

CURRENTS

The newsletter for CCA members in Texas
October / November 2012



*Gulf sector separation
tabled; Cedar Bayou
opening moves forward*

Cedar Bayou: A "national treasure" moves into the funding stage

By Jay Gardner

Robert turned the corner of the Port Aransas marina and pushed the throttles of the skiff up on plane towards the jetties. Tyler smiled as I screamed my trademark "aaaiiiiiieeeee!" as we cleared the north jetty and pointed north along the beach. Robert got the skiff down in the trough of the one-foot rollers and we eased up St. Joe's island toward Cedar Bayou. The gulf was calm and blue, and the day was already getting hot, even for mid-July. Our target was to head north and intercept tarpon that were reported moving south from Port O'Connor a few days before.

The 20-mile trip seemed to take just a few minutes due to our child-like anticipation of things to come, and the next thing we knew, we could see the clearing for the Vinson Slough/Cedar Bayou pass up a few miles ahead. We began to see boils in the water, and "dirty" spots with menhaden swirling around in them.

Robert saw a tarpon roll off the starboard bow, and he immediately shut down. There was a scramble for tackle (I mean, who really prepares EVERYTHING before they go fishing?) Coon-pops were tied on and dervish casting began at the swirls. This was around 2008, and Cedar Bayou was closed, although from our position from the third bar, it almost looked like there was a trickle coming out of the mouth. Robert looked up from one of his casts, pointed his rod towards the beach, and asked the question; "Why isn't the pass flowing?"

In the June/July *Currents*, I mentioned that freshwater inflows are an important piece of



The once and future king...Megalops atlanticus is just one of the thousands of animal and plant species that will benefit from the reopening of Cedar Bayou. In the nursery bays, sea grasses like thalassia provide food and cover for gamefish while inflow and outflow of tidal waters enrich the bays and Gulf. Photo of Jay Gardner by Eric Ozolines, others by Jay Gardner.

"The only obstacle in the way of starting construction is funding. This project holds the permit from the Army Corps of Engineers and if we had the money tomorrow, we could begin the construction process." —Peter Ravella, Restore Cedar Bayou Funding Coordinator

"You have a national treasure out here and it needs to be restored back to the way mother nature had it." —Col. Christopher W. Sallese, US Army Corps of Engineers

"It is not often that there is an opportunity to re-open a vital and iconic pass. There is still a lot of money to be raised and a lot of work to do, but CCA Texas kicked off a critical next step with this financial support." —Robby Byers, CCA Texas Executive Director

For full details on Cedar Bayou, drop by this website:

<http://www.restorecedarbayou.org/the-plan/>

For a visual visit to Cedar Bayou, type this website into your browser:

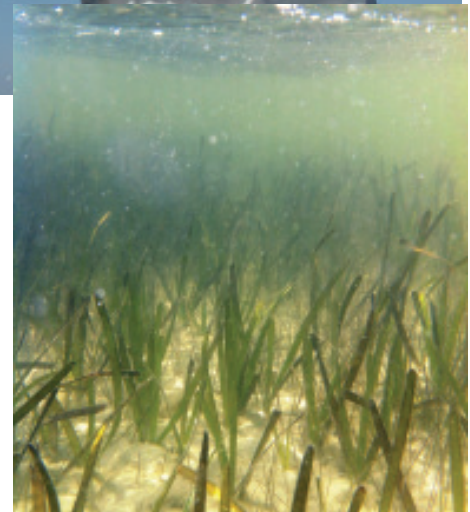
<http://www.restorecedarbayou.org/videos/>

the pass-puzzle. Passes on the Texas coast are ephemeral at best, due to several conditions. First, are the tides. Here in the north-west corner of the Gulf of Mexico, our tides range from mere inches on the lower coast to maybe a half-foot on the upper coast. It's referred to as "micro-tidal amplitude" (sorry for the "science" there).

Without much water moving through the inlets, they tend to shoal up. The second part is the

digging of the Intracoastal Water Way. The ICWW steals the hydraulic head and instead of water moving through the inlets maintaining them, it is allowed to go up and down the coast. The third part, of course, is freshwater inflows, especially flood outflows after rain events.

Conditions that would normally help keep passes open have been changed by Texans' unquenchable thirst for water for municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses. We are our own worst enemy when it comes to pass maintenance, it seems. Freshwater inflows are indeed a part of the puzzle, and not only for pass maintenance. They are critical for maintaining a healthy estuary; but that's an article for another day.



Back in the boat, after a few fluffed out casts and some banging and clanging on the deck trying to get that perfect lure tied on, the three of us finally settled into a pattern, and were calmed down from the initial excitement to begin fishing a little more concerted. I had the hot hand, if you consider black tip sharks a "hot-bite" and I even threw in a few gafftop for good measure. I think Tyler was just out there to play with his gear, as he spent more time re-tying and digging for lures than fishing (and whoever hasn't been "that person" on a trip go ahead and throw the first stone).

Robert was much more patient, and of course spent time at the helm. "There they are!" Robert whispered and pointed the trolling motor towards the south end of the pass area in front of Vinson's slough along the beach. One careful cast, and Tyler and I just held our breaths as Robert had the pole position and a good cast working. Two twitches and "BAM!" Robert pulled the line tight, almost falling over, as about a five foot silver

Front cover: Cedar Bayou can again be a center for the Silver King, according to Jay Gardner. Photo by David Mangum. Angler, Kyle Shatzer. Sent to Currents by Rocky Chase of the Golden Triangle chapter.

king bounded out of the water. I didn't even have time to get an "aaaaaeeeeee!" out before the fish had spit the hook and was gone. The jump seemed like a slow-motion-National-Geographic-moment due to our intense focus; it was glorious.

We spent the rest of the morning chasing the bait pods, but never got another hook up before we headed back in. And it didn't matter; we had set a plan to go to the mystical and magic Cedar Bayou and chase tarpon, and we did it successfully.

Later, back at the dock, without one single fish to clean, nor one picture taken, someone handed out a round of cold beverages and we did a silent toast with huge grins on our faces from that one jump in that brief moment; it made the entire day worth the trip.

That trip to Cedar Bayou will forever live in our hearts as a clear success despite not landing any fish, and hopefully in the near future we will once again be able to fulfill those dreams of jumping silver kings when the pass is dredged and flowing. —Jay

The Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough project is moving forward toward the goal of restoring Gulf flows.

The dedication that many have for this project has been exemplified again recently, as Judge Burt Mills and the Aransas County Commissioners have pledged \$100,000 per year to be applied to a monitoring and maintenance fund that will be used to keep the pass open. This pledge is in addition to the \$985,000 that the county has contributed from Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) dollars. These dollars along with \$500,000 from CCA, brings the total to \$1,505,000 of the \$6.5 million needed. There are still several grants that have been submitted as well as other funding sources that are being pursued that could fully fund the project. We are confident that we will be able to secure the necessary funding to begin this project in April of 2013. CCA is proud to join the county as partners in this very worthy project.

Please visit restorecedar-bayou.org to learn more about the project, and to make a contribution.

Next update on Cedar Bayou: The marsh restoration changes Cedar Bayou will bring about. —Jay

Private ownership of a public resource defeated—for now

Gulf Council votes to table unpopular management proposal

In the Gulf of Mexico, few issues have caused as much concern recently as the concept known as sector separation. Gulf sector separation is the proposal to formally split existing and future recreational sector allocations of the harvest of red snapper into separate private boat and charter / for-hire portions.

CCA has consistently opposed sector separation for many reasons, including the fact that it is the first step to assigning private ownership of a public resource to a few businesses. Thanks to a massive outpouring of opposition to the concept, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council voted at its August 2012 meeting to table consideration of sector separation at least until a red snapper benchmark stock assessment is completed in 2013.

The vote was very good news for anglers who have grown increasingly concerned over federal efforts to privatize fisheries in the name of better management. In fighting against the proposal, CCA found many allies, including the powerful Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus which weighed in against the concept, urging the Council to consider the far-reaching implications of its actions. The grassroots membership of CCA responded by the thousands to a CCA Action Alert and sent overwhelming comments against the proposal to the Council's own website.

CCA has argued that there are several things the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council should do to alleviate the problems faced not just by the charter/for-hire fleet, but by all recreational anglers in the red snapper fishery. Today's Gulf red snapper allocation is 51 percent commercial/49 percent rec-

reational, exactly where it has been since it was set in the mid-1980s. CCA has called for reallocation according to modern factors like economic, social and conservation criteria, rather than outdated catch history. There is a very good likelihood that reallocating red snapper would solve many of the problems faced by charter/for-hire operators without creating so many new issues.

Additionally, anyone who has ventured offshore recently would probably agree that the red snapper population appears to be booming, and a benchmark stock assessment is currently underway to determine the status of the population. If the stock is recovering as well as it appears to be, it is just one more reason for managers to pull back from the crisis mode that has led to departures from traditional management measures to radical measures to divide up and privatize fisheries.

In the end, the vote to table sector separation was a victory for the recreational angling community, but we will have to remain vigilant to ensure that it does not rise again to threaten equal and fair access to our fisheries. 🐟

The grassroots membership of CCA responded by the thousands to a CCA Action Alert and sent overwhelming comments against the proposal to the Council's website.

CCA provides recognition for outstanding Coastal Enforcement wardens

Texas game wardens are among the hardest-working public servants in Texas. In charge of vast regions of the Texas outdoors, wardens often find themselves interacting with armed people.

Texas wardens are also tasked with duties as peace officers, where they can be faced with dangerous situations. It's hard, tough duty, demanding dedicated individuals of the highest professional caliber.

For years, CCA has been recognizing individual wardens who go above and beyond the call of duty. Recently, a special medallion has been designed and produced as a means of acknowledging outstanding Texas wardens. The initial idea for the commemorative medallion stemmed from warden John Fiest, CCA's Game Warden of the Year, 2011. Ronnie Luster and Tommy Barnes enlarged it slightly and added TEXAS under the CCA trout. The medallion was then commissioned by the Texas CCA and produced by Tommy Barnes of Barnes Fine Jewelry in Victoria, Texas. Barnes noted that other state chapters of CCA are welcome to consider the program. 🐟



CCA Texas Outdoor Recreation Pier in action

The new pier system at the CCA/CPL Marine Development Center near Four Bluff, Texas is now in use. It was dedicated to the man who made it all happen, Hector Mendieta.

Hector has done an incredible job with these fine new fishing piers. Over the years to come, hundreds of thousands of young fishermen and fisherwomen will benefit from his efforts. CCA is extremely fortunate to have Hector as a member of our organization. —Robby Byers

Dedication of the CCA Texas Outdoor Recreation Pier was held Saturday, September 15. The rain stopped and allowed for a great ceremony. About 60 people attended, including several families and children.

Speakers included Dr. Robert Vega of the CCA Marine Development Center, Rodney Gamez MDC Manager, our own Robby Byers and me. The piers turned out great and the TPWD has already added some very colorful Sun Sail shading. These piers are a much needed enhancement to the MDC Outreach Program. They allow all people, young and old to safely experience fishing. The outreach program teaches the restocking process of our bays and a conservation based approach to fishing. Hopefully the piers will be there for years to come.

The project was a cooperative effort by many



folks. It was a great example of teamwork and strong donor support. Some of the main donors include EcoVantage; they manufacture a thermally modified lumber named EcoPrem and donated all the lumber for the build. Professional Engineering was donated by Urban Engineering of Victoria, Texas and Matt Glaze PE.

Turner Roofing Company from San Antonio, Texas donated the boots for the pilings and also helped secure donations such as stainless screws for the decking.

Sunset Marine Works was our original volunteer contractor. Company owner Mingo Molina

gave countless hours to the project and when it was decided to hire a contractor for Pier Two, he came in with the low bid and then donated 10 benches for the piers.

Last but not least is the TPWD staff at MDC. These guys worked many hours on the project and also donated the ADA aluminum railing.

CCA Texas provided much support on the project, not only financially but also with volunteers. Several work days were held with volunteers coming from Corpus Christi Chapter, Redfish Bay Chapter, Brush Country Chapter and of course the Mid-Coast Chapter.

The building of the piers is something I will never forget. The two things that impressed me most were first of all the volume of donations that came our way, about \$130,000 not counting CCA. The other thing is the number of friends that I made along the way. There is a difference between acquaintances and friends and many of these guys are now life long friends. —Hector Mendieta

Photos by Coleman Todd



Harte's Heroes

On Friday June 8, in commemoration of World Oceans Day 2012, the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies recognized three "Harte's Heroes" whose passion for protecting and preserving the Gulf's resources serves as a model for those people who want to make the world—especially the Gulf of Mexico—a better place to live.

This year's ceremony honored Dr. Sammy Ray, Brad Lomax, and the Coastal Conservation Association Texas for their leadership and mentoring in the community. It was held at the Art Museum of South Texas.

The evening began with a reception from 6:30-7:30 p.m. followed by an award ceremony to recognize all three of the "Harte's Heroes." Sammy Ray, who officially retired from Texas A&M University at

Galveston 22 years ago, is still active at 93, teaching and inspiring the world's next generation of scientists.

Brad Lomax, owner of WaterStreet Restaurants in Corpus Christi and San Antonio, is a long-time resident and supporter of the environmental initiative in the Coastal Bend.

CCA Texas: The Coastal Conservation Association is a Texas-sized supporter of the preservation of marine resources, funding critical research and, since 2000, creating more than \$100,000 in scholarships for marine science students. Robby Byers has worked with CCA for 15 years, and has been the Executive Di-

rector of CCA Texas since 2006. For complete details, go to:

<http://www.hartereasearchinstitute.org/hartes-heroes>



Left picture: Dr. Flavius Killebrew, Dr. Sammy Ray and Mrs. Ray with award, Dr. Larry McKinney. Right picture: In center, Robby Byers, CCA Texas Executive Director, accepts the CCA award with Dr. Killebrew and Dr. McKinney.



Registration is continuing for the Corpus Christi Chapter's **Babes on Baffin and Blue Ladies Fishing Tournament** which will be held **Columbus Day Weekend, Saturday, Oct. 6th**, at Roberts Point Park in Port Aransas. Friday Night's Check-in and Social will be at Doc's Restaurant in Corpus Christi.



2012 JOINT CHAPTER FISHING TOURNAMENT
GALVESTON BAY COMPLEX
MUST BE A CCA MEMBER TO ENTER
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2012
TOPWATER GRILL
 815 AVENUE O, SAN LEON, TX 77539
ENTRY FEE: \$75 PER PERSON
HEAVIEST TROUT - REDFISH - FLOUNDER / PRIZES IN EACH CATEGORY / 1ST, 2ND, 3RD & RED WITH MOST SPOTS
ALL ENTRIES INCLUDE
A BUFFET DINNER
 A CASH BAR WILL BE PROVIDED
 WE WILL HAVE SEVERAL RAFFLE ITEMS WITH ALL PROCEEDS TO CCA TEXAS.
 EVERY FISH ENTERED AT WEIGH-IN WILL RECEIVE 5 RAFFLE TICKETS WITH A 15-TICKET MAX PER ENTRANT.
 ADDITIONAL TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE FOR \$5 EACH.

EMAIL INFO TO:
garybrown@daytonsuperior.com
 OR CONTACT: GARY BROWN
 at 281-870-8740.

Great Foods / Food Editor Ellen Ohmstede

10th Street Lodge Ceviche

1 lb fish fillets
5-6 limes (enough juice to cover fish)
1 cup fresh tomatoes diced
1 green pepper chopped
4 T parsley / ¼ t salt
¼ t pepper / ½ t oregano
2 jalapeno peppers, seeded and chopped / 2 T white vinegar
1 medium onion finely chopped
1 dash Tabasco
Lettuce leaves to line serving bowl

Use sliced avocados and sliced black olive for garnish
Dice fish in ½ inch pieces.
Marinate fish in glass bowl in fridge overnight.

Stirring often, pour off most of lime juice leaving just enough to keep fish moist. Add remaining ingredients except lettuce, avocado and olive. Toss well and adjust seasoning. Serve as an appetizer for a crowd or individual servings as a first course.



"SLOW DOWN or I'll make you pay in bait!" Great Humor Photo by Melissa Lincoln.

State of Texas Angler's Rodeo







23rd Annual CCA STAR Trucks, Boats & Scholarships to be Awarded Oct. 4

The 23rd Annual CCA/Ford/Tilson Homes Corp/Capital Farm Credit State of Texas Angler's Rodeo came to a close at 5pm on Labor Day, Sept. 3 and broke a new participation record! Approximately 45,000 registered, topping our previous record of 44,126 making 2012 the highest in the 23 year history of the tournament!

STAR also recruited over 11,000 NEW members into CCA! If you're a new member, we'd like to say, "WELCOME ABOARD!" To all renewing members, we'd like to say, "WELCOME BACK!" Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and fishing the STAR Tournament. God has blessed us richly with this fun, wholesome family event!

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 + 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 ?)

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 **CCA61**; 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.

SPECIAL BONUS FROM ACADEMY SPORTS + OUTDOORS - Another great reason to be a member of CCA! For those anglers who got on the ball and signed up early, Academy Sports + Outdoors rewarded you with a \$10 gift coupon back in May just in

time for fishing season! For those of you who didn't get in on the first \$10 gift coupon, we have good news!!! Academy Sports + Outdoors will be sending all CCA Texas members another \$10 gift coupon just in time for hunting season! 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 2012 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 star@startournament.org.



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

2012 TOURNAMENT RECAP - The Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division has a total of **THREE** lucky winners that will be driving home the awesome Ford F-150 Texas Edition truck with a Haynie 23 BigFoot boat, Mercury 150 OptiMax motor and Coastline trailer package. Sadly, there were **THREE** unfortunate anglers who lost out on prizes to the tune of about \$35,000 - \$70,000 each!!! Other exciting highlights this year were in the Trout Division. The biggest speckled trout overall weighed 9 lb. 8 oz. and surprisingly came from the Middle Coast.

This year's tournament offered over 120 fabulous prizes. A total of 115 prizes were claimed and we will present the 24 top prizes to the winners during the CCA State of Texas BBQ and STAR Awards Ceremony on Oct. 4th at the Bayou City Event Center! These are the lucky winners in each division (**NOTE: Due to an earlier than normal deadline, all polygraph testing had not been completed in time to go to print. The winners not listed in this issue will be featured in the next issue or go to: www.startournament.org for a complete list of winners.**)

Capital Farm Credit StarKids Scholarship Flounder Division - The StarKids Scholarship Flounder Division will provide a young angler between the ages of six and ten with a college scholarship totaling \$50,000 for catching the largest flounder. This year's winner is Briley Eason, age 7, of League City - 6 lbs. 12 ozs.

Houston Community Newspapers StarKids Scholarship Sheephead Division - The Houston Community Newspapers StarKid Scholarship Sheephead Division will provide a young angler between the ages of six and ten with a college scholarship totaling \$50,000 catching the largest sheephead. This year's winner is Tatiana Ybarra, age 10, of Houston - 8 lbs., 3 ozs.

FS Houston/FS Southwest StarKids Scholarship Gafftop Division - The StarKids Scholarship Gafftop Division will provide a young angler between the ages of six and ten with a college scholarship totaling \$50,000 for catching the largest gafftop. This year's winner is Dylan Collazo, age 10, of Houston - 7 lbs., 14 ozs.

Academy Sports and Outdoors StarTeens Scholarship Trout Division - In its eighth year, the Academy Sports and Outdoors StarTeens Scholarship Trout Division was open to all New Tide/STAR members ages 11-17. These fisher-teens with the largest speckled trout in each region - upper, middle and lower coast - will be awarded a \$20,000 college scholarship:

Upper Coast: Thomas Shelton, age 15, of Houston 7 lbs., 10 ozs.

Middle Coast: PENDING POLYGRAPH 7 lbs., 1 oz.

Lower Coast: Caden Dicks, age 14 of Spring Branch 8 lbs., 1 oz.

Time Warner Cable StarTeens Inshore Scholarship Division - The Time Warner Cable StarTeens Scholarship Inshore Division was open to all New Tide/STAR members ages 11-17. These fisher-teens with the largest flounder, gafftop and sheephead will be awarded a \$20,000 college scholarship:

Flounder: PENDING POLYGRAPH 6 lbs. 0 ozs.

Sheephead: Chance Davis, age 11, of San Leon 8 lbs. 13 ozs.

Gafftop: Ky Terrell, age 11, of Orange 6 lbs. 9 ozs.

Awarding these ten scholarships is truly the highlight of the year for STAR and makes a serious statement toward getting kids on the water. We couldn't be happier for these kids and their families. The kids are really what the tournament is all about. They are the future generation that will keep the vitality of our precious marine resource going for years to come. This brings our total awarded scholarships to **\$4,635,000!**

Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division - We have **THREE** confirmed winners in the ever-popular Texas Ford Dealers Redfish!

These three winners will be presented with a fully-loaded 2012 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" truck and Haynie 23 BigFoot boat, Mercury 150L OptiMax motor and Coastline trailer.

David Matula of Sargent - Tag #TA364 caught 6/17/12

Tony Gonzalez of Alice - Tag #TA424 caught 6/17/12

Ralph McGrew of Stockdale - Tag #TA413 caught 7/21/12

Trout Division - These registered anglers brought in the largest trout for Upper Coast, Middle Coast and Lower Coast will each receive a Shoalwater 22' Legend, Mercury 150L OptiMax motor and McClain trailer:

Upper Coast: Michael Fesco, of Sour Lake 8 lbs. 10 ozs.

Middle Coast: J. Santos Ramirez III, of Bishop 9 lbs. 8 ozs.

Lower Coast: PENDING POLYGRAPH 9 lbs. 7 ozs.



2012 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT SuperCab with Haynie 23 Bigfoot, the Redfish Division prize.



BEST IN TEXAS

Offshore Division - In the Offshore Division, the following anglers who hooked the biggest kingfish, dorado and ling (cobia) will each be awarded with an Explorer by Dargel 216 Bluewater Series, Mercury 200XL Optimax outboard plus a McClain trailer:

Kingfish: PENDING POLYGRAPH
52 lbs. 0 ozs.

Dorado: Gregg Filtsch of San Antonio
41 lbs., 4 ozs.

Ling (Cobia): John Schults of Freeport
81 lbs. 0 ozs.

Inshore Division - These Inshore Division winners will take home a Blue Wave 180 V-Bay with a Mercury115L OptiMax engine and McClain trailer for hooking the largest flounder, gafftop and sheephead:

Flounder: Holland Dekeyzer of Houston 7 lbs. 8 ozs.

Sheepshead: Jonathon Garay of Richwood 8 lbs. 6 ozs.

Gafftop: Chris Brown of Nederland 7 lbs. 11 ozs.

Special Drawings - On the night of the STAR Awards, the drawings will be held for the New Tide Scholarship and Member Bonus Drawings. These winners along with the Early Bird Drawing winners will be listed in the next issue of CURRENTS.

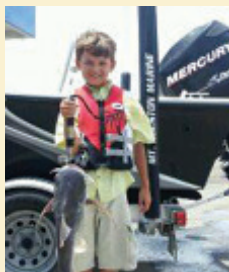
It has been a phenomenal year for CCA Texas and STAR! Many thanks to our fine sponsors, weigh stations and ticket stations, and to the many volunteers for their hard work and dedication to enhancing our marine resources. Of course, without YOU there would be no STAR, and we are most grateful to you... especially those who added kids to their fishing experience.

Immense thanks to our official STAR Weigh Station friends that do such a tremendous job for us each year:

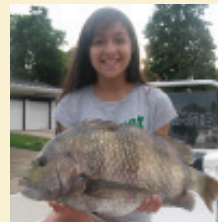
Bridge City Bait in Orange; SGS Causeway in Port Arthur; Sportsman Supply in Sabine Pass; Stingaree Marina on Crystal Beach; Marburger's Sporting Goods in Seabrook; Fat Boys Bait & Tackle in Galveston; GYB Bait & Tackle in Galveston; Surfside Marina in Freeport; Caney Creek Marina in Sargent; Russell's Bait & Tackle in Matagorda; Shell Food Mart in Palacios; Indianola Fishing Marina in Indianola; The Fishing Center in Port O'Connor; Seaworthy Marine Supply in Fulton/Rockport; Woody's Sports Center in Port Aransas; Roy's Bait & Tackle in Corpus Christi; Harbor Bait & Tackle in Port Mansfield; South Shore Bait & Tackle on South Padre Island.



Briley Eason, StarKid Flounder Winner



Dylan Collazo, StarKid Gafftop Winner



Tatiana Ybarra, StarKid Sheepshead Winner



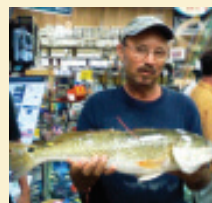
Gary Shelton, StarTeen UC Trout Winner



Chance Davis, StarTeen Sheepshead Winner



David Matula, 1st tagged redfish winner



Tony Gonzalez, 2nd tagged redfish winner



Ralph McGrew, 3rd Tagged Redfish Winner

Please don't forget to thank our wonderful sponsors for their loyal support... return the favor by remembering them when making your purchasing decisions. They make this wonderful family event possible. Major sponsors for the 23rd Annual CCA Texas/STAR Tournament include:

Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Home Corporation, Capital Farm Credit, Mercury Marine, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, Shipley Do-Nuts, Ozarka, Coors Light, Houston Community Newspapers, Fox Sports Houston, Fox Sports Southwest, Time Warner Cable, Haynie Boats, Shoatwater Boats, Explorer by Dargel Boats, Blue Wave Boats, Texas Fish & Game Magazine, Costa Sunglasses, Texas Oilman's Charity Fishing Tournament, Houston Astros, Coastline Trailers, McClain Trailers, Chris's Marine, Mt. Houston Marine and Coastal Backwater Marine.5

CCA Texas/STAR Platinum Print Membership Package, Series II - STAR Sighting by renowned artist David Drinkard is the new print being offered for the 2012 CCA Texas/STAR Platinum package. This special offer includes your CCA membership (new or renewal), your 2012 CCA Texas STAR entry, **plus a signed, limited-edition print** created exclusively for STAR, all for \$125! STAR Sighting is a 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: www.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!

STILL AVAILABLE... CCA Texas/STAR Platinum Print, Series I - Some STAR Reds are still available. If you haven't purchased STAR Reds yet and would like to begin your CCA Texas/STAR Platinum Collectible Series, please contact the STAR Dept. and we can get you fixed up. To own this first-ever commemorative piece, purchase yours today before they're all gone! See both prints on page 8.



Michael Fesco, Upper Coast Trout Winner



J. Santos Ramirez, Middle Coast Trout Winner



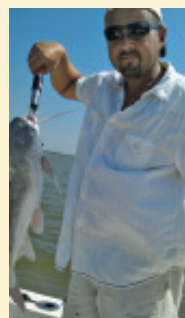
Gregg Filtsch, Dorado Winner



John Shults, Ling Winner



Jonathon Garay, Sheepshead Winner



Chris Brown, Gafftop Winner

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.

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

Editor, Sam Caldwell / sam@samcaldwell.com
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STAR Collector series art prints: STAR Sighting, 2012 Platinum Series II is shown above. A few STAR Reds, 2011 series I art prints, on right, are still available.



Sea Island Shrimp House partners with CCA Texas

Five percent goes to CCA for each 'Aransas Platter' and 'Rockport Trio' Entrée sold in October

For 47 years, family-owned Sea Island Shrimp House in San Antonio has been serving wild-caught Texas Gulf shrimp, fish and oysters and has supported these Texas-harvested products.

To celebrate National Seafood Month, this GO TEXAN restaurant group is bringing back two of their most popular platters—'Aransas' and 'Rockport Trio,' both \$9.99, and will donate 5 percent to CCA for each platter sold in the month of October at all locations. More at www.shrimphouse.com.

Welcome to the CCA Texas Online Auction

Sponsored By Costa Del Mar

We have some great merchandise up for grabs this month—a CCA-logoed Bird Bucket, Hunting Vest and Frogg Togg Rain Set.

These items will be featured online for bidding purposes through eBay, **October 16—October 23**. We encourage everyone to take advantage of the art and merchandise that is up for sale. These items are coming directly from CCA Texas inventory. There will be a variety of unique art packages, as well as new merchandise never seen before!

CCA Illuminated Sign - This great CCA Illuminated Sign is straight out of the CCA Texas Inventory and would be a great addition to any rec room or collection. This sign glows bright with the CCA Texas Logo and has 2 different settings allowing it to shine bright or flash our logo.



CCA Texas Hunting Package - Another great package from CCA including a CCA Logoed Hunting Vest, Bird Bucket and great weather resident Frogg Toggs.

Look great and support the CCA this hunting season. —Erich Schneider



Sponsored by our friends at Costa.



Costa Del Mar and Kenny Chesney aid CCA conservation projects

Music superstar Kenny Chesney and Amanda Perryman from Costa Sunglasses present a check for \$50,000 to Pat Murray to benefit the Coastal Conservation Association. These funds were raised through sales of the Kenny Chesney Limited Edition Costa Sunglasses throughout his "Goin' Coastal" concert tour last year.



Great Wildlife Photo by Lee Hartwell. He captured this huge ray feeding on the surface near Port O'Connor. "It actually came by and slapped the side of the boat with its fin," Hartwell said.

Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR
TEXAS MARINE HABITAT



HTFT funds shoreline protection and restoration projects in West Galveston Bay and in the Sargent marsh areas

CCA Texas Executive Board recently funded two \$200,000 funding requests from Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT) that will both create needed shoreline protection and restoration. Both areas are suffering from erosion over the years and these projects will help stabilize shorelines and restore and protect area marshes.

Oyster Lake Shoreline Protection and Marsh Restorations

Galveston Bay Foundation submitted a \$200,000 request to HTFT for the Oyster Lake Shoreline Protection and Marsh Restoration Project. This project will protect up to 5,200 linear feet of shoreline from future erosion and habitat conversion. It is estimated that since

1944, up to 650 feet of shoreline has been lost on the West Bay side and up to 150 feet of shoreline has been lost from the Oyster Lake side.


Since 1995, this erosion appears to be getting more extreme and West Galveston Bay is very close to breaching into Oyster Lake. This project will install hard structure breakwaters that will reduce wave and wind energy affecting the shorelines and where elevations are suitable, emergent marsh will be replanted using cultivated plants. This process will help restore and improve marsh functions, including habitat and feeding grounds for fish and wading birds.

CCA funds will be leveraged as matching dollars that will be needed to complete the project. Phase I of the project will hopefully be completed by the end of 2012 and Phase II, the final construction, should be completed by the end of 2013, provided necessary funding is completely secured.

Sargent Marsh Shoreline Protection

Texas Ducks Unlimited submitted a \$200,000 request to HTFT for a project that will protect up to three miles of marsh shoreline along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW), just north of Sargent. With an original construction width of 125 feet, GIWW has eroded to a width of over 700 feet threatening adjacent brackish marshes, and thus reducing the overall productivity of the area's ecosystem through the loss of emergent and submergent vegetation. This inland marsh is part of the beginning for the marine ecosystem's life cycle and it is important to protect it

for the future. This project will be completed in phases, targeting the most threatened areas first, and construction is anticipated to begin by May 1, 2013.

The 200,000 commitment from CCA Texas provides multiple benefits to the project. First, it will be applied directly to Phase I and II and allows an additional 1,300 linear feet of breakwater to be constructed. In addition these dollars will be used as matches for future grant requests in the 2013 grant cycle for Texas Ducks Unlimited. 



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Upper Coast

By Capt. Steve Hillman

Gunpowder & Watermelon

October and November offer a true sportsman's paradise here on the Texas Coast. Whether it's dove, ducks, deer or trout, this is as good as it gets. Wading a secluded shoreline with the smell of fresh trout slicks in the early morning crisp air is what some of us live for. Getting that first blow-up of the morning from a thick fall trout gets the old ticker ticking similar to that of buck fever. If that doesn't get your heart racing then there's always needlepoint.

There are so many options here on Galveston Bay that it's hard to know where to begin. If wading is your thing then jumping out along the north or south shorelines of East Bay would be great choices. I will be hanging around those areas, especially near marsh drains throwing topwaters into slicks and nervous mullet. Drifting reefs over in East Bay will produce early during October while chunking your favorite soft plastics. For me it's Salt Water Assassins, but there are many good ones from which to choose. Look for slicks and shad on the surface for best results.

Late October and on into November will find us up in Trinity wading shorelines. Drifting wells and clamshell reefs will pay dividends on light wind days. There should also be an abundance of bird activity because of an above average white shrimp hatch. When working birds try to cast to the front of the schools for bigger trout. Throw heavier jig heads to work the bottom for reds. My favorite colors are Plum, Limetreuse and Red Shad.

West Galveston Bay typically turns on around mid to late November. Drifting along the old Intercoastal works well especially along the edges of color streaks.

Whether you spend your free time in a duck blind or wadefishing your favorite shoreline, enjoy our precious outdoors and soak up the entire experience. Be grateful we have it and please respect it. Let the big ones swim, —**Captain Steve Hillman** www.hillmanguideservice.com
409-256-7937

Middle Coast

By Capt. Billy Trimble

...this most wonderful time of year

With the fall season on the horizon and a blistering hot summer in our rear view mirror we here in the Coastal Bend are breathing a sigh of relief. With one of the toughest summers of fishing in recent memory behind us the fishing is finally starting to improve as redfish are staging for their annual spawning migration. In recent weeks I have seen large groups of mature redfish, one group had nearly a thousand fish in it. From Matagorda Island to the Upper Laguna Madre and Baffin Bay the red fishing over the past month has definitely been improving!

Rains earlier in the spring and summer put a lot of much needed fresh water in the bay system and the bay responded as the food chain exploded! I see more blue crabs in a week now than I have in all the past few years. With big schools of finger mullet cruising the spartina grass shorelines and massive rafts of mullet hanging along the drop offs from the flats to deeper water and shrimp hopping out of the sea grasses on shallow flats, there is plenty of food out there. Once again this week we received more much-needed rain which sets the bay up for a great fall season.

One of the brightest spots of this summer is that we have seen and caught more large speckled trout, 30", than I have ever seen this time of year. Typically for the sightfishing fly casters that I guide, trout are a winter time affair. The black drum population is also doing very well. Many flats have been loaded with tailing drum and big groups of large drum are milling along outside shorelines of the barrier islands. The drum fishing has been nothing less than phenomenal!

So the fall, "Prime," season now approaches with relief from summer temperatures and fishing pressure thanks, to dove and football season. Blue wing teal and pintail ducks are also showing up as harbingers of what is to come. Now is the time to get out there and take advantage of this most wonderful time of year.

Tight Lines, —**Capt. Billy Trimble**
361-205-1266 billytrimble@cablone.net
www.trimbleflyfishing.com

Lower Coast

By Capt. Bill Sheka

Falling temps mean aggressive fish

That special time of fall is finally here. Texas had one of the hottest summers on record and for all of us trying to fish the waters of the Laguna Madre it was...well, lets just say more interesting than in past. It put our entire system under stress from the heat.

Red tide hit the Texas Coast last fall, killing many marine animals, so we were short on shrimp this spring and summer. Our fall shrimp crop seems to be more plentiful. That means pattern changes for fishing, looking for birds (mostly seagulls mixed with terns and brown pelicans) feeding on shrimp being pushed to the top by trout and redfish. Be watchful for them not just in shallow waters but also in deeper waters with mud bottoms.

As water temperature drops, trout, redfish flounder and drum will be in a more aggressive mood. Deeper structures and ledges will start up for those who want to anchor up or use a trolling motor. October and November mean movement periods for redfish heading to the passes and jetties to spawn and the flounder will start out also.

The bait situation of choice will change; those using croakers will see that ending and shrimp will be the live bait. Use them under Alameda rattler popping corks. Be aggressive with popping. Using a small split shot on the drop offs of the Intracoastal Canal will also produce and don't be afraid to "play the current," letting the line feed off the reel slowly and light popping every 10-15 seconds.

For artificial lures, concentrate on Berkley Gulps. My favorite colors are White/Pearl with Chartreuse tail or New Penny with 1/8 or 1/4 oz screw-on jigheads. Even under a Mansfield Mauler or Cajun thunder or Alameda Popping cork, don't be too slow with your retrieve.

Top water action can still be fun. Skitterwalks, Top Dogs and Jrs in Pearl or Bone are hard to beat. Be alert for the fronts pushing in and bad weather, but enjoy the benefits of a barometer moving down with the prefront action. God Bless and stay safe while fishing.
—**Captain Bill Sheka** billsheka@msn.com
361-991-7191

Many of us older fishermen on the coast know Cap. Bill Sheka as a fine guide, and appreciate his military service. —Sam Caldwell

Sunrise On the Spirit. Great Scenic Photo by Clayton Ging. After an all night flounder trip, the sun comes up over Espiritu Santo bay near Shoalwater. The fishermen are Heath Karl and "Bubba" Talley.



Chapter Updates

Alvin-Pearland

Rex Richards 281-923-3050

Well, we all took a sigh of relief after our 10th annual banquet on Aug 9th. Despite the current economic climate, the room was still full and a great time was had by all. We set new records for both gross and net revenue! Congratulations are due to all of our board members for all their hard work and dedication, especially our banquet chairman, **Jeff Bible**, even though he could not attend the banquet he still did a great job!

Of course, the banquet could not have been so successful without our fine sponsors, a number of whom have been contributing since the start of our chapter ten years ago. The distinguished list includes; **Don Hewlett Chevrolet, PMB Helin Donovan LLP, Babeco Fabrication and Machining, Champion Site Prep, Piscavore Sportswear Co., Keystone Concrete Placement, Gibson Concrete, Morris Glass, Chasco Constructors, Navcon, United Heritage Credit Union, Plains Capital Bank, Texas Concrete Materials, and Texas Capital Bank, and Academy Sports and Outdoors.** So if you need help with construction, taxes, sportswear, concrete, outdoor gear, banking, or metal manufacturing don't forget these companies. All of them have been supporting our chapter for many years, except **Don Hewlett Chevrolet**, who was our new title sponsor this year. We hope this year started a new tradition for Don Hewlett.

We look forward to all of generous sponsors returning next year. In addition to our sponsors, another round of thanks is due to every single person who attended the banquet. Whether you spent five dollars or five thousand dollars we thank you for being there and hope you will come back each and every year! Don't forget to bring a friend.

If anyone has recommendations on speakers or topics they would like covered at general membership meetings, please let me know. We are always looking for more members especially those who would like to get more involved by becoming a board member. The more the better, so if you or someone you know is interested please feel free to contact me. —**John Melnar 512-497-8284** mobile

Aransas Bay

Carter Crigler 435-830-5984
jccrigler@hotmail.com

Austin

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

Austin welcomed **Captains Sally and Aubrey Black** to our July Anglers' Night Out (ANO) and they did not disappoint. When it comes to fishing, we all want to hear the pros tell us what color, where, when and why, and Sally and Aubrey delighted the crowd by doing exactly that. They had something for everyone—from fly fishers, to kayakers to wade anglers. Maps, lures, locations—you name it and they covered it. Thanks so much Capt Sally and Capt Black!

That's what we do at the Austin ANOs. We bring you a great speaker to learn from, provide a free meal (thanks **Smokey Denmark!**), and give away great prizes. AND IT'S FREE. Now that's a pretty good deal so be sure and join us and your fellow anglers for these every other month. Watch your email or the **CCA Austin website** to make sure you don't miss one. In fact you better mark your calendar now because we have **trophy trout guide, Baffin Bay specialist, and noted author Capt Kevin Cochran** coming November 14th!

If you want to keep up with our fun and active chapter, but aren't getting Austin

*Chapter Updates are edited for brevity to allow everyone's voice to be heard. For the full version, go to your chapter's area in the CCA website. Drop by www.ccatexas.org, click on **Local Chapters**.*

communications, call the CCA Texas office at 713-626-4222 and ask them to put you on the Austin mailing list. And we can use your help as we grow. If you'd like to join a fun and dedicated group of men and women to raise money for our coastal resources, just contact me about becoming a board member. We will welcome you. And remember, our **Junior board** is doing great things too, and welcomes any youngster between the ages of 13-18 to get involved.

Finally, we're already busy planning our 2013 banquet for May 9th. Sponsor opportunities are available, so if you'd like to promote your business to our 3000 strong Austin members and show your support of CCA, contact **Scott McGuire** (scott.mcguire@stephens.com) for information.

Be sure to Friend us on Facebook by searching Coastal Conservation Association Austin Chapter. It's a great way to keep up with everything going on in the Austin Chapter and make sure you don't miss a thing. Happy Fishing, —**Scott Sanderson**
scott@mbsquoteline.com

Bay Area

Curtis Anderson 832-421-6377

Apologies for missing Bay Area's report last issue. —EDITOR

Howdy from the Bay Area Chapter. Not much to report on except that our last monthly meeting was a "sellout". We had the most people we have ever had at a monthly meeting. The speaker was **Bryan Treadway**. He spoke about conditions in the bay system and sea center Texas. Fishing has been great in the Galveston area and the tarpon are hot. Curtis and I fished with Michael LaRue August 13th. Unfortunately, the seas were pretty rough and we didn't hook any but just days before, Michael hooked 11 and landed 9 for release in one day. Hope all of you had a chance to try for a Silver King.

We will soon begin planning our banquet and fall monthly meetings. If you would like to help the chapter in any way, contact **Curtis Anderson** at (832) 435-0257 or me, **Kent Lacy** at 832-632-2045.

Brazoria County

Wes Dingee 979-299-8245

We will hold our next general membership meeting October 16 at 6pm at **Rosco's Outdoors** located at 445 West Plantation Drive, Clute, Texas 779-265-2692. The guest speakers will be **Captain Hollis Forrester** with **WADE 'EM OUT** Guide Service and **John O'Connell** with the Brazoria County Extension Office-Marine Division. This event includes dinner provided by **Talk About Good** and **Trent Allen** and we will also raffle off a rod & reel combo, a **Big Bubba 9"** flex file knife with a Warthog (V Sharp) sharpener. Hope to see everyone there.

We will be holding our next chapter meeting November 20 at 6pm at **Sea Center**

Texas. We will begin planning our 2013 Banquet if anyone is interested in becoming a board member or volunteering for the upcoming banquet please contact **Dan Johnson** at 979-481-3907. Thank you from your Brazoria County Chapter—**Wes Dingee**

Brazos Valley

Larry Purifoy 979-229-4752

Brenham

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

We recently held our annual Port O'Connor summer tournament. The **Reese Hart team** won largest stringer on Friday and the **Paul Schroeder team** was the big winner on Saturday. A good time was had by everyone. Thanks to **Mike Hopkins Distributing** and **ammotogo.com** for supporting our tournament. A big thank you also goes out to **Wade Tiemann, Corky Loesch, and Wesley Maurer** for being our weigh masters and recorders. Finally, thanks to **Hooper at Hurricane Junction** for providing our meal especially, the great cold slaw.

Unfortunately, one of our fishermen contracted a flesh-eating bacteria during the tournament. Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to our fellow fisherman and friend as he continues to recover at home. In light of this accident, the club's August meeting featured **Dr. William Loesch** who discussed how to best treat this bacteria as well as other types of accidents that may occur while out on the water. Thank you to Dr. Loesch for providing great insight and information on these maladies.

The Brenham chapter of CCA meets every fourth Thursday of the month at **Mike Hopkins distributing**. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to attend this friendly, casual night out of information, fish tales and fellowship. Contact **Dennis Crowson** at dennis.crowson@hotmail.com or visit us at

www.facebook.com/BrenhamCCA for more information. The Brenham CCA is sponsored by **Mike Hopkins Distributing** and **ammotogo.com**. Thanks, —**Dennis Crowson, Ph.D.**



The Brenham chapter's Paul Schroeder team with their winning catch.

Update information on the Keith Korth Benefit: Keith is the fisherman who caught a flesh eating virus. A benefit will be held on Nov. 17. Tickets are \$15. The facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Keith-Korth-Benefit/462834373738919> or korthbenefit@yahoo.com

www.facebook.com/BrenhamCCA for more information. The Brenham CCA is sponsored by **Mike Hopkins Distributing** and **ammotogo.com**. Thanks, —**Dennis Crowson, Ph.D.**

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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.



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Todd Buster Mobil, 713-545-1897

We are starting to work hard organizing our Spring banquet which is April 19th. Please mark this on your calendars and be looking for a "save the date" soon! We had a very successful event last year and plan on even taking it up a notch this year by having a boat raffle that we are very excited about. Please contact me for any questions about the event. Thanks, —**Todd Buster**

Colorado Valley
Jonathan Brandt, (aka JK)
979-966-2679

jkb00@cmaaccess.com

Hello to all of our Colorado Valley Chapter members. We met in September to make plans for our Fall General membership meeting. We will have a meeting on November 7th at the EH Kitchen at 6 pm. We will have a great program for you. We have a few spots open on our committee and will be accepting nominations at this meeting. Sausage Wraps and potato salad will be provided by **Zimmerhansels BBQ**. We'll have plenty for cold refreshments so come out and join us for a casual fisherman's night out.

Corpus Christi
Welcome new president, Andy Poelma
361-851-1129

r_poelmacpa@sbcglobal.net

We welcome Blake Laird as the 2013 Annual Banquet Chairman. **With the 2013 Banquet on**

March 7, 2013, plans are already under way for another great event. **Andrews Distributing Company** has already agreed to underwrite the raffle boat in 2013 – thank you **Scott Robinson** and **Andrews Distributing Company**. Please mark your calendars now for this early spring banquet.

The month of October brings the three "on the water" events (listed below) for the CCA Corpus Christi Chapter.

Upcoming events:

Guides Cup - October 4-5, 2012. / Contact **Cody Roesner**, Chairman 916-531-0078.
Captain's dinner and Calcutta, Thursday evening at 6 pm.

Babes on Baffin and Blue Ladies Fishing Tournament – October 5-6, 2012

We are looking forward to our Babes on Baffin and Blue Ladies Fishing Tournament, which takes place this coming weekend (October 6th) at Roberts Point Park in Port Aransas. Doc's Restaurant (under the JFK Causeway) is the location of Friday night's check-in and social. The Tournament features a live weigh in / donation bonus with the live fish going to the CCA/CPL Marine Development Center in Corpus Christi. For those not familiar with the Marine Development Center, it is one of the world's largest state-of-the-art saltwater hatcheries, which provides educational outreach and cutting edge marine science work and produces tens of millions of fingerling redfish and spotted seatrout for release into Texas bays for stock enhancement.

Before the Tournament begins, we want to say a special thank you to our 2012 Diamond Sponsors, who believe in us and in what we are doing. These sponsors are **Fifteen Carat Diamond Sponsor - My Pink Marlin**; **Ten Carat Diamond Sponsors - Total Oilfield Equipment & Supply, LLC and Jackie's Brickhouse** located in Kemah; **Five Carat Diamond Sponsors - John and Laura Holmgreen and Sea Tow**. We are grateful

for their generous support of our ladies tournament and of CCA. We also offer a thank you to each of the volunteers on the planning committee who give their time and energy to ensure all the details are covered. These individuals include **Jo Gardner, Adriane Hutchison, Laura Payne, Erin Survant, Candace Tidmore, and Angela Wisdom**.

To our new and returning tournament volunteers, thank you—without you, the event could not happen. Last, we offer our sincere thank you to all of the Lady Anglers and Little Babes who are joining us this year. We hope you have a memorable weekend of fishing, friendship, and fun. —**Candace Tidmore**
Poco Rojo Kids Fish – October 20, 2012
Contact **John De John** 361-728-8152 or **Mike Henry** 361-816-0300. The Kids Fish will be held at the CCA/CPL Marine Development Center in Corpus Christi. E-Blasts are forthcoming for early registration for this event.

As always, if you have an interest in joining our board and being involved in conservation of our coastal resources, please contact a board member or me at r_poelmacpa@sbcglobal.net.

—**Randy Poelma**

Dallas / North Texas
Craig Jones 817-239-6200

As fall is upon us I hope everyone had a great summer catching lots fish. October is a great time to be out on the water with less people and generally good weather. I am still enjoying the benefits of our banquet having just returned from a trip I purchased in the live auction. My wife and I were lucky to catch a lot of dorado in the beautiful Sea of Cortez with our friends at **Buena Vista Lodge in East Cape, B.C.S. Mexico**. The marlin action was a bit slow, but it was great to just pull some lures through the deep blue waters minutes from the beach.

Your Dallas board members are already hard at work planning for the next banquet in



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April, as well as several other events in the coming months. We plan to have several get-togethers in the coming months and hope to have plenty of folks show up. If you have not checked out our Facebook page please Friend us at *dallascca*, and check out all the cool photos. Please make sure to submit your pictures as well, both old and current photos are welcome! Regards, —Craig Jones

East Texas

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

We held our banquet at the end of April. We had close to 200 participants at **Banita Creek Hall** enjoying raffles, silent and live auctions and a barbecue dinner catered by our chapter. Pit masters **Billy Cox** and **Dan Hafner** did a remarkable job cooking brisket, chicken, and sausage for the crowd. The **Big Fish Liars Consortium** of **Frank Still**, **Marty Smith**, **Bill Kaczynski**, **Rusty Sanders**, and **Mike Miguez** closely monitored the pit masters and filched frequent samples checking quality control. Special thanks go to **Butcher Boy Restaurant** and **Clear Springs Restaurant** for donating the raw materials for the pit. Thanks also to **R&K Distributors** for supplying refreshments.

We will have our fall chapter fishing tournament Saturday October 20. Entry fee will be \$60 per person. Weigh-in location is yet to be determined. Prizes will be determined by the number of entries we have. If you are an East Texas Chapter member or friend of a member and would like to fish with us, contact me by the 13th of October for an e-mail of rules and locations.

We continue to have over 300 members but just 12 - 15 regular members that show up for monthly meetings and do all the planning and work to put on banquets, Kid Fish, and chapter fishing tournaments. If you are a member of our chapter and would like to help out with some of these activities, contact me. We look forward to having some new blood show up. Tight Lines, —**Jim Norman**
jnorman7@suddenlink.net

Fort Bend

Welcome new president, Clint Shepard
832-595-5375

It's been a long fun-filled summer. Between ICC, LOTB (Lingerie on the Bay), the Jimmy Guest Memorial Kid Fish, and taking the family fishing for scholarships, it has been one exciting summer. I hope the Labor Day weekend went well for all, and was a fitting end to an exceptional summer.

With the summer coming to an end it is time to begin focusing on our next event, a mini-tournament we auctioned at this year's banquet. It will include good food, camaraderie, and hopefully some good "fishin'." This should be an awesome event in late October weather permitting. We'll keep you posted on the results. —**Clint Shepard**

Fort Worth

Fearn Mastin 817-291-1302

The lakes are low but the rivers and gulf seem to be in pretty good shape lately. After a record-setting annual fundraiser in May, we all took some time off to do some fishing. We heard some reports of board members heading to cooler climates in pursuit of some rainbows while others went south and hit the Laguna Madre. All successful trips and each person came back in awe of the beauty that God has created.

We are now gearing up for our semi-annual event at The **Rahr Brewery** (one of our greatest partners in conservation) for another general membership meeting. Please feel free to join us at the brewery on November 1st to share in some camaraderie and tall tales. As usual beer and food will be provided. Until then keep a tight line and good luck to all of you dove hunters! —**Fearn Mastin**

Galveston

Shane Justus 713-818-6940

Our 20th Annual Banquet and Fundraiser was a great success. Thanks to all of our continuing supporters and the new ones that just came aboard this year. A couple of quotes: Everyone should believe in something; I believe I'll go fishing.—**Henry David Thoreau** Give a man a fish and he has food for a day; teach him how to fish and you can get rid of him for the entire weekend. —**Zenna Schaffer** Remember to take a kid fishing or hunting they will remember it forever and so will you. —**Shane Justus**

Golden Triangle

Joseph Ramey 409-338-1095

The Concert For Coastal Conservation in July was a fabulous success, even with the inclement weather. Jerry Jeff, Pat Green, et al put on a great show. The rain came in early in the day and scared some people away, but it also cooled everything off, and it was a delightful afternoon and evening of good Texas music. The goal was to bring in new members to CCA from a different genre, and it definitely worked! 675 new members in one afternoon! That brings the total membership to 54,000 plus or minus!

Our annual Director's Tournament that is held at the **Petit/Anderson** home on Siever's Cove was, as usual, a fun time. Pure Cajun came down and fixed some wonderful catfish, hush puppies, and coleslaw that was enjoyed by all. **Joseph Ramey** actually won the tourney with a slot red that almost was too big, and a small trout that was almost too small, but all was legal, and **Charlotte Fontenot** came in a close 2nd. Thanks to the **George Busceme family** and **Eastham Forge** for buying the trip at our banquet!

S.T.A.R. is having a banner year this year! Six tagged reds have been caught so far (as of 8/23/2012), 3 of which were legal entrants/winners of the Ford F-150, 23 ft. Haynie Bigfoot with a Mercury 150 Optimax and Coastline Trailer! So far, the biggest trout caught is NOT from the Lower Coast—a 9lb. 8oz. trout is entered and was caught on the Middle Coast! The fishing has been fabulous throughout the summer, thanks to the lack of hurricanes—and speaking of that, we have Isaac bearing down on the Gulf right now, and are hoping he stays away from us!

Fall is upon us, believe it or not—there was a touch of it in the air the past few days, so when all of the hunters go a huntin', it is a great time to GO FISH! —**Rocky Chase**

Greater Sugar Land

David Kveton 281-808-4870

Thanks go out to our board members who have worked extremely hard planning upcoming events for this year and our 2013 banquet.

July 11, our chapter, along with the **Catholic Charities**, held a kid fish at the **Foster Community Center** in Richmond. These children included special needs children and refugees that are being cared for by the Charity. A huge thanks to the members that came out to help.

August 1, **Cindy Reed Wilkins**, owner of **Cin Chili & Co.** was the speaker. Door prizes of Cin Chili spices and a cook book were given away at the meeting.

September 5, **Scott A. Jones** from Galveston Bay Foundation was our speaker. We had a great turn out. Thank you, Scott, for the information that you shared with us.

October 3, **Capt. John Brummerhop** of **Angler Products** and a saltwater guide was our speaker. John shared some great information on GPS systems and other products.

November 7, **Bill Balboa** with Texas Park and Wildlife and Galveston Bay Ecosystem, will be our speaker for the meeting. Bill will have some great info on the Texas Bay Systems.

November 10 will be our **President's Cup Fishing Tournament in Sargent, Texas**. Please contact me if you are interested in entering this tournament.

Our meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month at **Spring Creek Bar-B-Que on Hwy. 6 in Missouri City**. Come join us for some great BBQ and meet some great people. Check out our Facebook page at <http://www.Facebook.com/ccasugarland>. —**David Kveton**

Greater Woodlands

Welcome new president, James Kay
281-363-4417

www.ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands

Our annual banquet was held September 13th and was a great success! Everybody who came out and supported CCA and our chapter's efforts share a common belief that our fisheries will only continue to exist if we are all willing to practice and support conservation. And can have stringers of fun doing it!

Thanks to all of our sponsors this year and special thanks to **Royal Purple, Silver Eagle and Academy**. Without all of our sponsors our banquet's success wouldn't be possible. Plans to secure next year's banquet date is already in the works and if this year was any indication it will be even more successful. If you would like to attend next year's banquet or perhaps become a corporate sponsor please contact us!

In other news, The Greater Woodlands chapter plans to hold a kids fishing event next spring and details on the event will soon follow. —**Russell Dennis**, Historian
Please contact any of the board members on our website <http://www.ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands/>

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
darlenec@knbt.fm

Houston Real Estate

Dale Couch 281-953-2510

Katy

Jason Smith 281-924-7040

Laredo

Jesse Martinez jmartinez@bushlan.com
956-763-5555

Lee County

Welcome new president, Byron Kalbas
979-540-0056

bkalbas@yahoo.com

The 2nd annual Lee County CCA Chapter banquet will be held Thursday, October 18, 2012 at the Sons of Herman Hall in Giddings, TX.

Doors open at 6pm. We are looking forward to another successful year with a few added games and raffles full of great prizes to be won. You can contact any Lee County CCA committee member or me at 979-540-0056 or bkalbas@yahoo.com, if you would like to attend the banquet or purchase raffle tickets. Any company, individual or organization looking to help sponsor or donate any items please contact me, and either myself or a committee member will assist you further. Looking forward to seeing many familiar faces and hopefully many new ones at the upcoming banquet. Wishing everyone a safe and fishing filled Labor Day weekend!—Byron Kalbas
bkalbas@yahoo.com

Live Oak

Brad Kotrla 979-732-1669

Lower Colorado

J.L. West 979-318-9007

We held our 4th Annual Fundraiser/Banquet Friday evening, August 17, at the Bay City Civic Center. We had a wonderful turnout and want to say Thank You to the people of Bay City and surrounding Matagorda County for coming out and supporting our event. This was our best fundraiser yet.

A&A BBQ served a delicious meal of BBQ beef and sausage with all the trimmings. Hartman Distributing, Del Papa Distributing, Pepsi Bottling Company, and HEB provided the beverages for everyone's enjoyment. A live auction highlighted the evening with an assorted variety of Art items, Fishing Trip packages, Hunting Trip packages, a Helicopter Hog Hunt, a patio style beverage cooler, and a pig roaster.

There were numerous Silent Auction items donated by local businesses and everyone was busy choosing which silent auction item to select, or which of the many raffles to buy tickets for. The raffle for the 10 firearms and the 10 Yeti coolers was a huge favorite for the night. 20 youngsters received a free rod and reel through a special raffle just for them. Everyone had a good time.

Three special Art items displayed at this year's live auction were: the Don Busha family presented a Marilyn Busha Memorial "Cattle Drive" Print; local artist, Richard Walton, presented a painting of two Redfish; and Port Arthur artist, Don Henley, painted a scene of the Matagorda Harbor to include Russell's Bait Camp. All three items were beautifully done and they totaled \$4,550 in the live auction.

We want to thank all of the Corporate Table sponsors, the Live Auction Art

and Trip Underwriter donors, and the Silent Auction donors.

Thank you to Academy Sports & Outdoors, STPNOC, Full Stringer Realty, Gateway Mortgage, W. D. "Bill" Von Gonten, Matagorda Construction & Materials, Dependable Machine, Ward Real Estate, HEB, First State Bank, Wells Fargo Bank, Matagorda Regional Medical Center, Trans Sport Boats, Busha Boat Works, Capital Farm Credit, Will Ohmstede, Letulle/Green Ranch and Buzz Vargas for your continued support as Corporate

Table sponsors and Special Events sponsors. Thank you to Helen McAda, Drenner's Carpet Gallery, Hlavinka Equipment Co., Dental Arts of Bay City, Texas Farm Bureau, BayCel Federal Credit Union, Don Davis Dealerships, HAPPY Radio FM 92.5, Butler Marine, and Bay City Veterinary Clinic for underwriting our live auction Art Items and several Trip Packages.

Thank you to the many local businesses that provided items for our Silent Auction. Thank you to the many fishing guides and businesses that donated Fishing Trip packages for the live auction, Captains Ozzie Arnold, Mark Talasek, Tommy Countz, Tommy Alexander, Ray Sexton, Jessie Arsola, Triple XXX Charters, Redrum Sportfishing, Don Simons, and Miss Kitty's Fishing Adventures. Thank you to Double Deuce Ranch, Waterfowl Specialties, and JB Hunting Ranch for donating the Hunting Trip Packages.

Fundraisers like this are how CCA raises funds to do the marine conservation efforts that it is known for. Without the support and help of people like you, this effort could not be possible. Remember: Money Raised in Texas, Stays in Texas. Thank You to all who supported this event, and to the Lower Colorado Chapter Board Members who gave so much of their time.

REMEMBER! The Lower Colorado Chapter regularly meets every first Tuesday at 6:30 pm. Check your email or the Bay City Tribune Memos column for location. Come early and share a meal with us. Chapter



The Matagorda Bays boat was won by Craig Bram. Left to right: Wesley Smolik, Linc Lutrick, Caleb Bram, Tanya Bram, Craig Bram, Mike Prasek

members get involved with your chapter. Come to meetings and bring a friend. In the meantime, keep those lines wet. —John Kubecka Secretary

Lower Laguna Madre

Travis Flanagan 956-207-6391

Mainland

Eric Minor 281-534-6242

We had our 2nd Annual Board Fishing Tournament on Saturday August 4th. We all had a great time fishing, and then feasted on the fish that we caught. A special thanks to Randy Jones and Gerald Smith for the use of their fishing camp and our hats off to Gerald for cleaning all the fish and the cooks, Randy, Jerry, and Doug, everything was great. Our 4th Annual Kids Fishing Tournament was a little soggy as the rain decided to visit us. All 85 contestants slogged through it and caught a bunch of fish. Austin Calhoun caught the Most Fish at 14, Tyler Russ with the Longest Trout, Josh Parnell was lucky enough to catch the Longest Hardhead, Carson Dunham with the Longest Croaker, Wade Wilkerson with the Shortest Fish and Sharon Wilkerson caught the Longest Fish.

We would like to recognize our sponsors: Harborwalk Marina for allowing us to fish on their property, Danny Coffman with Base Construction for the bathroom facilities, and monetary gifts from BP Fabric of American Fund and Eastman Chemicals. All the kids had a great

time thanks to our volunteers, which included Mainland Chapter Board Members, Greg Akins with TPWD, Boy Scout Troop 2322 as well as various members of the community that just wanted to help. We schedule our board meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at Dickinson Bar-B-Que. —Eric

Matagorda Bays

Linc Lutrick 979-541-9901

On June 28 at the El Campo Civic Center, the Matagorda Bays Chapter of the CCA held our 27th Annual Banquet. This was our 5th consecutive SOLD OUT banquet. The crowd of over 800 spent the night buying boat raffle



Mainland Kid's Tourney another success

tickets, \$5 raffle tickets, and raffle caps (sponsored by **Mustang Cat, El Campo Boating Center, and Prasek's Hillje Smokehouse**), Koozies (sponsored by **Polasek Construction and R&M Forge and Fittings**), and tumblers (sponsored by **Glaze Backhoe Service and Penner Electric**).

Once again we were honored to have the opportunity to announce the **Coastal Game Warden of the Year** at our banquet. **Philip Fitzgerald** and **Ronnie Luster** presented the new warden medallion, a very prestigious award to a deserving Warden, **Mr. Clay Shock**. We appreciate the work and dedication exhibited by Mr. Shock and all of the other Game Wardens. These folks literally put their lives on the line to protect our precious natural resources.

The live auction (sponsored by **Gulf Coast Lease Service, Full Auto Firearms, and Wiese Crop Insurance**) exceeded last year's record live auction. Some of the items that received the most attention were a **trip to Costa Rica, a roll top BBQ pit donated by Multi-Fab Metals, Offshore fishing trip and lodging donated by Dalton Lodge**, and of course, all of the **Guides Cup trips** (sponsored by **Duckett, Bouligny & Collins, L.L.P. H & H Oilfield Consultants and Russell's Bait & Tackle**) donated by professional guides from Matagorda. We want to say a special thank you to all of our Matagorda Guides who donate their time, effort and equipment to make the banquet a remarkable success each and every year. The highlight of the evening was the raffle drawing for the Matagorda Bay CCA boat. This year's boat was a fully rigged 21 ft. **Tran Sport XLR8 LS with a 150 hp Suzuki Engine, Coastline Aluminum Trailer and T-Top by Aluma-Tech. Craig Bram** from Louise, Texas was the lucky winner of this beautiful boat.

A sincere thank you to our all of our Sponsors along with longtime supporters **Quality Lease Services, Inc., El Campo Sheet Metal, B&S Services, Quality Hot Mix, CMF Construction, Superior Motor Parts, Del Papa Distributing, Mr. Sam Caldwell, Academy Outdoors, and Multi-Fab Metals**. Also, a big thank you to all of our directors whose hard work and dedication to our Chapter make this event a huge success every year. Matagorda Bay CCA would like to thank everyone for making our small-town event one of the largest fund raisers in the State of Texas for CCA. —**Linc Lutrick**

MidCoast

Welcome new president, David Jenkins
361-578-5580

jenkins12@sbcglobal.net

First, I would like to thank everyone for the success of our record breaking banquet in May this year. The donors, members, vendors, attendees and guests made this a fun night for all. A special "Thank You" goes to **Curt Allison**, our banquet chairman, for the super job he did in organizing this year's banquet.

Upcoming events are **Guides Cup, October 11-12**. Captain's dinner is Thursday at 6 p.m. and will be held at Port O'Connor Community Center. The fishing tournament will be at the **Sanctuary, Friday a.m.** We would like to thank **Speedy Stop** for being our sponsor again this year.

The Christmas Parade will be December 1 at 6 p.m. General Meeting, no dates have been set at this time. **Our banquet 2013 will be April 19, 2013, and will be at the Victoria Community Center.**

Our chapter will be giving away a boat again on banquet night. The boat is a 22' 6" **Majek Illusion with trailer, jack plate, power pole, and stereo**. The tickets will be \$100 each

and only 500 will be sold. The boat will be from **Kresta's Marine in Edna, Texas** again this year. Pictures and more information will be in future issues. If you are interested in joining our board of directors, please contact a board member or myself at jenkins12@sbcglobal.net.

—**David Jenkins**

Northeast Houston
Jason Law 713-898-8594

Northwest Houston
Blayne Eversole 832-444-4579

Our Annual Fund Raising Banquet was a great success. This year the banquet was held at the **Crowne Plaza – Houston Northwest** located at 12801 Northwest Freeway. (Pinemont at Hwy 290). It was a great venue with lots of room for seating and viewing the raffle and auction items.

Hopefully you will receive this notice as Currents goes out. The Next General Membership meeting is October 2nd. 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. Plan to attend for the update on the banquet, a great speaker, our usual raffle and beer courtesy of Houston Distributing.

The Speaker at the August General Membership Meeting was **Commander Doak McBryde** who is a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. His presentation covered the Auxiliary's role in operations for: * Safety and Security Patrols / * Search and Rescue / * Mass Casualty or Disasters / * Pollution Response & Patrols / * Homeland Security / * Recreational Boating Safety / * Commercial Fishing and Vessel Exams / * Platforms for Boarding Parties / * Recruiting for all service in the Coast Guard. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary operates in any mission as directed by the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard or Secretary of Homeland Security.

Our sincere thanks to both **Houston Distributing and Academy**. They are active sponsors of our meetings and many events. We are especially fortunate to have such great support.

As a reminder, we are using email for meeting announcements. If we don't have your e-mail address and you would like to receive our announcements, please send your e-mail address to js_declue@yahoo.com.

—**Blayne Eversole**

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

As I write this article, our 2012 banquet has just wrapped up. With another sold out crowd, this year's event was very successful.

We would like to give a BIG THANKS to **Mike Lemoine of Spanky's** for cooking some of the best rib-eyes. Mike's crew fed 250 hungry people and kept the steaks hot all night long.

Granger Chevrolet / Automart were our banquet sponsors, along with 26 other table sponsors. Members packed the **Bridge City Community Center** for a night of raising money for a good cause. I want to personally thank the Orange County Banquet Committee for all of your hard work during the last five months of preparing for this one night. Without your dedication this night would not have been possible. Now that our banquet is behind us let the fall fishing begin. Tight Lines, —**Scott Bandy**

Scottbandy77@yahoo.com 409-988-3667

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Piney Woods
Jess Mowery 903-736-3891

Port O'Connor
Bill Moore 361-983-4690

Well, as summer comes to a close and we prepare to usher in the fall activities, it also signals the time for everyone to **come join us for the 13th Annual POC CCA Banquet**. This will again be held at the POC Community Center **on Saturday, October 20th**. Tickets are available, as well as Bull Red and Trophy Trout tables from any POC CCA member or CCA Assistant Director **Ellen Ohmstede**, 713-626-4222 or ellen@ccatexas.org. In POC take note of the following businesses where tickets/table may be purchased: **Sonny's Marine, Coastal Boat Services, Coastal Bend Marine, and Port O'Connor Rods**. Also, kudos to **Carl Ray** and **Jim Busby** for stepping up and being our banquet chairmen.

The POC Chapter would like to express its appreciation to the Oilfield Helping Hand Tournament held in POC. We attended the awards ceremony and accepted a generous donation for POC CCA. This tournament has really grown and brings a lot to the POC Community. So, as we continue to support our coastal resources, make arrangements for tickets or a table and come join us on Saturday, October 20 in POC. "Where it all began." — **Bill Moore**

Prairie
Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103

On June 30th the chapter hosted our first annual CCA Prairie Chapter Bay Blast Tournament at Matagorda Harbor. Many thanks to Travis and Amy Herbrig for organizing a great tournament. The following are the results of the tournament:

Stringer: (Trout, Redfish, Flounder) / 1st Place: **Team Randall**—63 lbs. 6 oz. / 2nd Place: **Team Red Lab**—61 lbs. 5.5oz / Slot Redfish (heaviest) / 1st Place: **Reel Maniacs** —8 lbs. 7 oz. / 2nd Place: **Team Randall** —7 lbs. 11oz / Trout: (heaviest) 1st Place: **Team Salty Nutz**—4 lbs. 3 oz. / 2nd Place: **Team Randall**—41 lbs. 2.5 oz. / Sidepots: Heaviest Hard Head: **Team Randall** —11 lbs 6oz. / Spotted Redfish: (slot redfish w/ most spots) **Team: Wham Bam Thank You Mam**, 8 spots.

On July 28th I and two friends had the pleasure to wade fish with **Capt. Kent Turner** (281-932-6431) in Port O'Connor. This trip was purchased at our 2012 banquet.

On September 5, the Prairie Chapter board members held our annual meeting/dove hunt at the **Burtchell field in Sealy**. We had a great turnout and a good hunt. The dinner menu was beef and chicken fajitas served by **Ron Chess** and board members.

On Saturday, September 29, the chapter had its appreciation dinner and clay pigeon shoot at **Wietstruck Farm in Bellville**. Thanks to **Lori Cruz and Liteco Electric** for the use of their facility. The food was great, and we had a great turnout. Have a Great Fall, —**Ron Chess, Sr.** 979-992-3295

Redfish Bay
Norman Oates 361-758-0266

Rio Grande Valley
Welcome new president, **Phil Tienert**

The RGV Chapter would like to introduce our new Chapter President **Phil Tienert**. Phil is a long time member of the RGV Chapter and will be a great leader for the Rio Grande Chapter. It has been an honor to serve as president for the past two years and I look forward to working with Phil and the rest of the chapter to continue to promote CCA. —**Matt Klosterman**

Sabine-Neches
Darin Johnson 409-790-9855
darin.johnson@delpapabud.com

Sam Houston
Mark Robinson 936-662-0841
mark6469@hotmail.com

San Antonio
Johnny Rayburg 210-837-5500
CCASanAntonio@yahoo.com

The San Antonio banquet this past May was another huge success. Remember that the money raised in Texas stays in Texas. Our chapter relies on a large number of people to put on our annual fundraiser banquet. Those of you that have attended must know what an

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 Conserva-

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." 🍀



incredible amount of coordination goes on behind the scenes to make it all happen.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help us put on the event. If you are interested in being a part of our banquet committee, please be on the lookout for information on our meeting location for the 2013 banquet. We always meet on Tuesday evenings, beginning in early January all the way through the banquet date in early May. It is a commitment, but being a part of the team that puts on the largest CCA banquet in the Nation is quite rewarding. If you've been looking for an opportunity to get more involved, here's your chance.

We are planning a general membership meeting at the end of October or the beginning of November. Look for an email blast soon with more information on our guest speaker and location. At the time I'm writing this the details have not been set.

For updates on the Restore Cedar Bayou project visit <http://www.restorecedarbayou.org>.

If you need to contact our chapter directly, there are two ways: email ccasanantonio@yahoo.com or call 210-837-5500. Take a kid fishing, it will put a smile on their face and yours! —Johnny Rayburg

San Bernard

Royce Macha 979-472-5211

San Gabriel

**John Melnar
512-497-8284**

We all took a sigh of relief after our 10th annual banquet on Aug 9th. De-

spite the current economic climate, the room was full and a great time was had by all. We set new records for both gross and net revenue! Congratulations are due to all of our board members for all their hard work and dedication, especially our banquet chairman, **Jeff Bible**, even though he could not attend the banquet he still did a great job!

Of course, the banquet could not have been so successful without our fine sponsors, a number of whom have been contributing since the start of our chapter ten years ago. The distinguished list includes; **Don Hewlett Chevrolet**, **PMB Helin Donovan LLP**, **Babeco Fabrication and Machining**, **Champion Site Prep**, **Piscavore Sportswear Co.**, **Keystone Concrete Placement**, **Gibson Concrete**, **Morris Glass**, **Chasco Constructors**, **Navcon**, **United Heritage Credit Union**, **Plains Capital Bank**, **Texas Concrete Materials**, and **Texas Capital Bank**, and **Academy Sports and Outdoors**. So if you need help with construction, taxes, sportswear, concrete, outdoor gear, banking, or metal manufacturing don't forget these companies. All of them have been supporting our chapter for many years, except **Don Hewlett Chevrolet**, who was our new title sponsor this year. We hope this year started a new tradition for Don Hewlett. We look forward to all of generous sponsors returning next year. In addition to our sponsors, another round of thanks is due to every single person who attended the banquet. Whether you spent five dollars or five thousand dollars we thank you for being there and hope you will come back each and every year! Don't forget to bring a friend.

If anyone has recommendations on speakers or topics they would like covered at general membership meetings, please let me know. We are always looking for more members especially those who would like to get more involved by becoming a board member. The more the better, so if you or someone you know is interested please feel free to contact me. —

John Melnar 512-497-8284
mobil

San Jacinto

Pete Ruiz 832-496-4903

TAMU

Burr Thornton 559-901-9783

Texas A&M CCA University Chapter has grown our membership by FIVE TIMES the amount of members we had last year! Now with over 50 members, we look to grow the attendance at our banquet in the Spring by just as much. We have joined up this semester with two other student organizations (**Texas A&M Ducks Unlimited** as well as **Texas A&M Texas Trophy Hunters Association**) to throw two socials this semester in order to grow our membership with the student body.

Along with our banquet, which is likely to be set to take place during the month of March this year, we also will be taking part in **Big Event**. This is a campus-wide project where we will be assigned to a specific need in the community for one day. We will spend all day helping out those people. Texas A&M CCA is a rapidly growing university chapter and we plan to only get bigger as time goes on! —Burr

Texas State

Robin Benson 830-385-1081

Tomball/Magnolia

Matt Maddox 832-590-1828

Tri-County

Jason Trial 830-570-2988

Trinity Bay

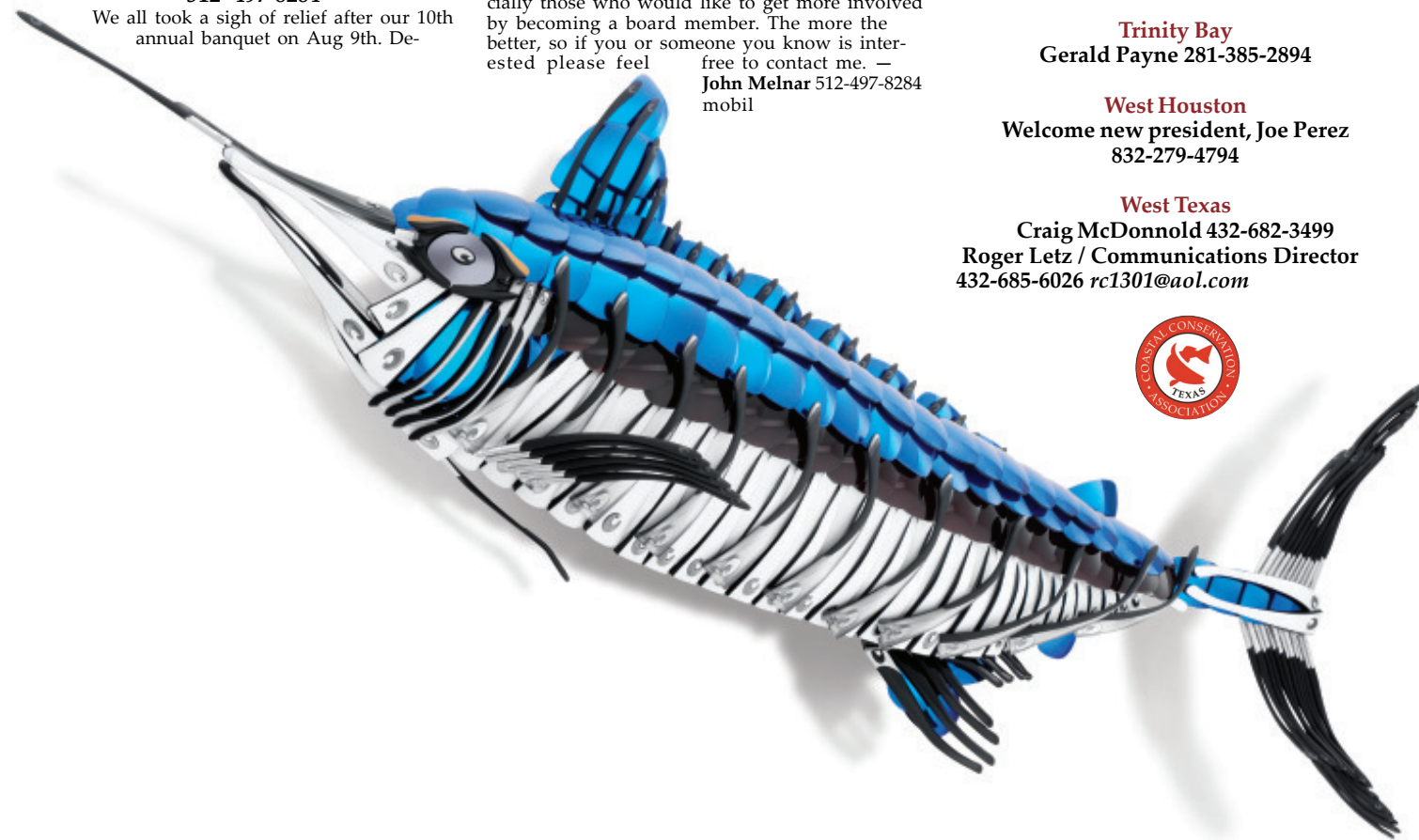
Gerald Payne 281-385-2894

West Houston

Welcome new president, **Joe Perez**
832-279-4794

West Texas

Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499
Roger Letz / Communications Director
432-685-6026 rc1301@aol.com



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COSTA



Great Scenic Photo by Keith Bauman. He says his fishing buddy is Skipper; both are with the Sugar Land chapter.

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The Last Laugh



Captain, Our Captain
Great Humor photo by Melissa Lincoln



CCA Texas members journeyed to Chena Hot Springs in Alaska for the 2012 Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA) conference. Pictured are Marty Malin of the Laredo chapter, Shane Townsend of the Austin chapter, Karen Loke of the Austin chapter, and Sam Caldwell of the Northeast Houston chapter.

Chena Hot Springs owner Bernie Karl has made Chena Hot springs an important national center for conservation, geothermal energy and recycling research. *For more information and photos, visit www.samcaldwell.com and www.chenahot-springs.com*



"Thirteen Years Old" National award from OWAA, First Place Outdoor Painting.

"Copano Bay Redfish Release" Second place national award.

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www.samcaldwell.com
Texas State Artist 2004
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Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Suite 100 / Houston, TX 77024

CURRENTS NEWSLETTER

October / November 2012

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A "national treasure—" Cedar Bayou moves forward

U.S. Coast Guard Air & Sea Rescue

National Response Center: 800-874-2143
Port Isabel: 956-761-2668
Corpus Christi / Marine Safety Office:
boating emergencies, chemical and
oil spills: 361-888-3162
Port Aransas: 361-749-5217
Port O'Connor: 361-983-2616
Freeport: 979-233-3801
Houston, Galveston: 409-766-5620
Sabine: 409-971-2195

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://](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/)
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/>



COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (including STAR Entry)



Name _____ Phone _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWAL _____ (Member ID for renewing members only) _____ EMAIL _____

Method of payment

___ Check/Money order
___ Charge to my:
___ MASTERCARD
___ VISA
___ AMEX
___ DISCOVER

MEMBER:	\$25	Membership card, decal, bumper sticker, Texas CURRENTS newsletter & TIDE magazine.
ASSOCIATE:	\$15	Per each family member. All membership privileges except TIDE and CURRENTS.
PRINT MEMBER:	\$100	All of the above plus CCA Texas print of your choice.
LIFE MEMBER:	\$1000	CCA Life Membership piece, print, plus member gifts. Payable in four \$250 installments.
STAR ENTRY FEE:	\$20	Tournament entry fee. Must be a current CCA member.
NEW TIDE:	\$10	Tide newsletter, patch, decal, iron-on T-shirt transfer, redbird sticker.
NEW TIDE / Star:	\$10	Members 17 and under only
		Same as above, plus "FREE" STAR Tournament entry.

Age: _____ Date of birth: _____
Age: _____ Date of birth: _____

Credit card number _____ Signature _____

Credit card expiration date _____ By entering this tournament, I agree to be bound by the STAR Tournament Rules, Release and Indemnity Agreement. I understand that there are specific rules governing the conduct of the tournament and that upon request a copy will be mailed to me. 6919 Portwest, Suite 100 / Houston, TX 77024 / 713-626-4222 / Website: www.ccatexas.org