

**CURRENTS**

April / May 2018

**7TH ANNUAL  
CONCERT FOR CONSERVATION  
SATURDAY, MAY 19TH  
AT SAM HOUSTON RACE PARK**



**HANK WILLIAMS JR.**



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# Red Snapper Permits Under Review

*Gulf States may be on the road to management program solutions — determined by the states*

*By Advocacy Director  
Shane Bonnot*

*At the Gulf Council meeting in late January, each of the five Gulf States submitted applications for recreational red snapper Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs), which would allow the states to manage their portion of the Gulf-wide recreational fishing quota.*

The EFPs, covering the 2018 and 2019 fishing years, will allow recreationally caught red snapper to be landed within certain time periods determined by the respective states. They are an excellent opportunity for each state to test their respective data collection and quota monitoring methodologies. Red snapper landings would be monitored by the states and the state seasons would close when a state's quota is caught or projected to be caught. These studies are intended to demonstrate the effectiveness of state management of recreationally caught red snapper. The approach to the management of the recreational red snapper season varies according to the needs of individual states, with some states requiring electronic reporting and enrollment in surveys, having split seasons or weekends only landings.

Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) requested 1,056,495 pounds, round weight, of red snapper to be used by the private angling and Federal for-hire components. The red snapper private angling season in state waters begins January 1 each year. Historically, the federal recreational red snapper season starts on June 1st, a time of the year



*Once published, we will send an email with detailed information and instructions on how to provide public comment.*

where offshore weather conditions are not favorable for red snapper fishing. TPWD, working through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, proposes to prohibit red snapper caught in Federal waters from being landed in Texas until sometime after June 1 in 2018. At that time, a season will be established allowing red snapper from federal waters to be landed. In 2019, the recreational season could possibly start prior to June 1 to take advantage of better weather conditions that occur off Texas in the winter and spring and would be determined by the state at a later date.

TPWD will host public meetings on March 27th in the Houston area, Corpus Christi and Port Isabel to review the Texas EFP. CCA Texas will send an email out to all membership, detailing opportunities to provide public comment at the public meetings and online. Your support for state management under the EFP is needed and we hope that you take the time to provide favorable comment. Thank you all for what you do to promote conservation and sound fisheries management.

*Thanks to Brush Country CCA for "Brandon's first snapper."*



## Is That a Hatchery Fish?

*Reprinted with permission from "Is that a hatchery fish!" by Ashley Fincannon, February 2018. Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine pages 46-48.*

*While fishing in Texas bays you may hear an angler say about a catch, "That's a hatchery fish." Not to spoil the fishing day for anyone, but just by looking at a fish you generally cannot tell whether it's of hatchery origin or not. What you can count on is that hatchery fish are out there. But where do they come from?*

Fish stock enhancement (introducing hatchery-reared fish into the wild) is a fisheries management tool that is used around the world to help supplement and enhance fish populations. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) operates three coastal fish hatcheries that spawn, raise and release (stock) hatchery-reared red drum, spotted seatrout and southern flounder fingerlings (young fishes 1.5 to 2 inches total length in size) into Texas bays and estuaries.

The hatchery process starts with the capture of adult fish (broodfish) from the wild to be used as spawners in a controlled hatchery setting. Red drum and spotted seatrout broodfish are sourced annually as needed from coastal waters using traditional hook and line.

Another method employed to collect red drum are longlines in offshore waters. Longline fishing is a commercial fishing technique that uses a long line (essentially a trotline) that is deployed with many hooks. TPWD employs longlines as one of several sampling gears used in the department's continuous monitoring of Texas coastal waters. Acquiring southern flounder broodfish is a little trickier.

Hatchery staff utilize local guides and an airboat outfitted with many lights to locate flounder and then land them with hand nets to minimize injuries.

Once captured and transported to the hatcheries, a small fin clip is removed from each fish for genetic identification. Broodfish are placed into hatchery tanks and placed on a 150-day photoperiod (light) and temperature maturation/spawning cycle. After this conditioning period, broodfish routinely start spawning and can produce tens-of-thousands of fertilized eggs per night. Viable eggs are collected by hatchery staff, incubated, and hatched, and larvae are reared to fingerling size in outdoor culture ponds. In addition to volitional spawning, southern flounder are routinely strip spawned by hatchery staff to maximize production efforts.

*Cover graphic art by Amie  
Hoy- Executive Assistant.*



David Abrego, SCT's Facility Director releasing fingerlings.



Each year, TPWD staff rotate 25% of the hatchery broodfish and introduce new fish from the wild to replace those being phased out of the program. A typical hatchery room of red drum has four tanks containing three females and two males in each tank (total of 20 fish per room). Once 25% of the fish are rotated out, the remaining fish are shuffled between tanks to provide different spawning partners. This is done to ensure that the hatchery program is able to maintain a genetic diversity within the hatchery broodfish population that is similar to the wild fish population.

The CCA Marine Development Center (MDC), located in Corpus Christi, and Sea Center Texas (SCT) in Lake Jackson house all the broodfish maintained for the stocking



Speckled trout, southern flounder and red drum Hatchery broodfish.

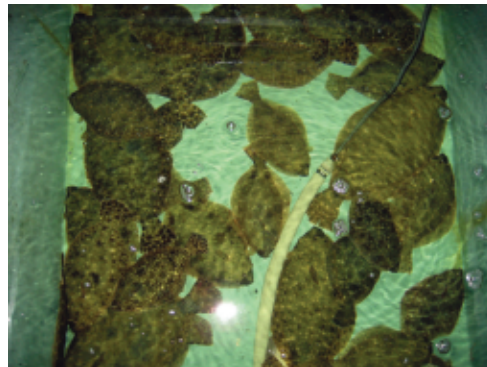
program. Both facilities follow similar protocols for broodfish care and management. Red drum collected from the lower coast (Aransas Bay, Corpus Christi Bay, and Upper and Lower Laguna Madre) are maintained at the MDC while red drum acquired from the upper coast (Sabine Lake, Galveston, Matagorda and San Antonio Bays) are housed at SCT.

In an effort to take a conservative approach, spotted seatrout and southern flounder are kept separated at the hatcheries based on the bay from which they were collected. Fingerlings cultured from those fishes are stocked only into the specific bay where the broodfish were obtained.



Starting in 2002, research was initiated in collaboration with Texas A&M University researchers (Dr. John Gold and his research team) to develop genetic markers for identification of hatchery-reared red drum collected from Texas bays utilizing hatchery fin clip samples. Based on that genetic work, red drum collected from Texas bays can be identified as either of hatchery or wild origin. TPWD used this genetic tool as a way to assess survival rates of hatchery-reared red drum released into Texas bays.

TPWD Coastal Fisheries management staff used gill nets during the spring and fall seasons (2005-2009) to capture red drum in Texas bays for genetic analysis. Only red drum collected measuring less than 19.7



inches total length (age – 1 year old) were included in the research studies. Results from the most recent study (2014) indicated that an average of  $4.6\% \pm 2.2\%$  of the fish caught in gill nets were of hatchery origin, with

a range of 0.28%-17.65%, depending on bay, year and season. Because there are many factors affecting fingerling survival (i.e. time of year stocked, fingerling size, stocking habitat, etc.), considerable variation was found to occur between stocking events. This powerful genetic tool was used as a scientific approach to validate that the hatchery program is contributing to the wild red drum stocks in Texas waters, and odds are "That's a hatchery fish."



## Hatchery Fun Facts

> TPWD Coastal Fisheries Stock Enhancement Program (Coastal Hatcheries) release approximately 25 million red drum and spotted seatrout fingerlings annually in coastal waters from Sabine Lake to the Lower Laguna Madre.

> TPWD Coastal Hatcheries have year-round fingerling production, releasing red drum and spotted seatrout fingerlings from May – November and southern flounder fingerlings from December – April.

> TPWD Coastal Hatcheries care for over 120 red drum broodstock, 350 spotted seatrout broodstock and 300 southern flounder broodstock.

> Around 35 days after hatching, a flounder larvae will undergo metamorphosis as the larvae's right eye begins to migrate. The eye remains on the outside surface of the fish, and the tissues and skeletal structures in the head break down and rebuild, allowing the optic nerve to follow the right eye to the left side of the head.

> Nearly 900 million fingerlings have been released in coastal waters from 1983 to present.

> While the production cost per fish varies with each species and the size of the fish produced, the overall cost per red drum and spotted seatrout fingerling produced and stocked by the Stock Enhancement program is approximately \$0.10.

> Fingerling release sites are determined by Coastal Fisheries managers and are based on bag seine data, gill net data, and sport angler harvest catch rates from the monitoring program used to determine stocking densities.

> Red drum and spotted seatrout larvae grow an average of 1 mm/day in spring and 2 mm/day in summer.

> CCA is a proud partner of the TPWD Coastal Hatcheries and has been instrumental in the construction of facilities and development of programs.

> Sea Center Texas (Lake Jackson) is open to the public (free) and will provide hatchery tours upon request. The CCA Marine Development Center (Corpus Christi) will provide hatchery tours by appointment only. Both facilities have a visitor center and public fishing in stocked ponds.



# Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

## BUILDING A FUTURE FOR TEXAS MARINE HABITAT

### CCA Texas and Building Conservation Trust Commit \$895,000 to Habitat Work in 2018

By John Blaha

*Photos by Lisa Laskowski and John Blaha*  
CCA Texas' habitat program, Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT), and CCA's National Habitat Program, Building Conservation Trust (BCT), recently met to lay out the 2018 Habitat Work Plan. The committee reviewed numerous projects and ultimately approved \$895,000 in funding for nine projects that will create over \$3.6 million in habitat work covering the Texas coast from Sabine to the Rio Grande Valley. Partnerships always play a vital role in habitat creation and restoration. CCA Texas and BCT are proud to continue working with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP), Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF), Friends of Rio Grande Valley Reef (FRGVR), and Harte Research Institute (HRI).

#### **\$10,000 – Vancouver Near-shore Reefing Site (TPWD)**

Atlantis Marine Habitats has donated 40+ reefing pyramids to be reefed in TPWD's Nearshore Reefing Program's Vancouver site, located just off the Freeport Jetties. These pyramids will be reefed within the site at coordinates designated by TPWD. The Vancouver site was one of CCA Texas' first deployment sites for artificial reefing. Materials within this site include an old ship, concrete culverts and rip rap, large granite blocks and 800 concrete pyramids. CCA Texas and BCT will contract directly with Lil Mo Marine Services to deploy these reefing pyramids, and this project is anticipated to be completed in March 2018.

#### **\$25,000 – Dickinson Bayou Marsh Grass Planting (TPWD)**

CCA Texas and BCT continue to provide support for projects that they have partnered on in the past. This support continues when project needs arise that must be addressed in order to preserve the efforts initially set forth. TPWD's Dickinson Bayou Marsh Restoration effort is one such



project. The original project restored 10 acres of marsh and protected an additional 18 acres of existing marsh. Successful marsh grass plantings took place, and the restored habitat was thriving. This effort will replant marsh grasses that were damaged by the historical flooding of 2017. It is expected to be completed in 2018.

#### **\$40,000 – Trinity Bay Discovery Center Living Shoreline (GBF)**

This Galveston Bay Foundation-led project provides multiple purposes that restore and protect the area marsh while also providing educational opportunities to the local community. This project will create 1,200 linear feet of shoreline breakwater and provide the opportunity to restore up to 2 acres of estuarine intertidal marsh. As part of the Trinity Bay Discovery Center, the project will provide educational opportunities to area teachers, students and the community. It is projected that 800 students, 80 teachers and 65 family members





will visit this site in 2018. To date, 630 students and 65 teachers have already registered to visit the site. Other funding partners of this project include US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Galveston Bay Estuary Program.

#### **\$60,000 – Nueces Bay Demonstration/Restoration Oyster Reef Project (CBBEP)**

Partnering with Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, a small two to three acre oyster reef project will be created for research, demonstration and community outreach. This effort will serve as a baseline indicator of the ability to construct and enhance existing oyster reefs within the Nueces Bay system. In addition, it will provide community outreach through education by involving local students in oyster bagging events and shell placement. This project is anticipated to reach completion in 2018, and monitoring of the site will continue into the next two to three years.

#### **\$60,000 - Baffin Bay's Unique Serpulid Reef Habitat: Science to Advance Understanding and Conservation (HRI)**

During recent studies in Baffin Bay, the serpulid reef habitat began to spark the interest of Harte Research Institute scientists and researchers. This funding will support the following:

- 1) Assessment of invertebrate reef communities, including density, diversity, and biomass at several reef sites over time
- 2) Linking changes in reef communities to seasonal and/or water quality changes
- 3) Conducting dietary analyses of fisheries species to assess the importance of reef communities as prey resources.

The health of the Baffin Bay system may depend heavily on the success of its rare serpulid reefs. An understanding of the ecological role of serpulid reef communities, in particular as a prey resource, will improve fishery resource management and improve our ability to conserve these rare, naturally occurring, hard-substrate habitats.

#### **\$100,000 Sabine Lake Restored Oyster Reef Expansion (TPWD)**

TPWD has taken broad steps in the last several years in oyster reef creation and restoration, as well as management of this critically important habitat. This project will create additional oyster habitat in the southwest corner of the remaining 27 acres in the lease area of Sabine Reef. This funding will provide 833 to 1,666 cubic yards of reef to be laid in Sabine Lake. Early deployments of material in this area have shown success in oyster reef growth and other ecological services. This area has not been commercially harvested in 40 years, however Louisiana is considering commercial harvest in this area once again, and this step is a proactive step in offsetting any potential habitat loss on the Louisiana side of the border.

#### **\$150,000 Rio Grande Valley Reef Material Deployment (FRGVR)**

Friends of Rio Grande Valley Reef continues to lead the way in supporting and reefing the Rio Grande Valley Nearshore Reef site. CCA Texas and BCT have been partners in this project since day one, and to date they have contributed \$255,000 to the effort. This additional



contribution of \$150,000 will help FRGVR continue to deploy low and high relief materials to the site. Plans are currently in progress to deploy more low relief concrete rubble and 7,000 tons of concrete railroad ties. This will provide a high relief complex reef area that will attract many species of fish. Reefing is expected to begin in the spring of 2018. The Rio Grande Valley Reef continues to show the results of grassroots efforts of driven volunteers.

#### **\$200,000 Sabine Pass HI20 Nearshore Reefing Project (TPWD)**

CCA Texas and BCT will work with TPWD and local volunteer groups to reef the newly permitted HI20 nearshore reefing site. The first phase of reefing will include 200 granite blocks, which will be reefed in the northwest quadrant of the site. The barge will be deployed in the center of the 160 acre site. An ongoing effort is in place to garner support of local industries to continue reefing this nearshore site as materials become available.

#### **\$250,000 Big Man Nearshore Reefing Site (TPWD)**

With this \$250,000 commitment to the Big

Man Nearshore site, CCA Texas and BCT have now committed and funded over \$1.5 million to nearshore reefing along the Texas coast. In addition, another \$250,000 has been contributed to the research of these reefs to determine the best configurations and the ecological and economic value of these sites.

The Big Man Reef is a new 160 acre site off the Galveston coast. This site, along with its sister site, Kate's Reef, will provide easy access for Galveston area anglers to nearshore species and opportunities. Kate's Reef is expected to be permitted by the end of 2018, and reefing will then begin there.

The first phase of reefing at Big Man's Reef will be the deployment of concrete railroad tiles, which will provide complex low and mid relief habitat. Reefing is expected to take place in 2018.

CCA Texas and BCT are excited to continue their *Natural Partnership* and work with partners along the entire Texas coast to restore and create vital habitat. For funding opportunities and project questions, we encourage you to contact Sean Stone, Building Conservation Trust Executive Director at (713) 626-4234, or John Blaha, CCA Texas Habitat Director, at (713) 626-4222 with any questions you might have.





# CCA Texas Social Happenings

CCA Texas is off and running full speed ahead into banquet season! Be sure to follow us on social media, listen to our podcast "Coastal Advocacy Adventures" and visit [youtube.com/CCATexasProjects](https://youtube.com/CCATexasProjects) to view our habitat video page, which shows videos of our projects done in partnership with CCA's National Habitat Program Building Conservation Trust and several other great partners.

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



## Facebook:

Thank you to everyone who came out this weekend and helped with another productive Crab Trap Cleanup! It's because of our dedicated volunteers and partners that we are able to do great work along the Texas coast.

## Twitter:

@TIFRTV: It's almost that time of year again. Make sure you and your kiddos are registered to be CCA Members before the CCA Star Tournament starts!  
[@CCA\\_Texas #ThursdayThoughts](#)



## Instagram:

@cca\_texas: Dr. Mark Fisher is the Director of the Science Group in the @texasparkswildlife - Coastal Fisheries Division. Swim over to our Facebook page, our website or SoundCloud, and listen in to the CCA Texas podcast "Coastal Advocacy Adventures," as Dr. Fisher gives us a quick overview of our coastal fisheries and shares some perspectives on both Hurricane Harvey and the recent cold snaps. Lots of excellent information is shared in this quick episode!  
[#ccatexas #joincca #conservation](#)

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YouTube: [youtube.com/ccatexasprojects](https://youtube.com/ccatexasprojects)  
Podcast: Coastal Advocacy Adventures





# 7th Annual Concert for Conservation

## Saturday, May 19

### Sam Houston Race Park



Join Hank Williams Jr,  
Eddie Money, Molly  
Hatchet and 3,000 of your  
closest friends for a great  
musical evening.



Tickets  
available at  
[ccatexas.org](http://ccatexas.org) or [shrp.com](http://shrp.com)

## CCA Communicators Dominate Top State Awards — Again

**South Shore Harbour Resort & Conference Center, League City, Texas**—Kim Philippi, Heather Peterek, Pat Murray, Shane Bonnot and Sam Caldwell took major wins against tough competition. If you thought your *TIDE* magazines and *CURRENTS* newsletters had nice work last year, the experts agreed with you.

**Category 3: Outdoor Photography, Open/ 1st Place: Pat Murray, "Red Sky by Morning,"** *TIDE* Magazine. Judges' comments: "What better way...to scan all the possibilities in our vast outdoors."

**Category 4: Outdoors Radio/ 3rd Place: Shane Bonnot, "Coastal Advocacy Adventures Podcast"** Judges' Comments: "Bonnot had a winner when he reviewed speckled trout in Galveston Bay."

**Category 5: Outdoor Television Radio: 1st Place: Kim Philippi, "Port O'Connor 'Keeping It Wild' Near Shore Reef Deployment." 3rd Place: Kim Philippi, "2016 Oysters, Blues & Brews Benefit"** Judges' Comments: "What wonderful shorts...Philippi has a knack for shooting and has wonderful photography."

**Category 6: Outdoor Illustration/Graphic: 1st Place: Sam Caldwell, "Oyster Reef Trio"** *CURRENTS* newsletter

**2nd Place: Heather Peterek, "Meet the Giant Isopod,"** *Rising TIDE* Magazine

**3rd Place: Sam Caldwell, "Silver at The Pass,"** *CURRENTS* Newsletter.

Judges' Comments: Heather's illustration: "We never want to meet an isopod, much less a giant one."

Caldwell's painting: "Caldwell's work jumps out at you...screams realistic in an abstract way..."

**Category 7: Outdoor Publication— Under 25,000: 2nd Place: Heather Peterek /** *Rising TIDE* Magazine. Judges' Comments: "Photos, Articles and Activities, Oh My!"

**Category 8: Outdoor Publication-- Over 25,000: 2nd Place: Pat Murray, TIDE Magazine 3rd Place: Sam Caldwell, CURRENTS Newsletter.** Judges' Comments: "TIDE... excellent photography; the cover photo was priceless..." *CURRENTS*: "Accomplishes its mission in a professional and informative manner."

**Category 10: Outdoor Column/Opinion Writing— Honorable Mention, Pat Murray, TIDE Magazine: "Don't Forget to Fish."** Judges' Comments: "How simple can you say it."

**Category 12: Magazine Feature— Honorable Mention, Heather Peterek, TIDE Magazine: "Catch, Cook, Eat."** Judges' Comments: "... good recipe...the lifeblood of magazine features."

**Category 14: Outdoor News Reporting—3rd Place: Shane Bonnot, CURRENTS Newsletter / "Sustainability of the Oyster Fishery."** Judges' Comments: "Shane Bonnot covers the impact of HB 51 on the Texas Oyster Fishery like morning dew hovering over the bay."

**Category 16: Outdoor Webpage—Kim Philippi and Heather Peterek seized all the awards in this important outdoor news category. 1st Place: Kim Philippi, "Building Conservation Trust Website"**

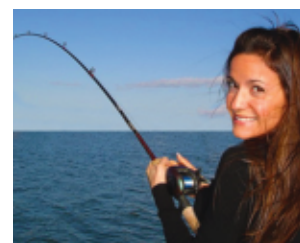
**2nd Place: Heather Peterek, "Coastal Conservation Association Website."**



Kim Philippi



Sam Caldwell



Heather Peterek



Pat Murray

**Category 17: Special Projects, Conservation— 2nd Place: Shane Bonnot, "Episode 21- Cedar Bayou,"** *Coastal Advocacy Adventures Podcast.*

**3rd Place: Heather Peterek, Rising TIDE Magazine: "Reef Ball Technology."** Judges' Comments: "The Cedar Bayou podcast by Bonnot is excellent. ...Peterek's Reef Ball Technology program deserves kudos."



Shane Bonnot



## Upper Coast

By Capt. Billy Penick

### Running and Gunning

April is a month I look forward to along the upper coast because of the changes. Water temperatures are rising, baitfish are showing up by the thousands and the fish will eat a lure.

The Galveston Bay system is full of man-made structure that I focused on in March and will continue to do so through April and May. Dredged canals, boat docks, rock walls, concrete drains, bulkheads and concrete inlets get my attention. High concentrations of bait gather at these points, and gamefish follow. A run and gun method of fishing crashes these buffets and will load the boat with fish.

Not all boat docks or canals hold fish and bait, so you have to find them. In a day's time, my Mercury motor will let me cover 20 spots to find the right school of fish. Once you land on them it's game on. Depending on wind conditions and water clarity, that's where I head in the bay system. In short, I have confidence in the pattern and situation, no matter if I am in East Bay, West Bay or Galveston Bay.

Primary baits I tie on are soft plastic Down South Lures on a 1/8 or 1/4 oz jig head and a Texas Flash. Structure fishing causes anglers to go into bass fishing mode, so I rely on my H&H rods to hold strong day in and day out. Check them out at (936) 446-0656 for high quality rods at affordable prices.

In brief, follow the bait and conditions in the spring, and don't be afraid to make 10 casts and head to another area! Let the bait and fish tell you what kind of structure they want to be on. Fish fast to get as many reaction bites as you can. Remember to fish for the future, and let some live for another day! Give me a call for a trip of a lifetime. — **Capt Billy Penick** Gypsy Guide Service (281) 415-6586 [www.gypsyguideservice.com](http://www.gypsyguideservice.com)

## Middle Coast

By Capt. Tommy Countz

### Waders stored till November

April/May fishing in the Matagorda Complex always gets me fired up. Not wearing waders means I can drink that second cup of coffee in the morning and not have to find a "high spot" after I've been fishing for a while. Mary C. says that it levels the playing field for women wade fishermen.

You can usually find me wading the south shore of West Matagorda Bay, starting off throwing top waters at the mouth of drains coming out of Matagorda Peninsula and keying on bait fish activity. If the top water bite is slow (and it usually isn't) then I'll switch over to soft plastic rigged on a 1/16 or 1/8 leadhead.

Fishing for redfish during the spring can be off the charts. If someone tells me he doesn't like catching reds on top waters, I don't want anyone with that kind of negativity around me!

Later in the morning, I'll start working grass beds farther out from the shore, watching for slicks and bait action. If I have boat fishermen and the winds are kind, I like to drift a 55-acre reef that we call the new Half Moon Reef. In the spring it can produce plenty of action and a nice box of fat speckled trout. Top waters work great early but live shrimp under a Mid-Coast popping cork is the real ticket.

The past couple of years, May has produced a good number of big trout drifting the east end of East Matagorda Bay. Once again, look for schools of bait and small slicks. Plastic on 1/4 or 3/8 ounce lead heads or live shrimp under a popping cork with a three foot leader work best. Make long drifts until you mark fish.

May also marks the time when I start fishing for tripletail in West Matagorda Bay. The best way to catch them is to be standing in my boat with your check in my pocket. Hey, I just call 'em the way I see 'em. Regardless of what you do, you can't go wrong fishing Matagorda in April and May. Give me a shout and we'll go fishing. — **Capt. Tommy Countz** (281) 450-4037 [tcountz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tcountz@sbcglobal.net)

## Lower Coast

By Capt. Danny Neu

### High hopes in Lower Laguna Madre

As the temperatures rise in south Texas, so does the water level and the wind speed. The flats will soon be teeming with baitfish, and predators will follow. Trout and redfish will be found near the largest concentrations of bait and will be hungry.

There are several keys to successfully targeting these fish on the flats. The number one key is baitfish. Find the bait and you will find the fish. The wind tends to dictate where to search for bait. When the wind speeds exceed 20-mph, my search is shallow. These waters will hold fishable water clarity and offer more opportunity for daily success. Grass lines adjacent to sand flats are a great option. Also, look for areas with grass and pot-holes. If the bait is there, so are the fish. Patience is necessary as well. While fishing amongst large concentrations of bait, you must slow down and plug away. After all, there is plenty of competition in the water.

I like to start my days throwing a top water lure. The Spook One Knocker is a great choice. Remember that each day is different, so try varying retrieves until you find the one they like. If the surface bite is not on, I'll switch to a soft plastic. Use Norton sand eels in red and white and tequila gold, for green and clear water. Go to LSU (purple/chartreuse) in dirty water.

When the wind speeds are light, try deeper grass beds. Often the bait isn't visible in these areas. Shrimp and piggy perch hide in these grass beds and attract trout and reds. Soft plastics bounced near the bottom will work great for these fish.

With the warmer weather comes the larger crowds. Remember to be courteous to other fishermen and fellow boaters. Respect the fragile resource, and practice catch and release. Only keep what you intend to eat. — **Captain Danny Neu** (979) 942-0165 [dneucharters@yahoo.com](mailto:dneucharters@yahoo.com)

## Abandoned Crab Traps: 16 years of CCA Successes

**Ronnie Luster**— Volunteers were able to remove more than 1,040 abandoned, derelict, or lost crab traps from the San Antonio Bay system alone. Statewide this year, some 1,600 traps were collected and destroyed. What a great job Allan Berger and Dan Alonso carried out in San Antonio Bay area. San Antonio Bay Foundation Executive Director Dan Alonso secured funding to hire Daniel Flying Service of Tivoli to conduct an aerial survey. There were more than 1,000 traps after this many years of picking traps up in the same area. This just demonstrates how important it is to continue the program annually. There will be abandoned and ghost traps, as long as commercial crabbing is permitted.

**Norman Boyd**— Volunteers came from all parts of Texas. Many organizations volunteered time and private boats in the annual cleanup effort of San Antonio Bay. Statewide, some 203 volunteers participated with 44 boats. GPS coordinates from an aerial survey helped concentrate efforts. Since 2002, volunteers have removed 32,705 abandoned traps from Texas waters.

**Bill Moore**— As usual, the Port O'Connor CCA chapter was on hand at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Docks to assist on Saturday, February 17. The chapter provided lunch for all who showed up. Thanks to all who participated, both at the docks and on the water. Also a special thanks to Norman Boyd of TPWD for the use of their facilities and their assistance. 🐞







## The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo Early Bird Registration Deadline is FRIDAY, APRIL 27!

*Spring tides and summer day dreams seem to be the constant theme this time of year. Another constant is change, and this year's STAR Tournament is no different!*

This year we are pleased to announce *Evinrude* will be joining us as the newest CCA Texas STAR partner! Evinrude has stepped up to sponsor all three **Trout Division** boats, the **Early Bird** boat and the **Member Bonus Drawing** boat! Be on the lookout for great things to come from Evinrude for CCA members, and don't forget to check out their G2 technology.

We have another very exciting announcement in the STAR world. We are officially rolling out the brand new STAND-ALONE 2018 CCA Texas Guides Division in STAR. Eligible guides will be putting their best efforts forward to help put YOU on the best fish that they possibly can, not only so you win in STAR, but so they can have their chance to win a Mowdy 26' CAT, Mercury 225 hp ProXS outboard and custom Coastline trailer. When you win, they can win! Talk about giving your guide a great tip... Check out [www.startournament.org](http://www.startournament.org) for more details on rules and eligibility.

**Note: The addition of the CCA Texas Guides Division does not affect any other STAR category, and guides are still excluded from participating in the rest of the tournament.**

Remember, to be eligible to WIN one of \$1,000,000 in prizes being offered in Texas' largest, richest, summer-long fishing event, you must be a **CURRENT** member of CCA, in addition to being registered in the 2018 TEXAS STAR tournament. CCA membership is \$35 annually, and the 2018 STAR Tournament fee is \$25, for a total of only \$60. Remember though, **YOUNG ANGLERS FISH STAR FOR FREE**. Anglers between the ages of 6-17 can register for STAR for free with a \$10 CCA "Youth" annual membership. We want to help get all young people out on the water, and we wouldn't be able to offer our CCA "Youth" members the chance to

win one of \$1,000,000 in prizes for FREE if it wasn't for our great sponsors. To be eligible to fish STAR for free, "Youth" members **MUST BE** at least 6 years of age in 2018 and under age 18. It is the "Youth" members responsibility to make sure their CCA membership is current and that they are registered for the current year STAR tournament.

As you make your plans to head off to stock up on gear and register for STAR if you haven't already, be sure to be on the lookout for a very special bonus from our great sponsor Academy Sports + Outdoors, where you can find any gear you might need and register in person in one quick stop.

2018 Early Bird Drawings! Remember if you sign up by April 27 at midnight you are automatically entered into our "Early Bird" prize drawings. We are again offering the awesome **GRAND PRIZE** of a Dargel 210 Skout with a 150 hp Evinrude E-TEC G2 and a McClain trailer. See a list of some of the other great "Early Bird" prizes that we are offering below! (2018 STAR early bird drawing deadline to enter is April 27.)

**Early Bird Grand Prize**  
Dargel 210 Skout,  
150 hp EVINRUDE E-TEC G2  
and McClain Trailer

**PLUS 20 More Great Prizes:**  
9.9 hp Mercury Kicker Motor  
Three (3) rod and reel combos  
Thermo-Electric Travel  
Cooler & Warmer  
Fifteen (15) CCA Special  
Edition Posters)



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

**Ford X-Plan Pricing**- CCA Texas members will again have the great honor from Texas Ford Dealers of using X-Plan pricing. For just a \$35 membership, any CCA member can purchase (or lease) a Ford vehicle at Ford employee pricing! Depending on your chosen vehicle, this could save you \$100s or \$1,000s! Our Ford Partner Code # is CCA 61; go to [www.fordpartner.com](http://www.fordpartner.com), if you are considering a purchase.



**BEST IN TEXAS**



2018 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT SuperCab with Haynie 23 Bigfoot, the Redfish Division prize.



**SIGN-UP EARLY AND RECEIVE A SPECIAL BONUS FROM ACADEMY SPORTS + OUTDOORS**- Just

one of many great reasons to register for STAR is that Academy Sports + Outdoors will be mailing a \$10 gift card in May just in time for fishing season! Thanks again to Academy Sports + Outdoors for this great benefit...and sponsoring **THREE \$25,000 SCHOLARSHIPS, PLUS ALL OF THE RUNNER-UP PRIZES!**



Whataburger - CCA Texas members yet again get to enjoy delicious Whataburger coupons in the June/July issue of Currents.



**TEXAS FISH & GAME MAGAZINE "BONUS ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION!"**- Not many people can say no to free stuff, and Texas Fish &

Game Magazine is again offering a FREE one-year (12 issues) online subscription to all 2018 CCA Texas STAR participants. This subscription gives you access to the latest and most in-depth outdoors information anywhere. Whether you are lying in bed or sitting in the office, you will always have access. Include your email address on your registration form to receive your free subscription! If you prefer the print version, don't worry! You can still receive a print version, along with online access, for only \$8 a year (vs. \$17.99). Be on the lookout in your email or mailbox for details on how to activate this offer! If you have any questions regarding your past or current subscriptions, please call (800) 725-1134, or email [subscriptions@fishgame.com](mailto:subscriptions@fishgame.com).



**TILSON HOMES \$1,000 in FREE UPGRADES!** — Every CCA Texas member who purchases a Tilson Home is eligible for \$1,000 in free

upgrades, such as ceramic tile, hardwood floors, cabinets and more. See their ad in the CCA Texas CURRENTS newsletter for more details or call 1 (888) 540-6705.

**2018 Prize Line-Up**— Our goal has always been to keep STAR fees as reasonable as possible. We would not be able to do this without our great sponsors! In 2002, we were able to begin offering youth (ages 6-17) the opportunity to fish the tournament for FREE! This year marks 29 years we have been blessed to offer members of all ages amazing prize packages and college scholarships. This year's tournament will be no different, as we will be offering another spectacular prize line-up! This includes over 100 prizes, such as trucks, boats, motors, trailers and \$325,000 in college scholarships in the following categories:

**Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division** — Texas Ford Dealers continue to make this division the "Best in Texas!" The first five registered STAR participants who catch a tagged redfish will receive a tough 2018 **Ford F-150 Texas Edition** truck to tow their awesome **Haynie 23 Bigfoot**, rigged with





a Mercury ProXS OptiMax sitting on a Coastline trailer. The next five anglers will receive the same boat, motor and trailer package. Registered young anglers not of legal driving age who land a STAR tagged redfish, will receive the boat package plus a \$25,000 college scholarship, in lieu of the truck.

**Trout Division** — Again this year, upper, middle, and lower coast region winners will each drive home with an awesome Mowdy 22' V boat, 150 HP Evinrude motor and Coastline trailer (Eight pound minimum weight, please release all fish under 28").



**Offshore Division - Hoffpauir Auto & Outdoor Store** is back again providing anglers who land the heaviest kingfish, dorado and ling

an awesome **Polaris Ranger Crew 570 EPS UV** in Polaris Pursuit Camo on top of a Big Tex 35sa trailer to cruise around in when you're back onshore!



**Inshore Division** — Registered anglers who turn in the heaviest flounder, gafftop and sheepshead will get to drive off into the sunset pulling a new Shoalwater 19' Cat boat with a 115 HP motor, all on top of a McClain trailer.

**StarKid Division** (ages 6-10, \$150,000 Total):

- **Flounder Division**- \$50,000 scholarship for heaviest flounder!
- **Gafftop Division**- \$50,000 scholarship for heaviest gafftop!
- **Sheepshead Division**- \$50,000 scholarship for heaviest sheepshead!



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

- **Academy Sports + Outdoors Trout Division**- \$25,000 scholarship for heaviest trout in upper, middle, and lower coast

divisions! (Minimum weight requirement of six pounds for entry)

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



**\*\*NEW\*\* CCA Texas Guides Division** — It is the hope of Texas STAR and CCA Texas to be able to reward Texas fishing guides who support



## PLATINUM PRINT 2018

*"Until We Meet Again"*

By SAM CALDWELL

713.626.4222 · ccatexas.org · startournament.org



## "Until We Meet Again"

*Sam Caldwell's classic painting of a red being returned for further duty.*

CCA Texas STAR Platinum Print Membership Package, Series VIII- We're pleased to announce the new print being offered in the 2018 CCA Texas STAR Platinum package is *Until We Meet Again* by renowned Texas artist Sam Caldwell. We hope you love this print as much as we do! Your CCA Texas Platinum package includes your CCA membership (new or renewal), your 2018 CCA Texas STAR entry, plus one signed, limited-edition print of your choice created exclusively for STAR, all for only \$125! This is a one-of-a-kind-print worth this price alone. If you are considering one or several of these limited edition packages, go to: [www.startournament.org](http://www.startournament.org) for more details, or to place your order with the STAR Department, call (713) 626-4222.

marine conservation, and empower them to help recruit more anglers into the CCA mission through this new division. The winner of this division will take home a 26' Mowdy CAT with a 225 hp Mercury ProXS and Coastline trailer. See [www.startournament.org](http://www.startournament.org) for more details and eligibility requirements!

### THE PRIZES DON'T END THERE!

First through fourth runners-up in all divisions will receive various gift cards from our longtime partner ACADEMY SPORTS + OUTDOORS!

**Youth Member Drawing**- All youth STAR participants (age 6-17) are eligible for a bonus drawing for a \$25,000 college scholarship, even without wetting a line!!

**Member Bonus Drawing**- One lucky STAR entrant will also take home a brand new Dargel 210 Skout, 150 HP Evinrude E-TEC G2 motor, and McClain trailer simply for registering!

**For more information, go to [www.startournament.org](http://www.startournament.org). Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament!**



*In 2018, STAR will have reached \$6,500,000 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!*



Evinrude is committed to creating engines that minimize boaters' impact on the environment. We doubled down on this commitment in 2004 when we released our E-TEC engine, our cleanest direct-injection engine to date. Evinrude continues to innovate its direct injection technology to meet the growing demand for powerful, fuel-efficient and environmentally friendly engines.

We thank the volunteers and members of CCA Texas for their tireless work to protect our priceless natural resources. We are committed to a long and fruitful partnership.

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS





# Caught Redhanded!



Reports from TP&W Game Wardens

During the past summer in Calhoun County, game wardens in District 1 filled multiple cases while patrolling state waters in the Gulf of Mexico. During their patrols they also found some gill nets just off the Matagorda Island beach.

While on patrol, Aransas County Game Wardens made contact with an individual in possession of 11 undersized spotted seatrout taken with a cast net. The largest fish was less than 9" in length. Criminal cases and restitution were filed.



*Texas Game Wardens, Serving Texans since 1895*



*Law Enforcement Off the Pavement*

## CCA & Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine Team Up!

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[sam@samcaldwell.com](mailto:sam@samcaldwell.com)

This is the issue of April/May 2018  
Vol. 36, Issue 3

# Chapter Updates

## Alvin-Pearland Rex Richards

[alvinpearlandcca@yahoo.com](mailto:alvinpearlandcca@yahoo.com)

By the time you are reading this, quite a bit will have already happened with the Alvin/Pearland Chapter in 2018! We will have already had two "Anglers' Night Out" events, elected a new Chapter President and set the date for our 2018 Fundraising Banquet!

First off, we would like to thank Emery Sadler for leading our Chapter as President for the last three years – Great Job Emery! Second, we would like to welcome our new Chapter President, Rex Richards. This is not his first time at this post, so the chapter should be in good hands!

Thanks go out to the Sea Center Texas Hatchery Crew and Capt. Steve Gremillion of "Grem's Guide Service" for coming out and speaking to our chapter in February and March. We have additional "Anglers' Night Out" events scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month on April 3, May 1 and June 5. The meetings will be at Spring Creek BBQ in Pearland and will begin at 7:00 pm. Come earlier if you plan to eat.

The 2018 Alvin/Pearland Chapter Annual Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, June 21, 2018 and will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Pearland. All the banquet details have not been finalized at this time, but we do know that we will be serving a delicious steak dinner by Joe's BBQ, having a "Sportsman's Raffle" that will include guns, Engel Coolers and 13 Fishing Reels, and have live and silent auctions, as well as numerous raffles. This is an event you won't want to miss. Mark your calendars now!

If you would like to purchase banquet tickets or Sportsman's Raffle tickets, reserve a table for your group/company or make a donation to our event, please contact Erich Schneider at (713) 626-4222 or email us at [AlvinPearlandCCA@yahoo.com](mailto:AlvinPearlandCCA@yahoo.com).

The best way to stay up to date with our latest Chapter Events is to follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/alvinpearlandcca](http://www.facebook.com/alvinpearlandcca), or go to our chapter webpage at [www.ccatexas.org/alvin-pearland](http://www.ccatexas.org/alvin-pearland). We are looking forward to a great 2018. We hope to see you at one of our events – Don't forget to bring a friend, or even better, a kid! - Rex Richards

## Aransas Bay Bud Kittle 210-279-7309 [ernestkittle@gmail.com](mailto:ernestkittle@gmail.com)

Registration for **Babes on the Bay** is up and running smoothly! Online registration is used exclusively for this tournament at [www.babesonthebay.com](http://www.babesonthebay.com). Remember, one person registers the entire team. Make sure everyone's correct information is provided. The last day for regular registration is April 15, 2018. All registrations received after this date and prior to the April 30, 2018 cutoff date will pay a late registration fee, so get 'er done soon. This year's Babes on the Bay Tournament is May 18-19 at Fulton Harbor.

Also, mark your calendars for the Annual Aransas Bay Chapter Banquet on August 4, 2018. This year it will be at Camp Aranzazu. Catch 'em up – Bud

## Austin

### Josh Cook 512-656-2964 [josh@cookrealestatetexas.com](mailto:josh@cookrealestatetexas.com)

Fellow CCA Members – your wait is nearly over! The 2018 Austin Chapter Annual Banquet, presented by Covert Chevrolet, is just around the corner. Mark your calendar, purchase your table, and plan to rally for your organization on May 10, 2018. It was through your support that the Austin Chapter was able to break the \$1 million revenue mark again in 2017. There will be top-notch food, drinks for all and Charlie Robison on stage. Up for grabs will be exotic trips, tons of guns and fishing gear, Yetis, boats, trucks and over \$100,000 worth of raffle items. With all that on the agenda, the evening will prove to be exciting. Go to [www.ccaaustin.org](http://www.ccaaustin.org) for table and ticket sales. Seating for this banquet is sure to sell out, so don't delay in purchasing your spot!

A special thanks goes out to all of our generous sponsors. It's through their commitment to CCA that the Austin Banquet shines like no other. Space constraints don't allow us to acknowledge all of our sponsors in this newsletter, but please take a minute and check out the complete list of sponsors at [www.ccaaustin.org](http://www.ccaaustin.org). These folks support the mission of CCA, and as members of CCA we should all support their businesses as often as possible.

Shallow Sport has done us proud once again. Our banquet raffle boat – a 24-foot SCB Recon, is equipped with an Evinrude G-2 300HP outboard! She has a raised console, a YETI 125 qt cooler and many other extras, and sits atop a custom Coastline tandem axle aluminum trailer! Go to [www.ccaaustin.org](http://www.ccaaustin.org), buy a ticket, and she may be yours on May 10! Or, if you find yourself in Buda, visit Cabela's and get a first-hand look – she's sitting out front. There are limited tickets for a chance to win this beauty. So, once again, I suggest you don't delay!

One final word – be sure to "Like" CCA Austin on Facebook ([facebook.com/CoastalConservationAssociationAustin](https://facebook.com/CoastalConservationAssociationAustin)), and spread the word. See you on May 10! – Josh Cook

## Bay Area

### Curtis Anderson 832-435-0257 [cla1965@att.net](mailto:cla1965@att.net)

## Brazoria County

### Welcome new president Dan Johnson 979-481-3907 [djohnson@sparklingclear.com](mailto:djohnson@sparklingclear.com) The 2018 Brazoria County Chapter Annual

Fundraising Banquet is just about to take place this year at the DOW Academic Center on Friday, April 6! I'd like to extend a big thank you to all of our sponsors and donors who are helping make this banquet our best yet! As always, if anyone is interested in joining our chapter board, we are always looking for extra hands on deck. This is a great time to get involved, as we are working on some new things to offer our community, and we would love your help. Give me a call if you are interested. – Dan Johnson

## Brazos Valley

### John Ben Strother 979-220-1738 [jbsunlimited@yahoo.com](mailto:jbsunlimited@yahoo.com)

## Brenham

### Brandon Marth 979-277-0151 [brenhamironworks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brenhamironworks@sbcglobal.net)

Please join us for the 24 Annual Brenham Chapter Banquet on Thursday, April 26, 2018! The event will be held at 5:30 pm at the Silver Wings Ballroom and will feature a crawfish boil. For more information, or to purchase tables/tickets, contact Brandon Marth at (979) 525-9328 or [brenhamironworks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brenhamironworks@sbcglobal.net), Rick Hutchens at (979) 451-2323 or [rickyhutchens@yahoo.com](mailto:rickyhutchens@yahoo.com), or Taylor Rieck at (713) 626-4222 or [trieck@ccatexas.org](mailto:trieck@ccatexas.org). We hope to see you there! – Brandon Marth

## Brush Country

### Brenda Ballard 361-296-4037 [brendagballard@hotmail.com](mailto:brendagballard@hotmail.com)

## Centex

### Wayne Webb 254-405-1300 [sheyhunt@aol.com](mailto:sheyhunt@aol.com)

### Central Houston Todd Buster 713-545-1897

[tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com](mailto:tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com)  
The 42nd Annual Central Houston Chapter CCA Banquet will be held on Thursday, April 26, 2018! We've got some exciting changes for this year's banquet that we are confident will make it an even better event. This year we are raffling a Polaris 900 crew courtesy of Tommy Vaughn Auto Country & Polaris (photo is not actual Polaris being raffled). 300 tickets will be sold at \$100 each. If you're interested in purchasing raffle tickets or a table, please contact Todd Buster ([tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com](mailto:tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com)) or Ian Beliveaux ([ibeliveaux@donatominxbrown.com](mailto:ibeliveaux@donatominxbrown.com)). – Ian Beliveaux

## Colorado Valley

### Eugene Ulrich 979-249-7425 [zeke.ulrich@gmail.com](mailto:zeke.ulrich@gmail.com)

Greetings from the Colorado Valley! Our chapter recently held a General Membership Meeting with Capt. Aaron Laine from Brush and Bay Outfitters. He shared some great fishing tips and locations with us. We also enjoyed great fellowship and some delicious refreshments sponsored by Brown Distributing, Aqua Beverage Company and V&V Sausage Company.

Our chapter board is very busy planning the 2018 Colorado Valley Chapter Annual Banquet, which will be held at the K of C Hall in La Grange on Friday May 18 starting at 6:00 pm. Please get your tickets/tables early because we usually sell out early, and it promises to be a very fun night again this year! You can contact the following people for tickets: Eugene



Ulrich at (979) 249-7425, Trish Kubena at (512) 581-2588, Rusty Kubena at (512) 581-2878, Gary Janda at (979) 966-2082, Danny Olenick at (979) 249-6851, Dave Fehlker at (512) 468-6782, Kendall Rohde at (979) 966-9688 or Kenneth LeFrance at (512) 332-6917. There also is an electronic order form on our chapter page on the CCA Texas website ([www.ccatexas.org/colorado-valley](http://www.ccatexas.org/colorado-valley)). We also are selling raffle tickets for some great prizes, so contact any of the above persons for them as well. We truly wish to see you at the banquet, making it a great success. Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all! – Eugene Ulrich

### Corpus Christi

**Jake Herring 361-244-0258**  
[jakecherring@hotmail.com](mailto:jakecherring@hotmail.com)

### Dallas

**Matt Scherer 214-995-6777**  
[matthew.scherer@ryan.com](mailto:matthew.scherer@ryan.com)

The Dallas Chapter would like to thank Mariner Sails for hosting our General Membership meeting on March 1, 2018. The Texas Game Wardens came out and kept us all entertained with their stories and answered members' questions. At the meeting, we were excited to welcome multiple new faces to the chapter, and we look forward to their continued involvement!

**We are all getting excited to celebrate at the 37th Annual Dallas Chapter Banquet set for April 26, 2018. It will be held at a new location, at 6500 Cedar Springs in Dallas near Love Field.** We have been fortunate to secure some amazing trips, including an Alaskan fishing trip with Westwind Tugboats, Argentina dove hunts, golf at Southern Hills, billfishing in Panama and Guatemala, and many others. Individual and table tickets are now for sale and can be purchased by contacting Drew Adams at [dadams@ccatexas.org](mailto:dadams@ccatexas.org).

The 3rd Annual Hooked on Clays sporting clay tournament has been set, and it is scheduled to be held Friday, July 27, 2018 at the Dallas Gun Club. Feel free to contact me for inquiries about the tournament.

In closing, I would like to encourage anyone who is interested in getting more involved with the Dallas Chapter to contact me at [matthew.scherer@ryan.com](mailto:matthew.scherer@ryan.com). – Matthew Scherer

### East Texas

**Welcome new president Dr. James Norman 936-554-3165**  
[jnorman7@suddenlink.net](mailto:jnorman7@suddenlink.net)

### Fort Bend

**Donnie Powers 281-850-9023**  
[dpowers11450@gmail.com](mailto:dpowers11450@gmail.com)

Well, spring is right around the corner, which means that we are hard at it trying to finalize all the details for this year's **Fort Bend Chapter Annual Banquet! Make plans to come out and see us at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds on Thursday, April 19, 2018.** The crew from Me & Bubbaleaux's will be serving up a shrimp and sausage boil with all the trimmings.

This year's big raffle features a Sea-Doo GTI SE 130 with custom fishing rack and cooler on a Triton trailer, a Sig Sauer 1911 .45 ACP Texas Gold Edition, a Remington Versa Max 12ga., a Browning X-Bolt Stainless Stalker in 6.5 Creedmoor, a Beretta A300 Outlander 12ga., a Sig Sauer P320 compact 9mm, and a Winchester XPR Hunter .243 bolt action. For raffle tickets or info, please contact me at (281) 850-9023 or

Blake Tumlinson at (979) 332-2236. For pre-sale banquet tickets, contact Kyle Johnson at (713) 545-1147. We are looking forward to having another great turn out!!!

We are also starting to make plans for our **Annual Kid Fish Tournament, as well as Lingerie on the Bay.** We will announce dates, times, etc. as plans are finalized.

**The Fort Bend Chapter meets on the second Thursday of the month at The Swinging Door in Richmond.** We welcome all who are interested in attending. **For details, feel free to contact me via phone call or text at (281) 850-9023 or email at [dpowers11450@gmail.com](mailto:dpowers11450@gmail.com)**  
– Donnie Powers

### Fort Worth

**Brad Wallace 817-988-8926**  
[brad@northtexasmarine.com](mailto:brad@northtexasmarine.com)

The Fort Worth Chapter Board of Directors hosted our first ever **Spring Crawfish Boil on March 28, 2018 with live music by Erik Willis!** This was a change from what we have done for years, providing everyone with a fish fry at a local brewery, so please give us your feedback. **MOPAC Events Center** was a gracious host and a great new venue to share with our members. We hope you had as much fun as we did!

Thank you to all who were able to make it out as we gear up for the main event - **the 2018 Fort Worth Chapter Annual Banquet at Joe Ts.** **This year's banquet will be held on May 3, 2018. Reach out to our President - Brad Wallace ([brad@northtexasmarine.com](mailto:brad@northtexasmarine.com)), Assistant Director - Taylor Reick (800-626-4222), or myself - John Black ([jonathan\\_black@ml.com](mailto:jonathan_black@ml.com))** for any questions about the banquet. We have a few sponsorship opportunities available, as well as tables to be filled. We hope you can come out and join us for some incredible live and silent auction items and trips, as well as few fun raffles to be held! – John Black

**Galveston Dr. Ken Ellis**  
**713-962-7731**

[drkenellis@aol.com](mailto:drkenellis@aol.com)

Happy Spring to all! I have a lot of information to share. **Our Galveston Kids CCA Tournament is scheduled for May 5, 2018 at Harborwalk.** Fishing will take place that morning, and awards will be handed out at lunch. Food, drinks and dead bait will be provided to the kids. The tournament is limited to the first 50 kids, so get be sure to sign up ASAP!

**Our Annual Ladies Tournament that was cancelled last year due to Hurricane Harvey will be held on June 22-23, 2018 at Pelican Rest Marina.** There will be a Captains Meeting on Friday, and fishing and awards will take place on Saturday.

**If that is not enough from your hardworking chapter, the Galveston Chapter Annual Banquet will be held on July 28, 2018 at Moody Gardens!** Tables are available at \$1000, \$1500 or \$2500 for 10 anglers. That evening we will also be picking the winner of our boat, a 22'6" Mowdy modified V tunnel, with a 4 stroke 150 HP Suzuki, totally rigged up on top of a Coastline aluminum trailer – **Only 400 tickets to be sold!** Purchase yours soon before they are all gone.

I hope to see you at one of our events, or on Galveston Bay or down in Mansfield. Let me know personally if I can be of any help or answer any questions, or if I can sell you boat tickets or table tickets to the banquet. We have an Astros themed banquet this year with some great items in the live and silent auctions. **Tight lines!**  
– Dr. Ken Ellis

### Golden Triangle

**Welcome new president Joseph Ramey 409-892-3323**  
[ramey.joseph@gmail.com](mailto:ramey.joseph@gmail.com)

Today is a beautiful day in the Golden Triangle area.....and it's about time! Goodbye Harvey, goodbye cold, frost, hail, rain and snow. As we climb out of the winter slumber, let's not forget those affected by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Harvey. Many people along the Texas coast, and many in our backyard, lost everything and were displaced from their homes and remain displaced today.

**The Golden Triangle Chapter just hosted our Annual Angler's Night Out on February 20, 2018 at the Beaumont Events Center.** If you didn't make it out this year, we hope to see you at next year's event. The ANO is an opportunity for our board to encourage growth among the community. It is a night to step out of the house, talk about fishing, eat dinner and have some refreshments. **This year Capt. Jim West and Capt. Dickie Colburn informed local anglers about the happenings on Sabine Lake and Galveston Bay.** Attendees dined on prime rib and the trimmings from **Blue Dave's BBQ. Crying Eagle Brewing Company and Galveston Brewing Company** provided a few tastings from their respective breweries. Thank you for all those who attended, and thank you to all our board members for your hard work and time.

The Golden Triangle Chapter is in its 38th year of existence in 2018. We are the third oldest chapter in the state of Texas. **We are fortunate enough to still have some of the original board members who founded the chapter active today, including Rocky Chase, Jim Fontenot, Mike Pettit, Don Hall, and Tom Bell.** A big thank you to them!

**Mark your calendars boys and girls: May 24, 2018 will be the date of the 38th Annual Golden Triangle Chapter banquet, and it will once again be held at the Beaumont Civic Center in downtown Beaumont, with doors opening at 5:30 pm.** For more ticket information, sponsorships and other details, please contact Drew Adams at (713) 626-4222 or Justin McKeller at (409) 499-6869. A robust Sportsman's Raffle will be our big-ticket item at this year's banquet. **For more information about raffle tickets, please contact Tyler Coco at (409) 651-6004.**

We are always welcoming new board members to our chapter, and if you would like to be more involved in CCA Texas, please contact me at [ramey.joseph@gmail.com](mailto:ramey.joseph@gmail.com). Go Fish! – Joseph Ramey, (409) 892-3323

### Greater Sugar Land

**Robert Bailey 713-819-5534**  
[rbailey@robertbaileypc.com](mailto:rbailey@robertbaileypc.com)

**The Greater Sugar Land Chapter Annual Banquet is just around the corner! It will be held on April 5, 2018 at the Stafford Centre, 10505 Cash Rd. in Stafford. Doors open at 6:00 pm, and dinner (crawfish or fried catfish) will be served from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm.** We will have many great live and silent auction and raffle items. We hope to see you there!

**T'Noya Thompson spoke at our February General Meeting.** She is with the Galveston Bay Foundation and reviewed their Annual Report Card with us. **You can access the report card at [www.galvbaygrade.org](http://www.galvbaygrade.org).** T'Noya was a lively and interesting speaker who knows her subject in detail. We all thoroughly enjoyed her presentation! **We have a number of upcoming Kid's Fishes:**



March 24 at Missouri City Community Park

- May 5 at Mark McGrath Muni Park in Meadows Place

- June 2 in New Territory

We need all the help we can get, especially at the Missouri City and New Territory events. Please let me know if you can help out. My cell phone number is (713) 819-5534 and email is [rbailey@robertbaileypc.com](mailto:rbailey@robertbaileypc.com).

Our General Meetings are the first Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 pm at Otto's Barbecue in The Fountains Shopping Center in Stafford. Hope to see you at our meetings!

- Robert G. Bailey

### Greater Woodlands

**Charlotte O'Dell 832-368-8263**

[choctawcharlie69@gmail.com](mailto:choctawcharlie69@gmail.com)

Save the date for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Greater Woodlands Chapter Banquet on May 31, 2018! We've outgrown the banquet venue that we have used for the past several years. This year it will be held at The Springs Event Venue, located at 14135 Laramie Trail, Montgomery, Texas 77316.

We will still have the same good time you're used to having at our banquets, and maybe you'll make some new friends and have an even better good time this year! Please "Like" our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/CCAGreaterWoodlands](http://www.facebook.com/CCAGreaterWoodlands)) and regularly check our CCA Texas chapter page ([www.ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands](http://www.ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands)) for further details! - Charlotte O'Dell

### Guadalupe Valley

**Chuck Howard 361-275-9464**

[chuck.howard@att.net](mailto:chuck.howard@att.net)

### Hays County

**Tim Young 512-573-7939**

[tim.haysco@gmail.com](mailto:tim.haysco@gmail.com)



"Yikes!" Great Action and Humor Photo by Jared Esley of Heart Of The Hills chapter.

### Heart of the Hills

**Kelly Parks 210-669-3732**

[bucksdelucks@yahoo.com](mailto:bucksdelucks@yahoo.com)

Jared Esley, friend of Heart of the Hill Chapter Vice President Blake McCarter, took this photo while fishing in Freeport, Texas. Tight lines to all! - Randy Plummer

### Hill Country Miles Engelke 210-260-8968

[engelke@pe-svcs.com](mailto:engelke@pe-svcs.com)

Welcome, Hill Country Chapter CCA members and Board of Directors! Believe it or not, it's time for our chapter to kick it into gear. The following is an outline of our events for 2018:

> March 6: Our first Directors Meeting

> April 7: Crawfish boil at Rio Cibolo Ranch that was purchased at the 2017 Hill Country Chapter Annual Banquet by Bill Baldwin of B-Comm Constructors

> April 8: 6th Annual Social at the Red Barn in Seguin, Texas. Advanced tickets only, call Dawn Koehler for information at (210) 573-1143

> May 15: Our first General Meeting (Speaker to be announced)

> June 2: Spring tournament for Hill Country Members only. For more information call Cameron Kallies at (830) 560-6936 or Augusta Kallies at (210) 249-1617.

> June 8-9: ICC Tournament

> July 24: General Meeting (Speaker to be announced)

> August 16: 2018 Hill Country Chapter Annual Banquet at the Civic Center in New Braunfels, Texas. For ticket information call Todd Thetford at (830) 660-8825.

> October 23: Final General Meeting for 2018 (Speaker to be announced)

As of this writing, our meeting and tournament sponsors are as follows: CEMEX, Creative Eyewear, FAPCO, Fishers of Men RV Park, KGNB KNBT, 1st. Source Digital, Redfish Bay Boathouse Redfish Willies, Sandollar Resort, Stay Tuff, Whitaker, and Power Engineering Services.

We are in process of scheduling:  
> Board of Directors Fishing Trip with Stace Vercher

> Fish Fry for 50 for Kassi Jaroszewski

All General Meetings will be held at the Elks Lodge in New Braunfels, Texas. Look for newsletters and e-blasts for information on these meetings.

I am looking forward to an exciting year with our chapter. Cast me a call if you would like to get involved or be a sponsor! Treasure the Trips - Miles Engelke

### Houston Homebuilders

**Jimmy Reid 281-932-3395**

[jreid@newmarkhomes.com](mailto:jreid@newmarkhomes.com)

### Houston Real Estate

**Dale Couch 281-953-2510**

[dcouch@txlmortgage.com](mailto:dcouch@txlmortgage.com)

### Katy

**Gary Mancini 281-850-2212**

[gman091753@aol.com](mailto:gman091753@aol.com)

### Laredo

**Javier C. Villarreal 956-206-7953**

[jcvillarreal13@gmail.com](mailto:jcvillarreal13@gmail.com)

### Lee County

**Jake Horne 979-540-6117**

[jake@aubainesupply.com](mailto:jake@aubainesupply.com)

### Live Oak

**T.J. Harkness 832-723-6723**

[tandmenergy@gmail.com](mailto:tandmenergy@gmail.com)

### Lower Colorado

**Stephen Zapalac 972-244-6633**

[stephen.zapalac@capitolfarmcredit.com](mailto:stephen.zapalac@capitolfarmcredit.com)

### Lower Laguna Madre

**Oscar Garcia 956-491-8148**

[oscar@shallowssportboats.com](mailto:oscar@shallowssportboats.com)

### Mainland

**Eric Minor 409-370-7379**

[eric.minor@anico.com](mailto:eric.minor@anico.com)



Matagorda Bay's 24' Transport XLR 8 powered by a 300 HP Suzuki

### Matagorda Bays

**Chad Hensley 979-543-2734**

[Chadwayne73@yahoo.com](mailto:Chadwayne73@yahoo.com)

I am happy to report that the Matagorda Bays Chapter is in full swing for the year! We have finalized a raffle boat and are waiting to print tickets. This year's boat will be a two-tone grey fully rigged 24' Transport XLR 8 powered by a 300 HP Suzuki. The boat sits on a double axle Coastline Trailer. Donny Tran and the guys at Tran Sport Boats did a great job rigging the boat. Be on the lookout for the boat around the area and a chance to buy a ticket. If you are not in the area to purchase a boat ticket, give Wesley Smolik a call at (979) 543-2753.

Mark your calendars for the Matagorda Bays Chapter Annual Banquet on June 28, 2018 at the El Campo Civic Center!

The chapter's 13th Annual Lil' Salties Fishing Blowout is scheduled for May 12, 2018 at the Matagorda Harbor. Chapter members should be receiving entry forms in the mail. Parents, be sure to get them filled out and mailed back ASAP so we can plan another awesome tournament. Last year we had a great turnout, with 235 kids coming out for a day of fun. Every entry receives a prize bag, trophy and t-shirt. If you are interested in donating to this great event or have any questions, contact Lynn Staff ([ltstaff@yahoo.com](mailto:ltstaff@yahoo.com)) or Thomas Gold ([tagold@elc.net](mailto:tagold@elc.net)). Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the chapter! - Chad Hensley, (979) 543-2734





*MidCoast's 22'-6" Seafoam Green Mowdy with a 175 HP Suzuki motor and Coastline trailer.*

### **Mid Coast** **Danny Goyen 361-564-7471** **[goyenfishing@yahoo.com](mailto:goyenfishing@yahoo.com)**

Hello CCA members! It looks like we made it through the winter with only one isolated fish kill from freezing temperatures – and that was only in Pringle Lake out of Port O'Connor. Thank goodness!

There has also been a significant amount of rainfall in the middle coast area, which will make – and already has made – a positive impact on springtime fishing. Go take advantage of some great fishing!

A special thanks goes to TPWD and Alan Berger for heading up the recent Crab Trap Cleanup on the middle coast. 996 abandoned crab traps were picked up at Charlie's Bait Camp, the Port O'Connor dock and the Austwell-Tivoli boat ramp. This is significantly more than last year. Thanks to all who helped from our chapter and all over our coast.

**The 2018 Mid Coast Chapter Annual Banquet is only a few short weeks away! Please join us for a great evening of fundraising on April 27, 2018 at the Victoria Community Center. We still have a few tickets left to sell for our 22' 6" Seafoam Green Mowdy boat with a 175 Suzuki motor and Coastline Trailer.** This boat will be given away at the event. There will only be 700 hundred tickets sold at \$100 each. **Call Danny Goyen at (361) 564-7471 or David Jenkins at (361) 648-9185** if you are interested in purchasing a last minute ticket. A big thanks goes to those who bought one after reading the last *CURRENTS* article. From all of us at the Mid Coast Chapter, God Bless! – Capt. Danny Goyen

**Northeast Houston**  
**Jason Law 713-898-8594**  
**[jlaw1899@yahoo.com](mailto:jlaw1899@yahoo.com)**

**Northwest Houston**  
**Rob Sziy 832-971-1989**  
**[sziy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sziy@sbcglobal.net)**

**Hi Folks – It's that time again for our Annual Member Appreciation Fish Fry on April 3, 2018, so everyone come hungry!** I'm sure if you have been to one of our Fish Fries, you know the fish is outstanding. This time we are having not one, but two, guest speakers. They both work for Mt. Houston Marine. Tyler Nelson grew up fishing the Texas Gulf Coast with 10 years of experience in the industry. He started working at Mt. Houston Marine in 2009 part-time while still in college at the University of Houston. Tyler received a degree in business and began working full-time for Mt. Houston Marine in 2012. Our

second speaker, Mark McKenzie, also grew up fishing the Texas Gulf Coast and has 40 years of experience in the industry. He started at Mt. Houston Marine helping with boat shows in 2010 and started full-time in 2015. **It will be held as usual at Houston Distributing, 7100 High Life Drive off Cutten Rd. in the Stein Room starting at 6:30 pm.**

**Mark your calendars for our 2018 Annual Kid Fish! It will be held on May 12, starting at 7:00 am, fishing until 11:00 am, with lunch and prizes to follow afterwards. It will be held at the Sylvan Beach Park – Fishing Pier in La Porte. Many thanks to Harris County Precinct 2, The City of La Porte and Linda's Bait & Tackle for their continued support of this annual event.**

Please remember that we are always happy to accept donations for our Annual Kid Fish Program. Let us know of your desire to donate anytime by contacting a director. **If you wish to help with our Kid Fish, Fish Fry or Annual Fundraising Banquet, we invite you to become a director, and join us every first Tuesday of an ODD month. Our next Board Meeting is May 1, 2018. Our sincere thanks to both Houston Distributing and Academy Sports + Outdoors. — Rob Sziy**

**Orange County**  
**Scott Bandy 409-988-3667**  
**[scottbandy77@yahoo.com](mailto:scottbandy77@yahoo.com)**

**The Orange County Chapter Annual Anglers' Night Out will be held on April 3, 2018 at Robert's Meat Market and Steakhouse.** This year's guest speaker will be a member of the Bassmaster Elite Fishing Tournament. We will have door prizes and some raffle items at the gathering. Please try to attend! In the past these events have been well attended, so plan to arrive early.

**The Orange County Chapter Annual Banquet will be held on August 9, 2018 at the Orange County Convention and Expo Center. Save the date, and we hope to see you there!**

**We have moved our meetings back to Robert's Meat Market & Steakhouse, the first Monday of the month at 6:00 pm. Meetings are open to all members and those who wish to join. — Scott Bandy, [scottbandy77@yahoo.com](mailto:scottbandy77@yahoo.com); Louis Moore, [louis\\_moore@yahoo.com](mailto:louis_moore@yahoo.com); Davis Dixon, [dcdixon149@yahoo.com](mailto:dcdixon149@yahoo.com)**

**Port O'Connor**  
**Bill Moore 361-983-4690**  
**[wildbmt@tisd.net](mailto:wildbmt@tisd.net)**

**The 2018 Crab Trap Removal is now history. The POC chapter was on hand at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Docks to assist on Saturday, February 17. The weather turned out to be beau-**

tiful, and it was just a great day to be out on the water. The chapter provided lunch for all who showed up. Thanks to all who participated, both at the docks and on the water. **Also a special thanks to Norman Boyd of TPWD for the use of their facilities and their assistance.**

So as the weather warms up, and the north winds calm, come see us or visit some of our banquet sponsors. If you would like to get involved with the chapter and/or banquet, contact us in POC, **"Where it all began."** – Bill Moore

**Prairie**  
**Patricia Walters 979-885-7464**  
**[manager@wpprint.com](mailto:manager@wpprint.com)**

Looks like spring is upon us – What a relief after the winter we had!

**On February 9, we held the Prairie Chapter Annual General Membership Meeting/ Chili Dinner at the Cat Spring Hall.** We had a great turn out, with current and new members in attendance. Our guest speaker was **Lee Hall**, local Texas Game Warden for Bellville and Austin County. He talked about a game warden's duties that help all people in all areas – including the sportsman. Also, we had a wonderful chili dinner prepared by **Scott Hinze of Hinze's BBQ catering.** After everyone finished eating, we had a \$1 raffle drawing. **A big thank you to Brian Weaver of CCA Texas and our sponsors who donated raffle gifts. And thank you to everyone who helped put together this event!**

**Please join us for the 21st Annual Prairie Chapter Banquet on April 5, 2018 at the Cat Spring Hall.** The night will consist of a great meal of prime rib and shrimp with all the trimmings. The meal ticket includes the meal and a year membership to CCA. We will have a live auction with **Mark Switzer** as the auctioneer of Switzer Auction Services, and a silent auction with some awesome items. Also, there will be a \$5 raffle with some great gifts that are donated by **Academy Sports + Outdoors, CCA and local Sponsors.**

There will be a lot of new things happening this year at the banquet. We still have tickets available for our Sportsmen's raffle. For \$20 you will have a chance to win a \$500 Academy Sports + Outdoors gift card, waterloo rod and concept reel, 80 qt Engel cooler, 9mm glock pistol and a beretta A300 12ga shotgun. I hope to see everybody at the Banquet. And good fishing to all! Thanks – Ron Chess, (979) 925-9254

**Redfish Bay**  
**Norman Oates 361-758-0266**  
**[noates@cableone.net](mailto:noates@cableone.net)**

**Rio Grande Valley**  
**Louis Zimmerer 956-373-0799**  
**[Lmz01@yahoo.com](mailto:Lmz01@yahoo.com)**

**Sabine-Neches**  
**Darin Johnson 409-790-9855**  
**[darin@jorgensenmarine.com](mailto:darin@jorgensenmarine.com)**

**THANK YOU SABINE-NECHES CCA MEMBERS!** Another banquet, another sold out event! **We had a great night of fundraising at the 2018 Sabine-Neches Chapter Annual Banquet!** This year we were at a different venue, courtesy of Hurricane Harvey, but it didn't stop our chapter members from coming out and having some hot crawfish and cold drinks, all in the name of conservation!

**I cannot thank our sponsors enough for their continued support of our chapter: Classic Chevrolet (Anthony Touns), Evinrude, Pete Jor-**



gensen Marine (Boat Guys), American Airboat (More Boat Guys) MCT Credit Union, Huntsman, Kieschnick Industries, Inc., Golden Pass LNG, Specialty Paint, Del Papa Distributing (Bud Guys), Giglio Distributing (Miller/Coors Guys) and the list goes on! Shane Chesson and the crew at Pure Cajun – Thanks for the top notch crawfish again! Now it's time to get on the water! Tight Lines to all! – Darin M Johnson

### Sam Houston Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908 bkolaja@huntsvilletx.gov

Hello all! Looks like spring is finally here. With sunshine in the forecast, and the water temperatures continuing to rise, the fishing reports continue to be great. Please remember to check out our CCA Sam Houston Chapter Facebook page ([facebook.com/CCASAMHOUSTON](https://www.facebook.com/CCASAMHOUSTON)) for updates, and feel free to post your fish pictures. I hope everyone gets a chance to get out on the water and make some memories. If you are interested in becoming a part of our chapter, please contact Brandon Kolaja at (281) 797-6908. Get out on the water, and Happy Fishing!  
– Brandon Kolaja

### San Antonio Rick Neitzel 210-771-7807 tasiscorneitzel@aol.com

Springtime is finally here, and I hope that you have been doing some fishing and catching! Hopefully you were able to join us for our 5th Annual "Hooked on Clays" sporting clays shoot on March 23, 2018. Everyone had a great time, and the food was fantastic!

It's time to order your tickets and tables for the 39th Annual San Antonio Chapter Banquet, which again will be held at the AT&T Expo Hall! This year's event will be on May 3, 2018. You can order tickets and tables now at the CCA Texas website ([www.ccatexas.org/san-antonio](http://www.ccatexas.org/san-antonio)), or contact Joe Eaton at [jeaton@eatoncontracting.com](mailto:jeaton@eatoncontracting.com).

Early Bird Table buyers who buy on or before April 16 will receive one entry per table for an Uncle Henry lever action .410 rifle. Banquet Chair Robert Lozano, along with his committee, has put together another fantastic banquet. Please come join us for a fun evening with food catered by Don Strange.

This year's Boat is a 2018 Shallow Stalker Cat 204 RC with a 150 Evinrude motor and an Aluminum Coastline trailer, thank you Gulf Coast Marine. As always, we will have the silent auction, \$5 raffle, Cutting Board Auction and live auction, along with our big ticket raffle items.

We are planning our next Chapter Night Out on Wednesday, June 20 at the Barn Door Restaurant at 6:00 pm. We will have one speaker for the evening: Leslie Hartman, Matagorda Bay Ecosystem Leader for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, will discuss "Lion Fish."

Mark your calendar for our 3rd Annual "Hooked on Golf" tournament, which will be held September 28, 2018 at The Silverhorn Golf Club. Thanks again to our loyal sponsors and volunteers for your continued support for CCA San Antonio! Finally, remember to Wet-A-Line with your family and friends! – Rick Neitzel

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

We held our 11th Annual Fundraising Banquet and Dinner February 22, 2018 at Riverside Hall

in East Bernard, Texas. Thanks to all who participated through donations and in person at the event. Thank you to all of the San Bernard Board Members for their preparation and hard work the day and night of the event. Thanks also to team Burnside and Todd for their help the night of the event. Special thanks to Jr. Board Member Blake Winkler.

Thank you to our sponsors: Johnny's Sport Shop, Shoppa's Farm Supply, Schmidt Implement, Academy Sports + Outdoors and Riverside Hall for their support of the San Bernard Chapter. – Ross Kutach

### San Gabriel John Melnar 512-497-8284 jmelnar@plateaulandgroup.com

### Southwestern Veronica Oliver 830-765-6228 ronnimoliver@gmail.com

### TAMU Rudy Mueller 832-349-1055 tamucca@gmail.com

Howdy All! The Texas A&M Chapter is preparing for our 25th Annual Banquet. It will be held on Friday, May 4, 2018 at the Brazos Center in Bryan, Texas. Our doors will open at 6:00 pm to begin a night full of fun! Rest assured, our banquet will have plenty of food and drinks to go along with an auction full of great trips and items that will not leave you disappointed. We will also have a silent auction, raffles and games! Come join us for a night you won't forget, and help support CCA. If you have any questions or would like to book a table or ticket, give me a call or shoot us an email at [tamucca@gmail.com](mailto:tamucca@gmail.com)! See you on May 4! – Rudy Mueller

### Texas State University Travis James 832-909-5833 travisj0915@gmail.com

### Tomball/Magnolia Matt Maddox 832-963-5215 matt@cribbsconcrete.com

### Tri-County Christian Hildebrand 830-534-2730 jonhildebrand@aol.com

The CCA Tri-County Chapter would like to invite everyone to our 21st Annual Banquet – Mark your calendar for Friday, April 20, 2018! This year we have more prizes, guns, coolers, fishing gear and trips not available to the public. Come join us for boiled crawfish/fried catfish, a friendly atmosphere and complimentary beverages with the best live and silent auction in South Texas. As usual, our banquet will be at the Atascosa County Show Barn in Pleasanton, Texas. Doors open at 6:00 pm with dinner at 6:45, followed by the live auction. There are three different table sponsorship levels available, offering preferential seating and table goodies. We have had a sellout crowd for the last several years, so don't wait to purchase your tickets! Individual tickets can be purchased at the Deer Hunter's Toy Store in Jourdan or by contacting Blake Burnside at (713) 626-4222. Everybody from the Tri-County CCA looks forward to seeing you and your family at this great event! – Christian Hildebrand

### Trinity Bay Gerald Payne 281-728-6278 rockin\_g\_payne@yahoo.com

### Trinity Valley John Hebert Jr 936-334-2528 jjhebert@imsday.com

### West Houston Ruben Delgadillo 281-808-1434 ruben@liftpull.com

### West Texas Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499 Craig@McDonnold.net

Please join us for the West Texas Chapter Annual Banquet on Wednesday April 25, 2018 at Midland Country Club! Cocktails start at 6:00 pm, followed by crawfish, shrimp, prime rib and dead hog. To purchase tickets, contact Craig McDonnold at (432) 682-3499. – Craig McDonnold

## Parting Shot

Houston, February 20— West Texas CCA chapter leaders Craig McDonnold and Roger Letz joined a full house for the State Board Meeting. How far is it from West Texas to Coastal Texas? Chapter President Craig McDonnold told Exec. Dir. Robby Byers it was, "About nine hours and a speeding ticket." The chapter will be celebrating their 15th Chapter Banquet on April 25.







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Categories: Best In Show  
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Important: Send jpegs, and include name of subject, title, your name, as well as the names of anyone in the photo. Email jpegs to:

[sam@samcaldwell.com](mailto:sam@samcaldwell.com)

Give us your best shot, and keep *CURRENTS* an award-winning newsletter.

### Want to share even more of your Great Photos?

Limited space means we can use only a few photos, but here is a good option for your **Great Photo**: send it to CCA via our Social Media. See Page 6 for connections to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Every entry there will also be an entry in the **Currents Great Photos Competition**.

Featured this issue — **Adam Gilvarry**, who has provided *CURRENTS* with a number of Great Photos, mostly CPR. Paraphrasing Adam: "The release is as great as the catch." Gilvarry's images are usually in your face closeups, shot with a wide-angle GoPro camera from his kayak. He is also a photographer after CCA Communication Director Kim Philippi's heart, since most of his work can be seen on his Instagram page: [#lovetherelease](https://www.instagram.com/lovetherelease)

There are now a wide variety of "Tough" cameras on the market that can stand up to the abuse inherent in saltwater use. Surprisingly, your cell phone can be among them. Check the Great Photo Page next issue. —**Photo Editor**



Until next time: [#redfish](#) [#lovetherelease](#) [#catchandrelease](#) [#texas](#) [#gulfcoast](#) [#thirdcoast](#) [#portmansfield](#) [#simmsfishing](#) [#drumspots](#) [#redfishdistrict](#)



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## REDFISH ON THE HALF SHELL

Two versions by Chris "Camo" Smisek, who says Halfshell Redfish is so simple, even the *CURRENTS* editor couldn't mess it up.

### Roll your own.

Catch a redfish. Clean the redfish and fillet, leaving the skin on. No need to scale, just wash thoroughly. Lay fillets down on baking sheet with skin side down. Score the flesh 1" apart at least 1/4" deep diagonally in both directions to form diamond shapes. Dry fillets with a paper towel.

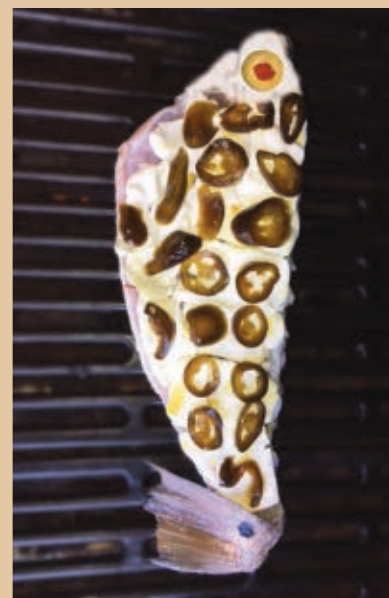
#### 1. Oyster Sauce Version

Salt and pepper the fillet and spread generously with oyster sauce over the entire flesh of the fillet. Sprinkle with dried minced onions.

#### 2. Candied Jalapenos with Cream Cheese Version

Salt and pepper the fillet. Spread softened cream cheese over the fillet completely. Sprinkle candied jalapenos generously over the cream cheese.

Cook fillets skin side down on medium high grill. Cover for 15 minutes and check for desired doneness. Take fillets off when almost done, and let sit for five minutes. Serve with veggies and/or beverages of choice.



### Wild Things

Louie Bond, Everyone's favorite person at Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine. This brand-new Informal Portrait is now on view, along with old and middle-aged classics. Drop by the website for a visit to the Highlands of Scotland and wolves in the high country of Colorado.



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# Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Suite 100 / Houston, TX 77024

## CURRENTS NEWSLETTER

April / May 2018

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**He's back!** *Hank Williams Jr. will bring the house down again, with help from a few great friends—Eddie Money, Molly Hatchet and you in the audience.*

### U.S. Coast Guard

#### Air & Sea Rescue

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Port Aransas: 361-749-5217  
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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 [www.tpwd.texas.gov](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov)

To focus on fishing and boating, visit [www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish) or [www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat)



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

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



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| MEMBER:         | \$35   | 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. \$25 for shipping. |
| STAR ENTRY FEE: | \$25   | Tournament entry fee. Must be a current CCA member.   |
| NEW TIDE:       | \$10   | TIDE newsletter, decal. Includes STAR Tournament entry, for members 17 and under.                           |

CONSERVATION MEMBER: \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
A portion of the proceeds go towards CCA's National Habitat Program, Building Conservation Trust. Includes exclusive Conservation Member decal, one-year subscription to TIDE Magazine, set of CCA and state fish decals.

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