Save Callinectes sapidus! And other marine life. Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program coming up Feb. 21 - March 2
We exceeded the 30,000 trap mark last year. Woo hoo! Today, the total number of traps removed stands at 30,449 since the program began in 2002. The most removed from any gulf state!

Only 897 traps were removed from primary Galveston and San Antonio Bays in 2013, but that is good news. The most removed from any gulf state!

Many partners are required to make this program a success. From the local host sites, to organizations such as CCA, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Galveston Bay Foundation, USFWS, local municipalities, cities, counties and numerous others each contributing significantly to the success of this program, now in its 13th year.

This year’s closure will occur February 21st to March 2nd. The main event day will be Saturday, February 22nd. The site list has not been finalized at this time but will be similar to last year’s list with the glaring exception of Conn Brown Harbor in Aransas Pass, which is undergoing renovation and will not be open to the public until sometime in March or April.

That site will likely move to Ransom Channel Park Public Ramp (Unattended site) also in Aransas Pass. Folks can contact their local coordinators as listed below or me for more information and assistance. Email crabtrap@tpwd.state.tx.us for any questions.

Drop off sites will look similar to those in years past. Contact your local TPWD Coastal Fisheries Division office for details on how you can help and email crabtrap@tpwd.texas.gov for more information. And as always, TPWD’s Art Morris 361-825-3356 will be facilitating the event from his Corpus Christi office.

Ronnie Luster Sr., first winner of Field & Stream’s top award, will always be known by his CCA friends as “The Crab Man.”
Heroes of Conservation
National Sports Afield awards now include four CCA-Texas members.

Ronnie Luster
2006
The first recipient of the Top Award

Capt. Billy Sandifer
2009
Finalist

Miller and Kathie Bassler
2014
Now in the Finals

6th Annual Port Mansfield East Cut & Beach Cleanup, March 15.
The Basslers: Filming of Hero for a Day
Field & Stream film crew focusses on Port Mansfield as the Basslers marshall resources for their Sixth Beach and East Cut cleanup.

Last year was a tremendous success, thanks in large part to all the CCA members who cleaned a huge area of the Mansfield East Cut and PIN5 beach.

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

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

—Miller and Kathy Bassler
979-535-4593, or cell phones 979-204-5185 or 979-324-5555. For photos from last year’s event, go to the YouTube site below. Music included by Craig Carter! Type this url into your browser: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TX1321HA8vI

Captive and newsmen David Sikes discuss the 20th cleanup at dawn. Sandifer began the program of cleaning Padre Island’s Big Shell beach 24 years ago.

Captive and Kathie Bassler took the trashing of a favorite place, the East Cut and Padre Island beach personally. As of Feb. 1, they are Finalists and in the running for Field & Stream’s top award.
25th Anniversary Celebration!

Happy New Year, STAR Anglers! As we gear up for another fun fishing season, we’re thrilled to inform our members the CCA Texas STAR Tournament will celebrate its Silver Anniversary! Can you believe it?! In the past twenty-five years, we have been amazed over how much this fun, wholesome, summer-long, family event has grown and the 25th Anniversary CCA Texas STAR promises to shine bigger and better than ever in 2014! This could be your year to claim one of over $1,000,000 in prizes and scholarships! Starting sunrise Saturday, May 24 through 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 1 (Labor Day), anglers from all across the great Lone Star State can once again begin the summer-long quest to try and win one of many truck/boat packages, boat packages and scholarships. SPOOL UP AND GET READY! This is YOUR event, and one of our goals has always been to keep the tournament fee as cheap as possible while still being able to offer such monster prizes and scholarships. Thanks to our wonderful sponsors, we have been able to do so for the last 24 years. With this year’s event on the horizon, we want to encourage anglers to register now before a potential increase to the 2014 entry fee. As you start making plans, be on the lookout in your mailbox. Our great partner, Academy Sports + Outdoors, will be sending all current CCA Texas members a $10 coupon around May. We also want to remind you to take advantage of all the other great Early Bird and Member incentives available to CCA Texas STAR participants. Be sure and register now to make the Early Bird Drawing! Please see below for more details:

CCA Texas/STAR Platinum Print Membership Package, Series IV – We’re pleased to announce the new print being offered for the 2014 CCA Texas STAR Platinum package is Working the Spoils. Renowned artist David Drinkard has again honored the CCA Texas member by creating a print depicting a classic wade fishing scene... check out the Great White Heron! This special offer includes your CCA membership (new or renewal), your 2014 CCA Texas STAR entry, plus a signed, limited-edition print created exclusively for STAR, all for $125! Working the Spoils is a one-of-a-kind special print worth this price alone. If you would like to consider one, or several, of these limited-edition packages, go to: http://www.startournament.org more details or to place your order with the STAR Dept., call (713) 626-4222. See images, page 5.

STILL AVAILABLE... CCA Texas STAR Platinum Print, Series I, II & III – STAR Reds, STAR Sightings & School Is In Session are still available. If you haven’t purchased yet and would like to begin your CCA Texas STAR Platinum Collectible Series, please contact the STAR Dept. and we can get you fixed up. To own this first-ever commemorative piece, purchase yours today before they’re all gone! The proceeds from the sales of Platinum Packages will help us continue to fund the STAR scholarships.

YOU’VE GOT TO BE IN TO WIN! ATTENTION ALL ANGLERS PLANNING TO FISH THE TEXAS COAST THIS SUMMER! In order to win one of a $1,000,000 in prizes being offered in Texas’ largest, richest, summer-long saltwater fishing event, an angler must be a CURRENT member of CCA, in addition to being registered as a 2014 TEXAS STAR entrant. The STAR tournament entry fee is still an awesome bargain at only $20 for ages 18 and up! Membership fee is $25 annually, plus $20 STAR Tournament for a total of $45. In order to win at STAR, an angler must be registered and be a current member of CCA. You know you’ll go so might as well do it now! Remember, everyone entered in the STAR Tournament, who will be 6 years old in 2014 and older, is eligible to win the prizes being offered (even the TAGGED REDFISH DIVISION)!! Get everyone signed up for the 2014 STAR. Be sure the tournament starts. Don’t forget to sign up ahead of time and get your shot at landing one of the many great prize offerings just for registering early. Your early registration into the 2014 CCA Texas STAR Fishing Tournament qualifies you to win the perfect rig to get you to your favorite fishing spot in style. The Coors Light “Early Bird” Promotion will again offer another awesome “grand prize” boat package! The awesome Dargel 210 Skout with a Mercury 150 motor and McClain trailer – a prize package valued at around $35,000! Everyone ages 21 and over that signs up now through May 23rd will automatically be entered into this special drawing, along with the 20 other great prizes being offered. Everyone age 20 and under that signs up now through May 23rd will automatically be entered for the 20 other great “Early Bird” prizes.

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

CCA Texas/STAR 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 on page 5)
- $10 gift coupon courtesy of Academy Sports and Outdoors (see details on page 5)
- Texas Fish & Game Magazine subscription (see details on page 5)
- $1000 worth of free upgrades with your purchase of a new Tilson home (see ad on page 23)

2014 STAR Early Bird Drawing
Deadline to enter is May 23

- **GRAND PRIZE** - Dargel 210 Skout, Mercury 150 Motor and McClain Trailer (must be at 21 years old to win boat prize package)
- 20 MORE GREAT PRIZES
  - 9.9 hp Kicker Motor
  - Three (3) All-Star Rod & Abu-Garcia Reel Combos
  - Thermo-Electric Travel Cooler & Warmer
  - Fifteen (15) CCA Special Edition Posters
- $1000 worth of free upgrades with your purchase
- Ford X-Plan Pricing (see details on page 5)
- $10 gift coupon courtesy of Academy Sports and Outdoors (see details on page 5)
- Texas Fish & Game Magazine subscription (see details on page 5)
- $1000 worth of free upgrades with your purchase of a new Tilson home (see ad on page 23)

**YOUNG ANGELERS FISH FOR FREE!** Speaking of bargains, for young anglers ages 6-17, the “New Tide” membership fee remains $10 annually and the STAR entry fee is FREE!! Of course, we want all kids on the water. CCA “New Tide” members will continue to have the opportunity to win giant scholarships to fund their college educations for just the price of a $10 CCA “New Tide” Membership. We thank our generous sponsors for making it possible for us to offer young anglers this great opportunity. Keep in mind, signing up as a “New Tide” membership DOES NOT automatically register member in STAR. “New Tide” Members MUST BE at least 6 years of age in 2014 to be eligible to fish STAR and under age 18 to enter for FREE. It is the “New Tide” Member's responsibility to register each year for STAR.

**2014 EARLY BIRD DRAWINGS** - We will again offer some great incentives for anglers to sign up before the tournament starts. Don’t forget to sign up ahead of time and get your shot at landing one of the many great prize offerings just for registering early. Your early registration into the 2014 CCA Texas STAR Fishing Tournament qualifies you to win the perfect rig to get you to your favorite fishing spot in style. The Coors Light “Early Bird” Promotion will again offer another awesome “grand prize” boat package! The awesome Dargel 210 Skout with a Mercury 150 motor and McClain trailer – a prize package valued at around $35,000! Everyone ages 21 and over that signs up now through May 23rd will automatically be entered into this special drawing, along with the 20 other great prizes being offered. Everyone age 20 and under that signs up now through May 23rd will automatically be entered for the 20 other great “Early Bird” prizes.

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

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

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

TEXAS FISH & GAME “BONUS” SUBSCRIPTION!! - Texas Fish & Game will again honor this year’s STAR entrants with a ONE-YEAR (12 issues) subscription to Texas Fish & Game Magazine. Please advise your subscription MAY 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 2014 STAR, but did not declare that you would like this special offer and/or have questions regarding your past or current subscription, please call (713) 626-4222 or email star@startournament.org.

2014 PRIZE LINE-UP - This year’s contestants have a chance at winning over 100 prizes including trucks, boats, motors, trailers and college scholarships in the following categories: Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division – Texas Ford Dealers continue to make this division the “Best in Texas”! They will again give each of the first five registered STAR participants who catch tagged redfish a brand new truck to get to their fishing destination in a tough, dependable and stylish ride. The first five registered anglers to weigh-in a tagged red will receive a 2014 Ford F-150 “Texas Edition” truck. Haynie Boats returns with the awesome Haynie 23 Bigfoot rigged with a motor and Coastline Trailer completing this amazing package. The next five weighed in will receive the same boat, motor and trailer packages.

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

Trout Division - With winners in the upper, middle and lower coast regions, each winning angler will take home an awesome boat with a Mercury 150 motor and McClain trailer. SPECIAL NOTE: If you're unsure a trout is large enough to qualify, consider this "easy rule-of-thumb" - if length is less than 27 inches, chances are it won't meet the eight pound minimum weight requirement for the Trout Division. Unless you intend to mount your fish as a personal best, why not think about releasing anything that might not make the cut so she can reseed the bays.

Offshore Division – Blue water anglers who land the heaviest kingfish, dorado and ling (cobia) will each win an awesome boat prize to cruise the big waters along with a Mercury 150 motor and McClain trailer.

Inshore Division – Each winner that reels in the largest flounder, gafftop and sheepshead will be handsomely rewarded with Blue Wave’s 180 SV Southern Skiff boat, Mercury 115 motor and McClain trailer. In the past eighteen years, STAR has awarded $4,925,000 in college scholarships to 154 fisher-kids across the state, ranging from 6-17 years of age and 2014 continues to offer plenty of reason for everyone to round up their kid(s), a rod and reel and head for the water.

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

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

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

Academy Sports & Outdoors StarTeens Trout Division – This youth scholarship division is open to all New Tide members ages 11-17 and awards a $20,000 college scholarship for each fisher-teen with the largest trout in the upper, middle and lower coasts. SPECIAL NOTE: The minimum weight requirement for the trout is six pounds. For all fish weighing less than six pounds, if no intentions of mounting young angler’s prize catch, please take a quick picture and immediately release back into the water.

StarTeens Inshore Division - This youth scholarship division is open to all New Tide members ages 11-17 and awards a $20,000 college scholarship for each fisher-teen with the largest flounder, gafftop and sheepshead statewide. But Wait, There's More...

Runner-Up Prizes - The first through fourth runners-up in all divisions will receive various gift certificates from Academy Sports & Outdoors.

“New Tide” Member Drawing - The “New Tide” Scholarship Drawing will be offered again in 2014. “NewTide” STAR participants at least, 6 - 17 years old in 2014, are eligible for a bonus drawing that will net one lucky youth a $20,000 college scholarship even if the participant never wets a line or enters a single fish during the entire tournament.

Member Bonus Drawing - This unique drawing offers STAR entrants a chance to win a fabulous boat prize package even if the participant never wets a line. One lucky contestant’s name will be drawn to win a model with a Dargel 210TV boat, Mercury150hp outboard and McClain trailer. 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 25th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament include:

Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Home Corporation, Capital Farm Credit, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, Ozarka, Berkley Gulp, Houston Community Newspapers, Fox Sports Southwest, Time Warner Cable, Haynie Boats, Shoalwater Boats, Dargel Boat, Blue Wave Boats, Texas Fish & Game Magazine, , Texas Oilman’s Charity Fishing Tournament, Coastline Trailers, McClain Trailers, Chris’s Marine and Mt. Houston Marine.


STILL AVAILABLE...CCA Texas/STAR Platinum Print, Series I, II & III - STAR Reds, STAR Sightings & School Is In Session are still available. If you haven’t purchased yet and would like to begin your CCA Texas STAR Platinum Collectible Series, please contact the STAR Dept. and we can get you fixed up. To own this first-ever commemorative piece, purchase yours today before they’re all gone!

The proceeds from the sales of Platinum Packages will help us continue to fund the STAR scholarships. Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament! If you would like to consider one, or several, of these limited-edition packages, go to: <http://www.startournament.org> more details or to place your order with the STAR Dept., call (713) 626-4222.

STAR has reached $4,925,000 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.
We want you to fish for us!

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

The $3.7 million project will restore approximately 140 acres of oyster reef in the East Galveston Bay system. Areas targeted for restoration include one location on Hannah’s Reef, two locations on Pepper Grove and two locations on Middle Reef.

This effort is an important part of the project. As a Fishing Scientist, your efforts will be critical in understanding the benefits of oyster reef restoration all along the Texas coast.

The fishing periods will be seasonal times during the months of June to August, then September to November, December to February and March to May.

Pre-construction efforts through the end of 2013, and post-construction efforts will take place beginning June 2014 through 2015.

For more information regarding how you can Fish for Science, contact: Bill Rodney, (TPWD), at 281-534-0127, Bill.Rodney@tpwd.texas.gov. Or, Bryan.Legare@tpwc.texas.gov. Or, John Blaha, CCA texas at 713-626-4222 jdblaha@ccatexas.org.

A few recent STAR Youth Scholarship Winners

- Caleb Morales, 2nd Redfish – $20,000 Scholarship and boat winner with John Savickis of Texas Ford Dealers.
- Nicholas Gilstrap - Capital Farm Credit StarKid Scholarship Flounder winner and Josh Krupa of Capital Farm Credit.
- Sarah Otto – StarTeen Middle Coast Trout winner and Patti Keoper of Academy Sports + Outdoors.
- Grant Drabek, StarTeen Flounder winner and Richard Webb of Tilson Homes Corp.
- The $3.7 million project will restore approximately 140 acres of oyster reef in the East Galveston Bay system. Areas targeted for restoration include one location on Hannah’s Reef, two locations on Pepper Grove and two locations on Middle Reef.
- This effort is an important part of the project. As a Fishing Scientist, your efforts will be critical in understanding the benefits of oyster reef restoration all along the Texas coast.
- The fishing periods will be seasonal times during the months of June to August, then September to November, December to February and March to May.
- Pre-construction efforts through the end of 2013, and post-construction efforts will take place beginning June 2014 through 2015.
- For more information regarding how you can Fish for Science, contact: Bill Rodney, (TPWD), at 281-534-0127, Bill.Rodney@tpwd.texas.gov. Or, Bryan.Legare@tpwc.texas.gov. Or, John Blaha, CCA texas at 713-626-4222 jdblaha@ccatexas.org.

CCA Texas Launches New Online Store! Visit the CCA Texas Online Store at joincca.store.com
Welcome to the CCA Texas Online Auction

Sponsored By Costa Del Mar

We have some great merchandise up for grabs this month!

Available online 11 am, February 16, ends February 21 at 11 am.

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

CCA Custom Metal Tacker -
The CCA Metal Tacker would be a great addition to any beach house or man cave! This large vintage sign is branded with CCA Texas and is straight from our inventory into your home. As always every dollar spent with the CCA Online Auction is going to preserve fishing as we know it for future generations.

NEW ITEMS!
CCA-branded
48 qt Igloo Cooler and 4 Custom Tervis Tumblers— Want something new and fresh from CCA? How about this great combination of a Cooler and great Tervis Tumblers. Both of these items are made custom for CCA and can only be bought through CCA. Get ready for all those great outdoor parties and fishing trips coming up this year by having this awesome package.

Sponsored by our friends at Costa.

Great Foods / Food Editor Ellen Ohmstede

OYSTERS ROCKEFELLER

Celebrate this 2014 with oysters! They are great right now.

This is an adaptation of a recipe from the Jr. League of Baton Rouge River Roads Recipes. If you don’t have oyster shells you can use ramekins.

4 dozen oysters
4 packs of frozen spinach (cook in microwave and drained)
1 bunch green onion
2 stalks celery / 1 bunch parsley
2-3 t anise seed (slightly crushed)
3 T Worcestershire sauce
3-4 sticks butter melted
2-3 T anchovy paste
1 t salt / 1 t pepper
Dash of Tabasco / 1 1/2 cups breadcrumbs / 1 box Rock salt

Preheat oven to 450.
For the sauce: Blend all greens in the food processor using butter as a liquefier. Add all seasonings and 1/2 cups breadcrumbs (Saving the rest for topping). Puree to smooth thick paste. Season to taste. Set aside.

For the oysters: Drain oysters from their liquid. Spread on a cookie sheet and bake in oven for 5-10 minutes or until the edges curl. The goal is to preheat the oysters and remove even more liquid.

Assembly: using rock salt, make a sturdy base on another cookie sheet. Place either oyster shells or ramekins on rock salt. Fill shells or ramekins with preheated oysters. Then cover with a generous helping of room temperature spinach mixture. Place in oven for 10-12 minutes until heated through and bubbling. Remove from oven, sprinkle with extra breadcrumbs and bake a few more minutes until breadcrumbs are slightly browned. Serve with lemon wedges and toast points!

Wrong-eyed flounder on CCA cover.
To Billy Blackwood, AKA Captain Blackie:

You caught me. As a magazine designer, I always want a cover image with the subject looking INTO the magazine. Enjoy your rare right-eyed flounder.

Pauline Osborn has been sending some Great Wildlife Photos. Now, here’s The Castnetter.
CCA Texas conservation projects are now on YouTube

By John Blaha and Kim Ogonosky

CCA Texas’s Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT), continues to play a very active role in the restoration and creation of coastal habitat along the Texas coast. Since the program’s inception in 2009, over $3.4 million has been committed to this important restoration and creation work through twenty projects to date. These projects include marsh and oyster reef restoration and creation in the bays of Texas; nearshore reefing projects in Freeport, Matagorda, Port O’Connor, Corpus Christi, and Port Mansfield; water inflow management work; and bay debris removal projects. In 2013, CCA Texas staff has taken the next step to show its membership and the general public exactly what HTFT is doing. You can now visit www.ccatexas.org and click on the Conservation tab. There you will see the “Project Videos” link where you will be able to view all the great work of HTFT. To date, there are four great projects highlighted with video productions that include interviews with CCA staff and members, project partners, and the general recreational fishing public talking about the benefits of these projects and what is being done to complete them. This is an excellent opportunity for you to see how dollars raised in Texas are being used in Texas.

The benefits of your support and the efforts of CCA Texas’ volunteer chapter boards are invaluable to the restoration and creation of coastal habitat along the Texas Gulf coast. For more information, contact Kim Ogonosky kogonosky@ccatexas.org or John Blaha jdblaha@ccatexas.org. Be sure to follow CCA Texas on YouTube and see all the great work being done for the Texas coast.

Oyster Lake Stabilization, Phase 1

From the YOUTUBE VIDEO: “Some of the most severely eroded shoreline along West bay…”

Phase 1 of the Oyster Lake Stabilization Project is funded in Part by CCA Texas Dollars. The project is under the direction of the Galveston Bay Foundation. Phase 1 is the creation of 500 feet of protection.

Dickinson Bayou seed harvesting

From the YOUTUBE VIDEO

Cultivating the seeds collected for the Dickinson Bayou Marsh Restoration project with Texas Parks and Wildlife and NRCS.

Aransas Bay Oyster Reef Restoration

From the YOUTUBE VIDEO

From Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi 8-Acre Oyster Reef Restoration Funded in Part by CCA Texas and CCA Building Conservation Trust, with support from Shell Oil Company.

Please welcome a new staffer to CCA-Texas. Kim Ogonosky is the Manager of Social Media and Administration at CCA Texas. She received an M.A. in Public Communications from Fordham University, where she interned with the United Nations and filmed a documentary in Africa about BRAC, a nongovernmental organization working to end poverty in developing countries. Prior to moving back to her hometown of Houston, Kim was an Adjunct Professor at Fordham and a Freelance Editorial Assistant for Frommer’s Caribbean Ports of Call Guide Book.

Corpus Christi Nearshore Reefing Project

Nearshore is the key word. From the YOUTUBE VIDEO

These pyramids are being deployed in Corpus Christi. There are 470 pyramids, and these will be deployed offshore in a TPWD permitted reefing site. This site is located within Texas state waters approximately 11 miles from the Packery Channel Jetties and 12 miles from the Port Aransas Jetties. These pyramids along with other materials deployed will provide critical marine habitat for marine species, in particular red snapper and other fish species that are sought by recreational fishermen. It’s going to be a great fishing spot easily accessible for recreational fishermen who want to fish offshore!
CCA Texas and Igloo have teamed up for a very special offer to CCA Life members.

For a limited time, anyone who becomes a CCA Texas Life Member will receive a custom CCA Life Member 50qt Igloo Yukon. (Retail value of $379)

Existing Life Members, please contact CCA Texas or email Kim at kogonosky@ccatexas.org for your special CCA Igloo cooler offer!

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

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

CCA Life Member APPLICATION

Name______________________________

CCA Member ID#_____________________

Address____________________________

City________________State___________Zip_____________________

Phone________________Email__________

Method of Payment

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

Credit Card Number__________________________________________ Exp. Date_________________________

Signature____________________________________________________

Or print this form and send to:

CCA Texas | 6919 Portwest Dr., Ste. 100 | Houston, Texas 77024
Phone 713.625.4222 | Fax 713.961.3801 | www.CCATexas.org
Presentation is critical now

As 2013 ended and 2014 began, we had some extremely cold temperatures. Fortunately, they came often enough to stage the fish near deep water which may have prevented a fish kill.

As February comes chilling in, the fish will be stacking up in six to eight feet of water, but NEAR shallow water. Through February and into the winds of March, some true winter hotspots should pay off. Top choices for cold, breezy days are the Blue Hole in Offatts Bayou, Chocolate Bayou and Halls Bayou. Check your map and look for the coves in West Bay that have guts in them. Be sure to slow your retrieve, and remember that during these generally cold months, presentation is critical. Try to remember exactly what you were doing when you got that last strike.

Be safe is the number one rule for these winter months. It’s best to layer your clothes; overwarm and water resistant on top, warm in the middle, and cooler garb for the days when the sun decides to get you too warm. After all, this is Texas.

Another rule: numbers may not be large, but this is the time of year when you catch one to go on the wall. And, when the catching is great, consider the resource and send some back for the next trip. — Capt Ralph Frazier

281-337-0321  ralph2fish@aol.com

Cold or not, go fish!

I look for this early winter pattern to continue into the next couple of months. During February and into late March, both Matagorda Bay West and East will be good destinations for those cold, windy days when you’re gonna go, regardless.

There are some excellent charts and maps that can help even the old salt locate good locations. When drift fishing East Matagorda Bay, you want to stay over mud bottom in the early morning and really cold times.

Later on a cold day, or after temperatures have risen for a while, you can move to mud and shell mix. Check the chart, if you’re not sure about the underwater terrain.

Late February and into March, on more pleasant days, wade fisherman can have good luck wading out from the shoreline and casting out to soft bottom. I have had good success with the new Norton Sand Shads, drifting and wading. I will also continue hitting the Colorado River, when the water temperatures stay low. Of course, you will know before you go, dress warm, maintain all safety precautions, and remember that the fish belong to all of us. Be courteous, and you’ll find that the other guy will do the same.

I will be rigging out my new El Pescador Cat in February. Come take a ride! — Captain Kenneth Hauff, Jr. 979-240-3614 saltgrasslodge.com

Top waters early, then red/white plastics

February can be fine, even when windy and chilly, but March is one of my favorite times of the year. Warming weather, sunny days, and waderless wades, (when we can) make for some good times on the water.

Along with the rising air temperature, warmer waters bring game fish out of the depths and onto the flats. It’s hard to pick a favorite spot to fish this time of year because they all can be good.

Wherever, I like throwing small top waters early and then switch to 1/8 ounce jig heads with red/white sand eel juniors. As always, be looking for nervous bait as you come into the area.

A lot of times I just like running the flats, scouting for the red fish herds. There is no rhyme or reason where they might be. When you do find them, don’t shut down on top of the schools. Continue past the herds and circle back. They will usually form back together. Get out of the boat, throw gold spoons and be quiet when you’re chasing them. Pick at the edges of the schools so you don’t spook them and you should have success.

On a different note: One of Port Mansfield’s local guides and a close personal find of mine, Capt. Jeff Neu was in a bad accident last month, breaking his leg in two places. For those of you that don’t know Jeff, he is an asset to the fishing community and an excellent outdoorsman. Prayers go out to him and his family. Safe Boating and tight lines,

— Capt. Mike Lowe 713-818-1296

Abandoned crab traps waiting for disposal, February 2009. Many fewer traps are expected this year, but as Art Morris says, that’s the good news.
CCA Texas Social Happenings

We hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season! CCA Texas is excited to continue spreading the news of our conservation efforts through our various social media outlets. To view videos of our current projects, please visit www.ccatexas.org/conservation/habitat/project-videos.

In each issue of Currents, CCA Texas will feature a Facebook photo, Twitter Tweet, and Instagram photo from the previous two months. Please “Like” our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter and Instagram to get the latest updates from CCA Texas and become a part of the conversation!

Facebook
Christopher Hoefling submitted this photo of Kirsten Hoefling with her first flounder, which was taken in Sabine Pass. Great job Kirsten!

Twitter
1 Nov
@HRIfoundation:
@CCA_Texas The Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation @HarteResearch officially approved by Texas A&M System. Thefishingwire.com/story/303107

Instagram
Out picking seeds in Dickinson, TX for Smooth Cordgrass Seed Harvesting with TPWD and GBF today!

---

**Chapter Updates**

**Alvin-Pearland**
Rex Richards 281-923-3050

**Aransas Bay**
Carter Crigler 435-830-5984
jcrigler@hotmail.com
Happy New Year! Can you believe it, bids were opened in December and the contract for the Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough Restoration Project was awarded in early January 2014! We cannot wait for the start of the project in April. The Aransas Bay Chapter would like to give a special thanks to those individuals, corporations and organizations that have supported the project for all those years that it took to get to this point. Needless to say we are looking forward to a great year for our chapter and for CCA Texas.

By the time you read this, registration for Babes on the Bay XV will have been in progress for a full month. As stated in the previous issue, online registration will be used exclusively to sign up for Babes on the Bay XV. Please visit the site www.babesonthebay.com and review the registration process to determine if you have any questions. The last day for regular registration is 4/15/2014. All registrations received after this date and prior to the 4/30/2014 cutoff date will pay a late registration fee of $110. If you have questions, contact Karol Scardino, tournament director, at 361-386-0028.

**Mark your calendars:** May 16-17, 2014: Babes on the Bay / August 9, 2014: Aransas Bay Chapter Banquet. Tight lines, —Carter

**Austin**
Scott Sanderson
512-637-1750
scott@mbsqoteline.com
May 8th, 2014. Save that date because you do not want to miss the 2014 Austin banquet. We are celebrating the Coral Anniversary of the Austin chapter and it will be memorable.

The 35th Annual banquet calls for something special and that’s what your Austin board will offer up. There are too many new and exciting additions in store for the evening to list here, but suffice it to say we promise this year will be even better than ever before. There’s nothing like it in Austin. We look forward to seeing you there! Table and ticket information is available at www.ccaaustin.org.

Austin’s 2014 banquet boat has arrived and raffle tickets are on sale now. Simply put, this is the nicest boat we have ever offered and she’s loaded with more upgrades than ever before. This Sport model from Shallow Sport has all of the upgrades, plus a few bonuses: a casting platform and black aluminum work, and it all sits on a Coastline Custom trailer. It’s truly stunning. You can see it in person as usual at Cabela’s in Buda or get an early look at Anglers’ Night Out.

Every year tickets sell out well before the banquet so get yours now. There’s even an early bird drawing for a Laguna Custom Rod and Shimano Curado. Tickets are $100 and only 600 will be sold. You can buy online at www.ccaaustin.org, pick up an order form at the Cabela’s fishing counter, contact our Boat Captain Blake Masters at blakeatc@gmail.com, or just scan this code now! SCAN IMAGE

Be sure and join us for our Anglers’ Night Out events. In 2013 our speaker lineup included Dr. Greg Stunz, GLO Commissioner Jerry Patterson, Capt. Billy Trimble, CCA Executive Director Robby Byers and Capt. Jay Watkins! And we’ll keep it going in 2014.

Keep up with everything on our Facebook page, Coastal Conservation Association-Austin Chapter or at www.ccaaustin.org. Best wishes for an outstanding 2014 and see you May 8th! -- Scott Sanderson scott@mbsqoteline.com

**Bay Area**
Curtis Anderson 832-421-6377

---

**Scan this code now!** SCAN IMAGE
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.

Selection and prices vary by store. Prices good February 1-March 31, 2014.

5.49 EVERYDAY!
CCA 5-Gallon Bucket
Style CCA 5 GL RED
• Use to hold bait and more
• Made in the U.S.A.

14.99 EVERYDAY!
CCA Big Game Lip Grabber
Style CCA-16A
• Stainless steel construction lipper with heavy-duty spring action

499.99 EVERYDAY!
Perception Sport Pescador Kayak
Style 93517140
• Bow, center, and stem hatch
• CSS seat system
• Reapers foot brace system

499.99 EVERYDAY!
CCA Deluxe Tackle Bag
Style FSCSFE0013
• Includes six utility boxes
• Water-resistant 840D poly construction

29.99 EVERYDAY!
CCA Tackle Bag
Style FSCSFE0012
• Includes four utility boxes
• Water-resistant 840D poly construction
fishing starts here

BAIT AND TACKLE

H2O Xpress 3 or 4-In. Mojo Shrimp
- 2 Pack
- Great for trout, redfish and flounder
- Soft plastic and Kevlar® construction
- Black Nickled Mustad® hook
- EVERYDAY
- $5.99

H2O Xpress Camo Baitcast Combo
- Style FS-XFC2000
- Gear ratio: 6.3:1
- 10 bearing system
- 7-ft. medium heavy-action rod
- EVERYDAY
- $109.99

H2O Xpress Camo Spinning Combo
- Style FS-XFC1000
- Six bearing system
- 7-ft. medium action rod
- Line capacity: 8 lb./170 yds.
- EVERYDAY
- $79.99

NEW

Berkley® Guipi Alive® Half-Pint Bucket
- EVERYDAY
- $9.99

shop academy.com | stay connected
Brazoria County  
Wes Dingee 979-299-8245

We'll be holding our annual fundraising banquet on Thursday, March 20. We have a new location this year at the Dow Academic Center at Brazosport College to allow additional attendees since we have had to turn away people at the door in previous years.

There are many banquet sponsorship opportunities from underwriting to auction items to table sponsorships. Let one of the board members know if you'd like to be a sponsor or if you want to become more involved in the chapter. Call Dan Johnson at (979) 481-3907, Wes Dingee (979) 299-8245, Kyle Harris at (979) 798-2429 or Glenn Blount at (979) 236-1700. —Wes Dingee

Brazos Valley  
John Ben Strother 979-220-1738

jbsunlimited@yahoo.com

Happy New Year to the 50,000+ CCA members in the great state of Texas. This will be a banner year for CCA and Conservation because we are involved in so many states. The Brazos Valley Chapter is ready because this is our 22nd year to be associated with CCA. We are kicking off the New Year with a GM on January 14th at Vor-Tex 2310 Cavitt in Bryan at 6:30 pm.

We would like to invite all CCA members in the Brazos Valley to attend this meeting. Our Assistant Director, Drew Adams will be there and we will discuss the “new ideas” for the banquet. As always, we would like to see some new faces at this meeting because there is always food, beverages, and a lot of fish stories. Hope to see you there and, I’d like to extend an invitation to other chapters to attend our banquet. If you need more information give me a call, text or e-mail. —John Ben Strother

Brenham  
Dennis Crowson 979-451-2472

Dennis.crowson@hotmail.com

We’ll meet on Thursday, January 23rd at Mike Hopkins Distributing starting at 6:30 pm. Please plan on joining fellow fishermen and conservationists for an enjoyable evening of fish tales, fellowship, and refreshments. This month’s guest speaker is Michael Bosse who will be discussing this year’s flounder run as well as tactics he has used successfully for deep water jetty redfish.

Please save the date for this year’s annual Crawfish boil on April 24th. This will be the chapter’s 20th anniversary fundraiser and are looking for it to be the biggest and best. For questions or more information contact Dennis Crowson at 979-451-2472 or Dennis.crowson@hotmail.com. Thanks —Dennis

Brush Country  
Hank Henry 361-215-6803

Centex  
Brad Hensel 254-776-3411

Central Houston  
Todd Buster  
Mobil, 713-545-1897

We’re looking forward to great things in 2014. We had such a great response to our boat raffle in 2013 we’ve decided to do it again. This year we are raffling off a 22’ Mowdy with a 175 HP Suzuki 4-stroke. The boat and engine will be sitting on a Coastaline trailer.

The 38th Annual Central Houston Banquet will be held on May 1, 2014. If you are interested in becoming involved in the Central Houston Chapter or purchasing raffle tickets, please contact Todd Buster at tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com

Tight Lines! —Todd Buster

Corpus Christi  
Randy Poelma 361-851-1129  
r_poelmacpa@sbcglobal.net

Happy New Year - Hope 2014 brings you prosperity and a lot of time on the water.

We are in banquet mode as this article is being published. The 36th Annual Dinner Banquet is scheduled for March 20, 2014 at the American Bank Convention Center. The banquet will start at 5:30 pm with cocktail hour and then on to the raffles and auctions. Our Banquet Chairman is Jake Herring and his supporting committee members are: David Harris - Live Auction, Barrett Fines - Blackboard Auction Chairman, Joseph Briones - Boat Chairman, John Fry –ATV Chairman, Bruce Laser –Guides Cup Chairman, Cliff Johnston - Facilities Chairman, Jay Gardner - Advertising & Banquet Program Chairman.

Gold Sponsors for this year’s event are L & F Distributing - John Deere 4x4 ATV, Andrews Distributing - 21’ Majek w/150 Yamaha and Coastaline Trailer, Silver sponsors for this year’s event are Academy Sports & Outdoors and Premier Yamaha Boating Centers.

Our chapter volunteers are displaying the Andrews Distributing boat and L & F Distributing ATV selling tickets weekly at Academy Sports & Outdoors in Corpus Christi on Thursdays thru Sundays until March 16th.

Tickets are $10 each or 6 for $50. You need not be present to win and the winner is responsible for all taxes, titles, and registration fees. The raffle drawings will take place at the Banquet on March 20th.

Coming off a record setting year in 2013, the Chapter is hard at work to break this record in 2014. Record attendance and funds raised were vital to many conservation projects in 2013. CCA Texas spent $1,385,325 in 2013 and out of this $1,235,325 had a direct impact on the Coastal Bend. Your attendance and support are critically important to the future of Texas’ coastal resources and we hope to see you again at this year’s Banquet. Last year the event sold out and due to planning purposes all table reservations are due no later than Thursday, March 6, 2014, 5:00 PM. All program ad reservations and artwork are due March 13, 2014. No guarantees can be made for tables and/or ads once deadlines have passed. For more banquet information contact: CCA Corpus Christi – Jake Herring, Banquet Chairman, 361-882-5199 cacorpuschristi@hotmail.com or John Blaha - CCA Texas Assistant Director, 800-626-4222, jdblaha@ccatexas.org.

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 myself at 361-851-1129 or r_poelmacpa@sbcglobal.net. It’s for the fish —Randy Poelma

Dallas / North Texas  
Robert DiCicco 214-799-2369

The date is set for the 33rd Annual Dallas Chapter Banquet! Please join us on April 17th at the Frontiers of Flight Museum in Dallas for our annual fundraiser.

We are proud to announce that Lefty Kreh will be this year’s Conservation Sportsman of the Year. This event is a great way to support CCA. It is also a great evening to win some auction and raffle items! Last year featured a record banquet, and we are looking forward to shattering that record this year. We have various ways to support the event through sponsorship tables, underwriting auction items and volunteering. Stay tuned for auction and raffle item updates. Please contact me for more information. —Robert DiCicco

East Texas  
Dr. Jim Norman 936-554-3165

jnorman7@suddenlink.net

We are currently gearing up for our part of the Nacogdoches Parks and Recreation Kid Fish on January 25. This past year, we had over 175 kids
Our BBQ crew asked for a seeing at our banquet. Tight Lines, some about fishing East Bay. I look forward to young guys under our wing and learn you up for prizes at our chapter tournaments. Some of ter, we award top quality Shimano equipment tournaments. When we have enough people en-plan banquets, Kid Fish, and chapter fishing quet and have a good time, we need you to start tact me ASAP if interested.

There will also be trips to Costa Rica, Alaska, wanted to make a trip like that, come to the one to the boat for pictures. If you have ever bought the same trip in 2012 and their fishing trips had mahi, lots of 10 -bllfish strikes with one to the boat for pictures. If you have ever wanted to make a trip like that, come to the banquet and take a shot at it on the auction. There will also be trips to Costa Rica, Alaska, Montana and all along the Gulf Coast. Corporate tables this year are $400, $600, and $1,000. Con-tact me ASAP if interested.

We are still looking for some new blood. Some of you young guys that come to the ban-quet and have a good time, we need you to start coming to the monthly meetings and help us plan banquets, Kid Fish, and chapter fishing tournaments. When we have enough people en-ter, we award top quality Shimano equipment for prizes at our chapter tournaments. Some of us old guys might even take some of you new young guys under our wing and learn you up some about fishing East Bay. I look forward to seeing at our banquet. Tight Lines, —Jim Norman norman7@suddenlink.net

Fort Bend
Clint Shepard 832-595-5375
Hello All. Our Ft. Bend committee members have been on the ball this year making plans and coming up with some great ideas for our 28th annual banquet. For this year’s banquet, our Grand Prize will be JH Performance Boat’s new model, the Outlaw 185X w/115 HP Yamaha from Sport Marine with a custom wrap by AMJ Designs in Richmond, Texas. There are also five chances to receive gift cards valued at $100 and 15 chances to receive gift cards valued at $50. In addition to the Grand Prize Raffle and other great items, we have some real surprises in store for everyone this year. As usual, our gra-cious donors are coming out in droves to help make this year’s banquet a huge success. It is scheduled for April 24th at the Ft. Bend Co. Fair Grounds Bldg. C, in Rosenberg, Texas. Doors open at 6 p.m. to preview auction items and be-gin silent auction bids, supper will be served around 7 p.m. Contact either myself or Matt Meyer, 832-595-4855, Banquet Chairman, for de-tails. For table reservations, contact Ren Davis, 281-342-6828 or George Guest, 281-384-7582, or for raffle tickets contact Troy Burditt, 281-239-8507. Hope to see you all there! —Clint

Fort Worth
Fearn Mastin 817-291-1302
Greetings from the Fort Worth Chapter. We hope you are having a great New Year! We are look-ing forward to another busy year as one of you volunteers working hard on your behalf. Our chapter will be hosting a General Membership meeting. It is scheduled for Thursday, March 6 at Rahr Brew-ery. Expect advanced ticket and table sales for our annual banquet, a cooler and rod/reel raffle and as always food and beverages sponsored by your local board! SAVE THE DATE: Our annual banquet is scheduled for the usual hotspot at Joe T Garcia’s on Thursday, May 1st. —John Black

Galveston
Dr. Ken Ellis 713-962-7731
Happy New Year to all. The Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program closure will begin on Friday, February 22 and run through March 2nd. Our main event day will be Saturday, February 23, typically running from 8:00 to noon. However, traps can be removed anytime during the 10 day closure. Starting in 2002, volunteers have re-moved 30,449 traps coastwide. This year will be 13th year of the event. Look for my orange boat in Galveston or Port Mansfield, if you see her, wave me down and say Hello. Tight Lines, and Hook’em —KEN

Golden Triangle
Josh Kaczynski 409-554-1325
Save the date: Golden Triangle CCA Chapter has scheduled the 34th Annual Banquet for May 15th, 2014 at the Beaumont Civic Center. Happy New Year. Hope you remember that if people concentrated on the really important things in life, there’d be a shortage of fishing poles. Thoughts? Sincerely yours —Joel N. Foxworth

Greater Sugar Land
Weems Turner 713-857-8897
wtturner@daconmun.com

Greater Woodlands
James Kay 281-363-4417
www.ccatax.org/greater-woodlands

This will be a short update for the CCA GWC. The calendar of events should be updated by the time this article comes out so please review our web page. We do have our Pre-Sale 2014 Banquet Tickets available. You will have (20) chances to win a prize. Please contact any mem-bers or the CCA Texas Greater Woodlands Chap-ter to get yours in advance. Keep Conserving to Keep Fishing! —James Kay

Guadalupe Valley
Jon Eric Rodriguez 361-243-1017

The 2013 Guadalupe valley CCA chapter banquet was a huge success once again! This year’s banquet was held at The Venue in downtown Cuero. We had a little over 300 attendees. Between the silent and live auction, almost ev-everyone went home a winner. I’d like to person-ally thank every single person who came out that night and give a special thanks to all the board members and volunteers who helped put this banquet together. Without y’all, we would have been in some rough water.

If there are any questions or comments, please contact me. The Guadalupe Valley chap-ter is looking forward to having another produc-tive and successful 2014! —Jon Eric Rodriguez rodriguezjon05@gmail.com.

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

We are already hard at work on our next ban-quet scheduled for July 23, 2014. The banquet will be held at the San Marcos Activity Center. Our 2013 banquet was a smashing success and we are expecting the 2014 banquet to be even better.

A group of Hays County CCA volunteers will head down to Padre beach on February 22, 2014 to assist with the 19th Annual Billy Sandifer Big Shell Cleanup, but we are still looking for more volun-teers. If you are interested in helping with the clean-up send us an email.

A general membership meeting is sched-uled for March 2014. Be on the lookout for more details. We will have great speakers and some wonderful raffle items. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm with meetings rotating between Dripp-ing Springs, Wimberley, and Kyle. We are look-ing for more sponsors and for more volunteers to join a great group of people in helping lead our chapter. It is the generosity of our sponsors and our volunteers that allows us to raise funds and awareness for CCA. Please consider volun-teering and come join us at one of our monthly meetings. If you are interested in becoming a Hays County Sponsor, please contact me, Tim Young, 512-573-7939. If you are interested in vol-unteering with the chapter or just being added to our email list, send us an email at hayscountycca@gmail.com or call Tim Young at 512-573-7939.

Hope everyone had a great holiday season and we look forward to seeing you at an up-coming chapter event! —Tim Young

Heart of the Hills
Randy Plummer 830-377-0737

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

The Hill Country Chapter had a great year and...
unique commission, “It’s All About You.” A list of auction items is available by contacting Coleman Todd at 713-626-4222 or cwelber@ccatexas.org — Dale Couch

Katy
Clint Hilton 713-515-3991

After a short sabbatical, the Katy Chapter is back in action! We’ve oiled the guns, stored the decoys, and smoked all the sausage - now it’s time to chase the big girls (or at least talk about the bite we almost got).

Our 2014 kickoff speaker was Captain Tommy Alexander of Matagorda. Tommy has supported the Katy Chapter for years and is always there for us! Tommy discussed strategies he uses when chasing tournament fish, and gave an update on how Matagorda is shaping up for the coming season. If you don’t know Tommy, or want to get to know Matagorda, you owe it to yourself and fishing buddies to charter a trip with him! Tommy is a genuine good guy, and has proven he is perhaps the best guide on the Middle Coast, as proven by his back to back wins in the Matagorda Guides Cup, the All Time heaviest stringer weight in the Guides Cup, and wins in the Texas Trio, Lingerie on the Bay, and the Texas Threesome. Tommy runs a 25’ Haynie Magnum, and can find a smooth way to the fish on almost any day.

The Katy Chapter hosts Speaker Series meetings in January, March, May, August, and October. In February, April, July and September we meet to discuss “chapter business” that includes banquet planning, chapter trips (did you fish POC with us?), and other ‘important’ stuff. We meet at Red River BBQ on South Mason Road at 7pm, and will host our annual banquet in June. If you are interested in becoming an active member or just want to hone your fishing skills please come to a meeting. I’ll see ya at Red River! — Clint Hilton

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

Lee County
Byron Kalbas 979-540-0056

Mark your calendars. The 6th annual East Cut & PINS beach cleanup will be Saturday, March 15, 2014. If you would like to participate or donate please contact Kathie Bassler at kathieb@basslerenergyservices.com.

If you’ve never been down to this part of the Texas coast I highly recommend it. One of the last pristine jewels of Texas that needs our help to make sure her beauty never fades. Looking forward to seeing everyone down there this year. Spread the word.

Also mark your calendars for the 4th Annual Lee County Chapter banquet on Thursday, October 16, 2014. I hope everyone has a healthy, safe & prosperous 2014. Tight lines and calm seas to all! — Byron Kalbas 979-540-0056

Live Oak
Brad Kotrla 979-732-1669

Lower Colorado
Tim Munos 979-332-2876

We hope everyone had happy and safe holidays. A new year begins, vacation time starts again, and we just endured a bitter cold wave that hopefully we won’t see for another 20 years in this area.

We are making plans for our next banquet which will be in August again. This year we will offer a 20 foot SVT TransCat boat with a 4 stroke 175 hp Suzuki outboard motor. We will be holding a General Membership Meeting in March or April. We will have the boat package ready to show at this meeting and have a guest speaker. CCA will contact you by email with the exact date. Put a reminder in your calendar and we hope to see you there.

The next events coming up this year will be the Annual Crab Trap Cleanup Weekends in February, and then we will host our Annual KidFish Event in May. So, there are always things to do. Make a note on your monthly calendar to participate. We always need help during the KidFish. This is a free fishing tournament that we put on for the kids in our county. We need people available to help watch over the kids for safety reasons, help them remove fish from their lines, give them encouragement, be a role model. Their dads aren’t always with them.

When you see them with a big smile on their face, it just naturally drifts over to yours. More details when we get closer to that event.

We meet the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm. Lately, we have been meeting at Bowlera Fun Center in Bay City. If you are not on my monthly minutes email list, watch the local newspaper for location, or call Tim or myself for information. We would be glad to have you come. Thank you. — John Kubeka, Secretary, 979-245-9571 or jkubeka@yahoo.com

Lower Laguna Madre
Travis Flanagan 956-207-6391

Mainland
Eric Minor 281-534-6242

Matagorda Bays
Linc Lutrick 979-541-9901

MidCoast
David Jenkins 361-578-5580

The Midcoast Chapter wishes all a Happy New Year! We are excited with the new year being here and are ready to help CCA Texas grow both member wise and financially in 2014. We are now in the planning stage of our banquet, which will be held on Friday, May 9. Our venue will be the same, the Victoria Community Center. We will start selling our tables and individual tickets in the near future. The individual tickets will be sold again at the Tackle Box and Victoria All Sports Center.

Upcoming Events: We will be showing our Give-A-Way boat at the Holder Fishing Show in Houston during the first week of March. We will be selling chances for our fully loaded SCB Stingray at the show. The ticket sales are going well, don’t miss out for a chance on this boat. Have a great year, be safe and practice Catch and Release when you can. Tight Lines,—David Jenkins

Sam, you may have to get my separate paragraphs correct

David Jenkins
CCA Mid Coast Chapter President
361-578-5580

Northeast Houston
Jason Law 713-898-8594

JOIN US FOR THE
2014 ANNUAL CCA FUNDRAISER AND CRAWFISH BOIL
APRIL 12, HUMBLE CIVIC CENTER
PAVILION, 8233 WILL CLAYTON PARKWAY, HUMBLE, TEXAS

Northwest Houston
Welcome new president Alan Massey
281-414-6341

The Next General Membership meeting is Wednesday, February 5th. It will be held in the Stein Room at Houston Distributing, 7100 High Life Dr. off Cullen Rd and Hwy 249 as it has in the past. Our speaker is Susan Heath, an Avian Biologist at the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory in Lake Jackson, TX.

December Members Meeting: Our December speaker was Jason Catchings. He fishes from Galveston Bay to Venice, LA. He also runs a hunting lodge in South Texas for quail and trophy deer. It was a great program. We also confirmed our new slate of officers: Alan Massey — President / Lee Moynahan — VP Operations (new director) / Brett Crawford — VP Banquet / Treasurer — Teresa Sims / Secretary — Loretta Vasquez.

Annual member Fish Fry: Mark your calendar for our annual member appreciation fish fry. It will be held at our April 1st General Membership Meeting.

Help us with Kid Fish. Mark your calendars! Here is the info for our 2014 Kid fish. Date: Saturday, May 10, 2014. Time 7AM - 1PM. Many thanks to Harris County Precinct 2, The City of La Porte and Linda’s Bait & Tackle for their support of this

Leaving it better than they found it. A young family eliminates Padre Island debris during Capt. Billy Sandifer’s 2010 Big Shell Beach Cleanup.

~16~
annual program.

Please remember that we are always happy to accept donations for the annual kid fish program. Please let us know of your desire to do so any time by contacting a Director. As a reminder, we are using email for meeting announcements.

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 lorettatascquez@att.net. — Alan Massey

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

On Monday, February 10 the Orange County Chapter will hold our annual membership drive meeting at Roberts Meat Market and steakhouse. This year’s event will be an awesome night with Bassmaster Elite Pro Fisherman Dennis Tietje from Roanoke La. Dennis has two local business sponsors, Granger Chevrolet and Gopher Industries. Dennis has been spotted at several local schools in the area talking to the kids in our community. He will give us an insight on what it is like to be an elite series tour fishermen and include some tournament tactics.

Mark the date down, the meeting will be at Roberts Steakhouse at 6:30pm. Everybody’s welcome to this event, door prizes and raffle items will be given out also. Tight Lines and bent rods,
—Scott Bandy

Port O’Connor
Bill Moore 361-983-4690

As the holiday season has come and gone, we again wish to thank all those members whose tireless efforts helped make the 14th annual POC CCA Banquet such a success. A special thanks to our table sponsors: Bull Red Tables - Central Drug Inc., POC Rod and Gun, A Cut above Pool Service, Tigrett Real Estate, Costa Bonita Properties, Fishing Tackle Unlimited, Action Oilfield Supply, Lagoon Boat and Trailers, PJW Consulting, Fishbeck Enterprises, Capital Farm Credit, Alligator Head Riff Raff, Gayle and Mary Joyce Wilson, Bill Moore, Smisek, Smolik and Ray, Brownlee, Vielock and Luster and Russell Cain Real Estate. Trophy Trout Tables: Sonny’s Marine/ Jason Stryker, Torrent Boats Inc., Cindy Spears Real Estate LLC, Bate Shack, Sharp and Ward, Mid Coast-CCA, and Fred Grantham.

The chapter held a banquet wrap-up meeting at the Sharps and thanks to all who assisted in the food preparation. We will have a general membership meeting and banquet appreciation event when the weather warms up a bit. Everyone will be notified. So if you are interested in getting involved, contact us and plan to attend any meetings you can in POC — “Where it all began.” — Bill Moore

Prairie
Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103
Happy New Year to all! 2013 was a great year for the chapter but 2014 will be better! On December 28, we had our annual Chapter Christmas Party at the Goebel Ranch barn. The evening started with a great meal of rib eye steaks, boiled shrimp and extras. Thanks to Sharon and her brother Bimbo for preparing the meal.

Following the feast, we started the Chinese Christmas gift exchange. There were many gifts that made the rounds around the room. Everybody got the gift they wanted and Santa was there for the kids. All the children had a chance to sit on Santa’s lap except Sailer Goebel son that thought Santa wasn’t real. But when she pulled on his beard, she found out quickly that he was real!

Our January board meeting was on the 8th and we are starting to plan our 2014 fundraiser banquet that will be on April 3rd at the Cat Spring Hall. We appointed committees that will handle gun and cap game and many other areas of the banquet. We plan a very successful turnout this year. During the evening we will have a Cap and Gun game raffle, live and silent auction, pistol raffle, and our regular raffle.

We are still looking for donors and supporters for the banquet. For more information, contact a board member or Sharon at 979-877-4103. If interested in purchasing a corporate table, contact Kirk Hoppe at 979-885-8868.

On February 21st we will be having our annual appreciation dinner at the Cat Spring Tin building at 5:30 p.m. We will be serving Kirk’s famous chili. There will be a guest speaker plus a “one dollar raffle.” You can count a great evening with good food and fellowship. Also, we are in the planning stage for our annual Kid’s Fish Tournament. A date will be announced later. Thanks and have a GREAT YEAR. — Ron Chess, 979-992-3295

Redfish Bay
Norman Oates
361-758-0266

Redfish Bay Chapter is ready for the new year!

Our Banquet is scheduled for April 26, 2014. It will be in the Port Aransas Civic Center, and it will start at 6 PM. Mark your calendars! More details to follow in e-mails and mailings.

We will have a General Membership meeting on February 27 starting at 7 PM. It will be at Redfish Willie’s on Connn Brown Harbor in Aransas Pass. Redfish Willie’s is part of the Redfish Bay Boathouse. As always, we ask that you come early and enjoy the food and drink at Redfish Willie’s before the meeting starts. More on the speaker to follow.

As always, we look forward to the participation of our members. The Board will do everything in its power to make our events informative and entertaining in 2014. — Norman Oates

Rio Grande Valley
Phil Teinert 956-367-4267
pteinert@fcbtx.com

We have secured the 2014 Raffle Boat and it is now on display and tickets are for sale. This year’s raffle boat is a 2014 210 Dargel Skout powered by 150 HP Evinrude ETec and sits on a Custom Aluminum Trailer. The boat is complete with Custom Aluminum, Power Pole, Raised Platform, Deluxe Leaning Post, Two Tone Custom Gel Coat Color and Much More. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Louis Zimmerer at 956-373-0799 or John Blaha at 806-626-4222. Special thanks go out to I&F Distributors and Dargel Boats for making this raffle possible once again.

A Lee County CCA family cleans a really bad spot at the Port Mansfield East Cut jetties during the Bassler’s 2013 cleanup.
Mark your calendars, the 2014 banquet has been set for Thursday, April 24, 2014 at the Pharr Events Center. The chapter board is planning for the event and looks forward to having another great night. If you are interested in helping the local chapter, contact Chapter President, Phil Teinert at 956-367-4267 or John Blaha at 800-626-4222. We hope you have tight lines all 2014.

—Phil Teinert

Sabine-Neches
Darin Johnson 409-790-9855
Happy New Year! By now most of you know from my reports we have a banquet coming up, for those that don’t know, here I go again! Thursday March 6th, 6pm @ the Bob Bowers Civic Center in Port Arthur, Texas, the 17th annual Crawfish Boil and Banquet! If you were at last year’s event you will be even more wowed by the event this year! Hot boiled crawfish, cold drinks and lots of trips, artwork, rods, reels, etc! We sold out last year, so don’t wait until the last minute! If you need tickets, tables or just want to sponsor something at the event let us know; call, text, email! We look forward to seeing all of our friends at the event! Until then Tight Lines to All!

—Darin M Johnson darin.johnson@delpapabud.com

Sam Houston
Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908
San Antonio
Welcome new president Jimmy Gibson 210-287-4378

The San Antonio chapter is well into the planning stage for an active 2014, but first we need to thank outgoing President Johnny Rayburg and outgoing Banquet Chair Liz Hewitt for their outstanding contributions and ongoing commitment to CCA. Without their leadership, CCA San Antonio would not have accomplished the success we have had over the past few years.

Now let’s talk about 2014, beginning with the Boat Show January 23rd thru 26th. We will be in full force at our booth. Come by and renew your membership, pick up a new CCA San Antonio shirt, a CCA Cap, stickers or just bring us a new fish story and pictures. We just might put you on our Web Page.

Next on my list is our first “CCA Hooked on Clays” Sporting Clays Shoot to be held at the National Shooting Complex, 5931 Roft Road, San Antonio, Friday April 4th at 1 pm. Teams will be composed of 5 shooters. There will be great prizes for the top teams, give aways and BBQ served after the shoot. This promises to be a great time so organize your team and get signed up. Individual shooters are always welcome and will be assigned a team. Cost is $125 per shooter, and we expect to see you there. Our web site has all the details and you can sign up by calling Robert Mendoza at 210-842-0643 or E-Mail Robert at mendozarm09@gmail.com.

On to our 2014 BANQUET scheduled for Thursday May 1st. Doors open at 5:30 pm. It’s going to be bigger and better than ever. We have added space, we have some great new sponsors, secured new auction items and new trips, and thanks to our generous sponsors, we will again give you a great chance to win a new boat, a Harley, a 4 wheelers and the list goes on. Mark your calendars and plan to enjoy an evening with friends, business partners, and CCA volunteers at an event that always creates
memories. More details, tables costs and individual ticket information is on our web site or contact Joe Eaton at (210) 599-3690 or E-Mail Joe at jeaton@eatoncontracting.com.

That will get us started for 2014 but I promise more fun events to come. Your CCA Chapter is always looking for individuals to volunteer their time, resources, and thoughts as to how we can better serve this great organization in a most productive way. Come join us and have some fun working on our banquet committee, the beach cleanup, crab trap pick up, be a part of our inter-chapter fishing team. You will enjoy our group and get satisfaction knowing you contributed to our efforts to improve our coastal marine habitat. We have fun, enjoy putting events together, do a little fishing and would welcome you to our group.

Remember our first battle cry, “SAVE THE REDFISH.” Thank you for doing your part. Until the next Currents travel safely — Jimmy Gibson jimmy.gibson@CSTBrands.com

San Bernard
Welcome new president Jayson Zahradnik 281-202-8438

We will be holding our annual banquet on Thursday, February 27th at Riverside Hall in East Bernard, Texas. What a way to kick off the New Year with good food, good fun, and good friends.

The night will be filled with activities including live auction, silent auction, bucket raffles, hat games, and more. We will also be enjoying our regular delicious ribeye steak dinner. There are corporate tables available. We also have gun raffle tickets for sale prior to the night of the event.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the banquet and hope you have had a great start to a new year. For raffle tickets, please contact our new chapter treasurer, Kenneth Schatz, at 979-533-4385. Thank you to all of our board members in advance for all of the hard work and volunteer hours it takes to make a banquet of this size a huge success. The San Bernard Chapter will continue to have our monthly board member meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of every month and hope to see some new faces each meeting. Again, thank you to all CCA supporters and hope to see everyone at our banquet. Thank you, your new chapter president, — Jayson Zahradnik.

San Gabriel
John Melnar 512-497-8284
San Jacinto
Pete Ruiz 832-496-4903
Southwestern
Jody Jacobs 210-827-7180

TAMU
Cameron Blackwood 713-591-7097

Howdy! Texas A&M CCA had a great fall semester. We had a great turnout for our tailgates for the football games.

This spring we are looking forward to getting back out on the water and catching some fish. Along with some fishing we will be having a skeet shooting event as well. We also have our banquet coming up May 2nd at the Brazos Center. We are looking to have a great turnout and raise some money for the resource. If you are interested in sponsoring or coming to our banquet please contact us via email at tamucca@gmail.com. Thanks, and Gig’em!

— Cameron Blackwood

Texas State University
Ryan Wishnow 832-444-3598

Tomball/Magnolia
Matt Maddox 832-590-1828

Tri-County
Jason Trial 830-570-2988

Trinity Bay
Gerald Payne 281-385-2894

The frigid air and periods of inclement weather may have kept some inside but folks in the Chapter have been sharing all kinds of recent experiences on the water tackling hungry speckled trout and line peeling reds.

In addition to taking time to enjoy the great outdoors on happenings in the Chapter include the annual board elections taking place and firming up our new banquet venue for 2014. We are excited about this change as the new facility holds more capacity and will be in Baytown, Texas this year. As in previous years the banquet will be in August.

Although we are months away from the banquet, members are beginning to reach out to new and past sponsors who have made this event one of the best along the Upper Gulf Coast. In addition to banquet preparation the Chapter will be gearing up to host a Bar B Que along with crawfish and shrimp boils. We look forward to serving those sponsors who purchased these items during the 2013 banquet auction: AAA Chemical, Coastline Marine & Aluminum, Fisher Mechanical, Zepher.

If you are interested in participating in any of our Chapter functions please let us know. We have monthly meetings in Baytown, Texas on the first Wednesday of each month. We have a great bunch of individuals that dedicate themselves towards the work of CCA and have a lot of fun doing so. — Gerald “Get er Done” Payne

West Houston
Joe Perez 832-279-4794

West Texas
Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499
Proudly Supporting the CCA For Over 15 Years

“NEW” Team Inshore Series

Troutmaster Lite Series

Team Redfish Elite

www.AmericanRodsmiths.com
713-466-7849
Want to share even more of your Great photos? Currents had many fine images submitted again this issue. Limited space means we can use only a few photos, but there is a good option for your Great Photo: send it to CCA via our new social media. See Page 7 for connections to Facebook and Instagram. Every entry there will also be an entry in the Currents Great Photos Competition.

Enter Great Photos 2014

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

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

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

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

Donate Today • www.restorecedarbayou.org
Watch for this billboard in various locations.
When Kenny Chesney decided to get personal, he stripped away expectations, pulled out a bunch of songs he’d written just for himself and kicked back for a soul-search that turned into Life On A Rock, available now on iTunes.

CCA’s friend and supporter, Kenny Chesney, has released his new album, LIFE ON A ROCK. Get your copy today.

---

**The Last Laugh**

**Send the Photo editor a Great Cutline for this Pauline Osborn photo, and win applause in the March April Currents newsletter.**

sam@samcaldwell.com

The Last Laugh

---

**The Farrier**

**Chosen for the International Watercolor Exhibition.**

You can watch this Caldwell masterwork as it builds from rough sketch to finish, via stop action video. And a few other new Caldwell paintings, as well. Drop by the Caldwell Art Cave, via the magic of the internet.

www.samcaldwell.com

Texas State Artist 2004
DU State Artist 2010-2011
281-455-9390

---

**BEN KOCIAN**

Fine Art, Fishing Lure Art Cases, Humerous illustrations, Collectables

**(Port-O’Connor) Boat Ramp Paradoy**

18” x 10.75”  $100

BenKocian.com

info@BenKocian.com
Wildly stronger! Keep ice longer!

Show your support! Get your own special edition CCA - YETI Cooler at www.yeticoolers.com/cca. A portion of the proceeds from each cooler purchased helps fund CCA’s mission.

For over 75 years, Tilson has called Texas home. Like you, we know the importance of conserving our resources for future generations. We would like to thank all Texas CCA members for your efforts by offering $1,000 in free upgrades when you purchase a Tilson home. Tilson offers over 100 floor plans and all can be personalized. Stop by a Tilson Model Home Center nearest you today to find out more.

Love thy neighbor.

Tilson Homes is a proud supporter of the Texas CCA and the STAR Fishing Tournament.

Texas Marine
Your Bay Boat Headquarters Since 1981
Discounts and Rebates Up To $8,000

NauticStar

Introducing the NauticStar 2110 Sport W/115hp 4-Stroke Yamaha & Trailer

Starting at $26,995

All New 2110 Shallow Bay, W/ Tunnel & Shalower

www.TexasMarine.com
110 N IH 10 North
Beaumont, TX
866-315-7771
1107 N. 45 South
Covington, LA
877-302-8082
2700 NASA Road 1
Seabrook, TX
979-820-6468

Texas Wildlife Art
“JACK” by Herb Booth
A Tribute to John “Jack” Cowan (20 x 30” Giclee’)

Charlie’s Gallery
281-370-0945
www.charliesgallery.com
U.S. Coast Guard
Air & Sea Rescue
National Response Center: 800-874-2143
Port Isabel: 956-753-2668
Corpus Christi / Marine Safety Office: 361-888-3162
Port Aransas: 361-749-5217
Port O'Connor: 361-983-2143
Freeport: 979-233-3801
Houston, Galveston: 409-766-5620
Sabine: 409-971-2195

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

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

Ancient CCA tradition: Leave it better than you found it.
2014 Abandoned Crab Trap Grab coming up

Coastal Conservation Association
6919 Portwest Suite 100 / Houston, TX 77024
CURRENTS NEWSLETTER
February / March 2014

Coastal Conservation Association
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, decal.
NEW TIDE / Star: $10 __ Same as above, plus "FREE" STAR Tournament entry.

Members 17 and under only
Age: ______ Date of birth: ______

NOTE: Application good only through March 31, 2014

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