is 713-962-7731, so please call me directly with any questions or concerns. Happy Mardi Gras to all, and tight lines — HookEm - KEN

Golden Triangle
Fisher Maddox 409-291-6000

Greater Sugar Land
David Kveton 281-808-4870

Greater Woodlands
James Kay 281-363-4417

www.ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands

As I am writing this article and attempting to be creative, “I got nothing.” It is probably because it is windy, wet and cold. In other words, a perfect day for Fishing, “Fishing Dreams that is.”

CCA Texas has a lot of plans for 2013 that will identify us as being one of the premier grass roots organizations for getting things done. If you view the newly revamped web page for CCA Texas http://www.ccatexas.org, you will read and learn of all the projects that we have completed from the past and all the future projects that we will be working on in 2013. Please do yourself a favor, log on and explore the newly revamped web page.

We always like to acknowledge our sponsors and show them our appreciation. The sponsor I would like to acknowledge with this article is Wrights Printing & Marketing. They are a top notch printing organization that is interested in helping grow your business. If you have any kind of printing, graphic design, marketing and other related needs for these services, please contact them at the following web page http://www.wrightspublishingandmarketing.com or call (281) 367-6060.

Events for the Greater Woodlands Chapter (GWCC): We will be hosting several events in 2013. Here are some of the events coming up. /March 2013, General Membership Meeting (GMM) to be scheduled with Larry Bozka, the renowned writer, speaker and photographer for Texas and the Gulf Coast. Larry is a blogger for TexasFishingForum.com & CoastalAnglers.com. /April 21, 2013 Crawfish Boil at Papa’s Ice House in Spring, Texas.

On July 2013, we will be having our major fund raiser, 6th Annual Banquet. More details can be found by visiting our web page or contacting any of our board members.

I would like to personally thank all board members and guests for any and all participation they have done in 2012. I look forward to your support in 2013. Please contact me or any of the board members on our website: http://www.ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands/ keep conserving... To Keep Fishing! — James Kay

Guadalupe Valley
Cliff Weber 361-275-6506

Hays County
Steve Schiber 512-524-2989

Heart of the Hills
Randy Plummer 830-377-0737

Hill Country
Darlene Cook 800-594-2056 ext 217 darlene@knbt.fm

The Hill Country Chapter has an exciting year ahead! There’s a lot to do. If you have a passion for fishing and conservation and would like to support CCA call me!

There are several ways you can participate. Joining CCA and making sure all your friends join is the first step. Teaching your kids and grandkids about conservation is the second step. Then get involved with your local chapter, yours is the Hill Country Chapter.

The Hill Country Chapter has a summer fishing tournament and a Banquet in August. Sign up to help with the tournament, volunteer to set up for the Banquet or donate an item that will make money at the Banquet.

Items we are looking for are good, used hunting vehicles, new marine batteries, guns, and jewelry/spa sessions, trolling motor, kayak, etc. If you have, or sell any of these items and would like to make a donation it would be greatly appreciated. Cash really helps! We use Sponsorship Cash to purchase Art and Guns. The more donations and cash we get from CCA members and businesses, the more money we make for Texas CCA. Can you help, can you make a donation?
We will take any donations you have at any time. It’s not too early to make a cash donation now. You will get a donor form for your Tax records. If you purchase a trolling motor, power pole, kayak or anything you will get a donor form. If you do business with a company that would like to contribute and support CCA let me know and I’ll get the donor form to them.

If you can donate a fishing trip, condo or dinner for 2, 4 or 6 at your favorite restaurant that would be great too!

We will be sending out the Hill Country calendar in March with our meetings and guest speakers, tournament and Banquet dates, so mark your calendar and come join us! Make it a family outing.

If you have any questions call me, 830-214-3067. Texas CCA is committed to the conservation and restoration of the natural habitat on the Texas coast and we need everyone to help. It benefits everyone, even the non-fisherman. May God bless us with rain in 2013! —Darlene Cook
darlenec@knbt.fm

Houston Real Estate
Dale Couch 281-953-2510
The Houston Real Estate chapter is looking forward to our Fifth annual fund raising banquet February 12, 2013. We need to mention that Jackson Hooper won the Houston Real Estate annual tournament for the second time in a row. —Dale

Katy
Jason Smith 281-924-7040
The Katy Chapter is hitting our stride already this year, and we always have a lot going on. Depending on how involved an individual wants to be, or what they’d like to get from being a chapter member, we try to have something for them.

The Katy Chapter alternates months between general meetings and work/planning meetings, and we’ve fired up our Speaker Series. In January, we hosted Matagorda aficionado, Capt Tommy Alexander. Tommy always draws a great audience, and is very forthcoming with his ‘secret’ spots and techniques. If pulling together a stringer of nice fish is the bet, Capt Tommy is who I’ll put my money on. The scoop from Tommy is that redfish are stacked up, and the sow trout bite is only getting stronger, increasing odds to hook up with a big girl.

In November, the Katy Chapter fulfilled one of our chapter sponsored auction items - steak dinner for 20. We cooked some very nice bone-in ribeyes, and had all the fixin’s. The cook team was made of Bradley “Pit Master” Miller, Troy “Catering Boss” Gillar, Preston “Have it Your Way” Zoober, and me (I just got in the way), Special thanks goes out to Red River BBQ for hooking us up with REAL catering equipment and Shirley “Lemon Cake Queen” Weston for a lemon cake that will make you run through fire with your pants down. The dinner was more than we thought we could handle, but it was a huge success! Once word gets out, I’m sure it’ll be a highly coveted banquet auction item.

Going forward, we’ll be planning our banquet and hosting speakers. Our General Membership Speaker Series meetings started in January, and will be in March, May, July, and September. We’ll have business/planning meetings in February, April, May and June - mainly discussing banquet topics.

We hope you’ll join us, and get involved. Our meetings are at Red River BBQ, off Mason Road. The fish stories start around 6:30ish, and we fire off the real “bs” at 7. I hope to see ya there! —Clint Hilton 713-515-3991

Laredo
Jesse Martinez 956-763-5555
Lee County
Welcome new president, Brian Kawazoe 210-317-7088
We welcome our new chapter president for 2013, Brian Kawazoe. His contact email is txredfish68@gmail.com.

Set your calendars for Saturday, March 16, 2013 for the 5th annual East Cut/PINS beach cleanup down in Port Mansfield, Texas. One of God’s many beautiful creations that needs our assistance in maintaining its pristine beauty. I look forward to seeing many familiar faces and hopefully many new ones. Volunteers, boat captains, and donations need to contact Kathie Bassler at kathie@basslerenergyservices.com. All types of assistance, both physically and financially help keep down expenses and are always greatly appreciated.

I hope that everyone has a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year and I look forward to seeing you out and about, or on the water somewhere. —Byron Kalbas
bkalbas@yahoo.com

Live Oak
Brad Kotrla 979-732-1669
Lower Colorado
J.L. West 979-318-9007
Lower Laguna Madre
Travis Flanagan 956-207-6391

Four great Katy Cooks and four offshore Katy rods.
Mainland
Eric Minor 281-534-6242

Matagorda Bays
Linc Lutrick 979-541-9901
During this time of year we thank a few of our sponsors who continue to support our chapter. A big THANK YOU to Cedar Creek Woodshop, Eichorn, Gonzales, & Miller Fine Jewelers, Energy Construction, Glaze Backhoe Service, Gulf Coast Lease Service, First State Bank of Louise, Full Auto Firearms, NewFirst National Bank, Penner Electric, Prosperity Bank, Schmidt Implement, Quality Lease Services, and VonDerAu Ford.

The 8th annual Lil’ Salty Kids Fishing Blow-out will be held on Saturday, May 11 in Matagorda. We will have more information in the coming months. —Linc Lutrick

MidCoast
David Jenkins 361-578-5580
djenkins12@sbcglobal.net

Northeast Houston
Jason Law 713-898-8594
Happy 2013 from your NEH CCA Chapter! We are starting the year off with a bang. As this issue goes to press, we will have had a fine meeting at Cedar Landing Restaurant in Huffman at 7pm. ArmyRedfishAnglers will be sharing stories about fishing on the tournament trail, tips for catching those big reds, and inspiring us all with their cause. Hope to see you there. Remember to RSVP at kimbrown@ccatexas.org or to Jason Law, 713-898-8594. —Samantha Law, NEH Boardmember

Northwest Houston
Blayne Eversole 832-444-4579

The Next General Membership meeting is February 5th. It will be held in the Stein Room at Houston Distributing as it has in the past. We will announce the speaker when we send out the meeting notice.

December Members Meeting: Our December speaker was Jason Catchings. He fishes from Galveston bay to Venice La. He also runs a hunting lodge in south Texas for quail and trophy deer. It was a great program.

Annual member Fish Fry: Mark your calendar for our annual member appreciation fish fry. It will be held at our April 2 as a General Membership meeting. Help us with Kid Fish. Mark your calendars! Here is the info for our 2013 Kid fish. Date: Saturday, May 11, 2013. Time 7AM - 1PM. Many thanks to Harris County Precinct 2, The City of La Porte and Linda’s Bait & Tackle for their support of this annual program.

Please remember that we are always happy to accept donations for the annual kid fish program. Please let us know of your desire to donate anytime by contacting a Director. Our sincere thanks to both Houston Distributing and Academy. They are active sponsors of our meetings and many events. We are especially fortunate to have such great support.

As a reminder, we are using email for meeting announcements. If we don’t have your email address and you would like to receive our announcements, please send your email address to js_declue@yahoo.com. —Blayne Eversole

Orange County
Scott Bandy 409-988-3667
sabandy@gmail.com
With the year now in full swing, we have hit the ground running. February will be busy with our General Membership meeting on Feb. 11th at Roberts Meat Market & Steakhouse at 6:30pm in Orange. Hamburgers will be on the menu. Guest speakers will be Capt. Adam Jaynes – Just Fish Guide Service talking about Sabine Lake fishing and other helpful tips and Sarge Upchurch – Sarge’s Custom Rods talking about what goes into building a custom rod for yourself.

We will also be raffling off a guided trip for two with Adam that night as well as door prizes. All members are welcome to join us and bring a guest. The chapter will also be participating in the Orange Community Trash-off on February 9.

March will be busy as well with the Bassmasters Elite Series kicking off its 2013 season on the Sabine River. Volunteers will be needed so if you would like to help come join our chapter. Tight Lines —Scott Bandy

Piney Woods
Jess Mowery 903-736-3891

Port O’Connor
Bill Moore 361-983-4690
The POC Chapter wishes all supporters, donors and their families a happy and prosperous new year. We wish to thank you for your support and we will work to earn your continued support.

If you were a table sponsor or donor, your support helped make our 13th Annual POC Banquet a great success.

We are currently in the process of setting the date for our 2013 general membership and banquet appreciation meeting. All our members and potential members are invited to come together for a great time, as we work to support the conservation of our bays and marine resources.

Again, for the Crab Trap Cleanup, the CCA Port O’Connor chapter will have those great hot vittles after the drop off. If you have any questions give me a call or better yet, come visit us in POC. “Where it all began.” —Bill Moore

Prairie
Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103
Sharon Goebel at 979-877-4103.

We are currently in the process of setting the date for our 2013 general membership and banquet appreciation meeting. All our members and potential members are invited to come together for a great time, as we work to support the conservation of our bays and marine resources.

Again, for the Crab Trap Cleanup, the CCA Port O’Connor chapter will have those great hot vittles after the drop off. If you have any questions give me a call or better yet, come visit us in POC. “Where it all began.” —Bill Moore

Redfish Bay
Norman Oates 361-758-0266

The Redfish Bay Chapter Annual Banquet will be on April 20, 2013. The Banquet will be similar to the 2012 Banquet with a sit-down meal, beer, wine, soft drinks, live auction, si-
At Anheuser-Busch, focusing on environmental sustainability is a key issue. The company operates efficiently to reduce water and energy use and increase recycling in its facilities across the country. As part of this commitment to conservation efforts, the company has supported the Coastal Conservation Association in their mission to protect coastal resources.

Our annual “Take a Kid Fishing” event will be the first weekend in June. In 2012, we had 200 kids fishing and having a great time - a great event! Bring the future fishpersons for their annual “tournament.”

We look forward to the New Year and seeing you at our events. As always, money raised in Texas stays in Texas. — Norman Oates 361-758-0266 H 361-790-2748

Partners in conservation initiatives

At Anheuser-Busch, focusing on environmental sustainability is a key issue. The company operates efficiently to reduce water and energy use and increase recycling in its facilities across the country. As part of this commitment to conservation efforts, the company has supported the Coastal Conservation Association in their mission to protect coastal resources.

In addition to supporting CCA, Anheuser-Busch promotes outdoor sports and wildlife conservation in several ways, including a $10 million investment in on-the-ground conservationist initiatives.

For the past 17 years, the company had awarded the Conservationist of the Year, along with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

“Since 1995, the Budweiser Outdoors program has celebrated and supported the passion, dedication and leadership of conservationists across the country,” said Bob Fishbeck, senior manager for the Budweiser brands. “We all have a responsibility to help protect our natural resources and the work being done by CCA and other wildlife advocates is an inspiration for all of us to follow.”

Throughout the years, the Budweiser Outdoors Program has supported numerous conservation organizations.

“Budweiser has become an important supporter of CCA, and we’re proud to be among their many conservationist partners,” said Robby Byers, executive director of CCA Texas. “Our programs aim to conserve, protect and enhance our coasts for everyone to enjoy.”

San Antonio 5th graders at the Texas State Aquarium - touch tanks and dolphin show.
Before the banquet, several board members talked to friends of theirs and a group of WellMed doctors said, “It would be a privilege to underwrite the field trip.” Jimmy Hasslocher from Frontier Enterprises donated a meal for the kids, and Regent Coach said we could use two buses for the day for a much lower cost than when I called to get a quote.

In May we had our banquet. It was a battle when the field trip came up, but a wonderful group of guys, The Sabinal Group, finally won the bid, sending our kids on this fabulous trip.

The trip was Wednesday, October 24. The Aquarium was great, the kids did some absolutely awesome fishing at the Marine Development Center, they learned a lot about conservation on the tour of the hatchery, then on to the beach so the kids could walk in the sand and put their toesies in the water. And to top it off, we stopped in Mathis on the way home and picked up a McDonalds “Mighty Meal” for every student. The kids were perfect, our teachers and chaperones were great, and it was really the best day I’ve had in education in 20 years! The Caller-Times sent a photographer to the CCA/CPL and we made the front page of the paper the next day with four pictures of the kids and a short article.

Enjoy the attached pictures of all our fifth graders going on a field trip-of-a-lifetime because of a great group of fishermen! — Beth Vacek

Beth Vacek received the Superintendent’s Award from North East Independent School District.
Enter Great Photos 2012

Categories:
Best In Show / Action / Scenic / Humor / Kids / Wildlife / CPR

Important: for jpegs, be sure you include name of subject, title, your name and address. On back of prints, write your name and address, as well as the names of anyone in the photo. email jpegs to: sam@samcaldwell.com

Color prints to: CCA Great Photos Editor / 6919 Portwest Dr., Suite 100 Houston, Texas 77024

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

Great Wildlife Photo by Marsha Landers. She writes, "It was pure luck that I got the otters, three gators, spoonies, ibis, and other species all at the same time."
CCA Texas and Simms Fishing Products have teamed up for a very special offer to CCA members.

For a limited time, anyone who becomes a CCA Texas Life Member will receive a beautiful Simms jacket emblazoned with the CCA Life Member logo on the left sleeve. (Retail value of $250)

Your $1,000 tax-deductible life membership in CCA will help us continue our important coastal conservation work in Texas. Supporters like you allow our team to work at our State Capitol and on our coast everyday to ensure the long-term well-being of our critical marine resources.

Together with Simms Fishing Products, we strive to secure that the wonderful fishing we enjoy across our coast today is available for generations to come. Thank you for your continued support of CCA.

Existing Life Members, please contact CCA Texas or email Erika at ebermeo@ccatexas.org for your special Simms® Jacket offer!

CCA Life Member APPLICATION

Name

CCA Member ID#

Address

City    State    Zip

Phone    Email

SIMMS® Jacket Information - Jacket Style: WINDSTOPPER® Softshell Jacket - Dark Elkhorn

Jacket Size:  □ S  □ M  □ L  □ XL  □ XXL

Method of Payment

□ Cash    □ Check    □ Credit Card: □ Visa    □ MasterCard    □ AmEx    □ Discover

Credit Card Number    Exp. Date

Signature

Or print this form and send to:

CCA Texas | 6919 Portwest Dr., Ste. 100 | Houston, Texas 77024
Phone 713.626.4222 | Fax 713.961.3801 | www.CCATexas.org
The Last Laugh

Great Humor/Wildlife Photo by Glenn Adamek: A Great blue heron takes throwback.

ALASKA
Puffins, orcas and bears, oh my!

Drop by the website for a tour with Sam of glaciers, orcas, seals, moose, eagles, bears, outdoor writers and other wildlife.

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www.samcaldwell.com
Texas State Artist 2004
281-455-9390

A Return From Afghanistan

Trey McEntire returned from Afghanistan the week before Thanksgiving. “His Grandpa took him fishing Thanksgiving Day, and he caught this 27” red that morning. We are so happy that he came home safe, and he says on Facebook “Damn Good Thanksgiving in POC with Grandpa.” We are so proud of him!” — Pam & Carl Ray

—Pam & Carl Ray

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

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

Current size, bag and possession limits are now available through the Texas Parks & Wildlife website: TPWD has a number to report game violations. 1-800-792-4263.

A partner with CCA in aiding Texas game and Game Wardens is Operation Game Thief. Drop by and put this website on your favorites list: http://www.ogttx.com/

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