

CURRENTS

August / September 2018



The tagged reds are out there - Celebrating nearly 30 years of the CCA Texas STAR Tournament!

CCA Texas Will Celebrate 30 Years of STAR History in 2019

By CCA Texas STAR Tournament Director, Bill Kinney

Texas sportsmen and sports-women have much to be thankful for. We have been blessed with a vast offering of resources and opportunities many on earth could only hope for. Seeing this in the 1970s, farsighted CCA founders realized marine conservation was mission-critical. However, you can't move the needle to affect fishing issues without a horde of members who are passionate about the future and willing to fight for what they believe in, with a single voice. Thus, a STAR was born.

The State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo was designed to be the annual membership drive it is today. It has two objectives: to recruit new members into CCA Texas and generate a higher public awareness of the need for effective resource management and conservation. All this is to be accomplished as a fun, wholesome recreational event for the entire family. Many are not aware its structure is on a zero budget; that is, all sponsor funding is reinvested back into the event through media, prizes and scholarships—then everything zeroes out in the end. Some years this is more beneficial than others, but the *spirit* of the tournament continues to flourish. Chapters in Louisiana, Florida and South Carolina now host their own STARs. In Texas, CCA members have turned this mere "idea" into the feature event of the coastline, all summer. Media outlets claim it is "the largest, richest, longest, tournament anywhere."

Cover photo of STAR tagged redfish by Kim Philippi

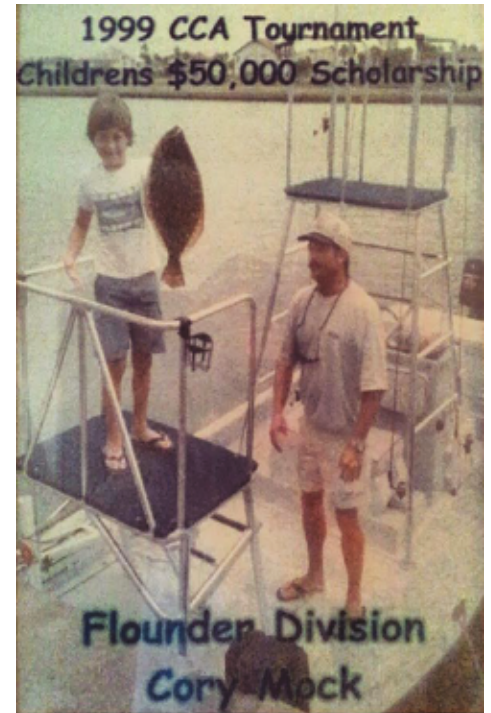


Dustin Trevino, 1998 Gafftop Winner

While we certainly hope that to be true, we know that it is, in fact, CCA's very own. This lively competition embodies the fierce pride of Texans everywhere who want to have a festive time on our precious water. Whether for relaxation or sport, or for being with friends and family, STAR gives us all a reason to come together.

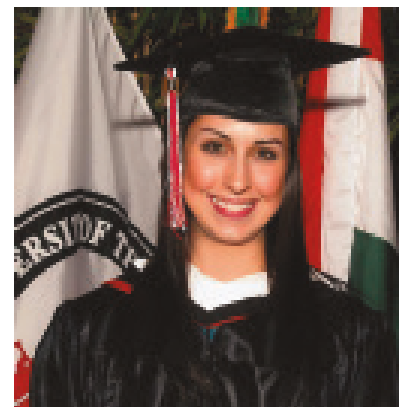


1995 StarKid Flounder Winner, Zifa Guerrero, and Zifa Gurrerro, 2015 STAR College Graduate



1999 Flounder winner, Corey Mock

CCA will celebrate 30 years of STAR history in 2019. Yet in 1990, we knew the future vitality of our beloved sport and our passion to keep fish numbers high would be endangered unless we could "pass it on." Offering large scholarships seems to encourage kids to get out on the water and fish. In our history, almost 200,000 children have entered STAR. Is this not a worthy mission? We are teaching our kids the value of the fisheries, edu-





Kenny Milne, 2008 Redfish Winner



Brittney Drinkard, 2000 Sheepshead Winner



Karen Whittenberg, 2011 Redfish Winner



Dylan Ybarra, Fisherman, and later as a STAR College Graduate



In 2016, three young ladies of 8, 9 and 10 years won all three STAR Scholarships.



Forrest Karl, 2012 STAR Teen Flounder Winner, David Elmore, 2011 Trout Winner



Dillon Peltier, STAR Teens Winner, and years later, STAR College Graduate

cation, the environment and family fishing fun. Even selfishly, all us older salts can be grateful we won't be fishing dead water 20 years from now!

No one could have predicted where we've been or the stories we would hear. We would love to hear yours. Tell us your STAR adventures, and maybe it will be featured here during 2019. But know this well – This is your event. There is no STAR without the high caliber of our members that CCA is proud to claim. Together, with a topnotch family of sponsors, our ragtag outfit those many years ago has swelled to become a powerhouse of over 70,000 anglers today. Our collective voice has ensured that Texans enjoy gamefish populations at or near the highest levels ever recorded. Thanks, AGAIN, for joining CCA and fishing STAR. Our kids can savor the legacy we will leave behind.



Trey Buford, 2009 STAR Dorado Winner



29th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo is out of the chutes

It has been a hot summer, and not only because of the heat. At *CURRENTS* deadline, five Texas anglers have been declared winners in the Tagged Redfish Division, and there are some great stories!



Larry Holman, Highlands, kicked off the winning this year on the very first day of the tournament

in upper Trinity Bay. Arriving hours before dawn, Larry waited until the official STAR start time. After fishing for a couple hours, they moved and Larry hooked a nice fish. Before the fish was landed, Larry was able to see the tag. "It's like having a winning lottery ticket floating out there hoping it doesn't get away."

Larry will be replacing his old truck with a brand new Ford F-150, pulling a shiny 23' Haynie Bigfoot boat, Mercury outboard, and Coastline trailer!

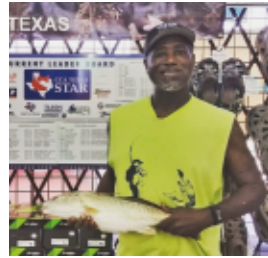


Not to be outdone, 12-year-old **Sam Lack** of Bellaire landed the second eligible tagged redfish just two days later! Sam was fishing from a boat dock in Port O'Connor with his dad, sister and cousins. The kids

were having a blast catching hardheads on cut mullet when Sam hooked something a little bigger. Sam told his dad, "There's something sticking out of that fish." After giving the tag a gentle tug, they realized exactly what they had caught. To top it all off, it was Dad's birthday!

Sam will be taking home a \$25,000 scholarship from Texas Ford Dealers, 23' Haynie Bigfoot, Mercury outboard and Coastline trailer. His Dad promises to "care" for Sam's boat until he can handle it himself!

Just when we started to think that things were cooling down, **Michael Varnado**, Houston, became this year's third winner to take home a brand new Ford F-150, 23' Haynie BigFoot, Coastline trailer and Mercury outboard package. Mike was enjoying only his second day of fishing since 2013 after



struggling with heart complications. He received a new heart in February and was happy to be back on the water. He made sure that he got his STAR registration at Academy Sports + Outdoors before venturing out!



17-year-old **Daniel Mullenix**, Lake Jackson, became the fourth Texas angler to take home the famed CCA Texas STAR Tagged Redfish Division prize.

He was fishing in Nighthawk Bay with his family when the fish hit. He started horsing it in, but when Mom saw the tag his mindset quickly changed.



After all of these catches, the extreme lower coast wanted in on the action too. **Lisa Muriello** of Edinburg thought she had hooked another hardhead while drifting with her husband south of the Brownsville

Ship Channel. Lisa will be taking the fifth truck and boat combo this fall.

So far, we have tagged reds caught from almost all major bay systems, including Sabine Lake, Galveston Bay, West Galveston Bay, Port O'Connor, Upper Laguna Madre and South Bay. The better news is that we released sixty of these fish and there are plenty more up and down the coast!

The trucks may be gone, but there are still more tagged redfish boats up for the catching! You can check the leaderboard at www.startournament.org for the current prize standings at any time. Don't forget about all of the other divisions either!

Remember, to be eligible to win one of \$1 million 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 memberships are \$35 annually, and the 2018 STAR Tournament fee is \$25. Remember, young anglers fish star for free. Anglers between the ages of 6-17 in 2018 can register for STAR for free with a \$10 annual CCA Youth 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 for free if it wasn't for our great sponsors. It is the Youth member's responsibility to make sure their CCA membership is current and that they are registered for the current year STAR Tournament.

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!



Whataburger- CCA Texas members yet again get to enjoy coupons courtesy of Whataburger in this issue of *CURRENTS*. What could possibly be better after a long day on the water?

Ford X-Plan Pricing- For just a \$35 membership any CCA member can purchase (or lease) a Ford vehicle at Ford employee pricing! Our Ford Partner Code # is CCA61; Visit www.fordpartner.com, if you are considering a purchase.



BEST IN TEXAS



any purchase coupon just in time for fall!

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 off



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. Include your email address on your registration form to receive your free subscription! 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.



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 *CURRENTS* newsletter for more details, or call 1 (888) 540-6705.



Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT Super Cab



Evinrude- Keep your eyes peeled at www.startournament.org or our social media pages for a great offer from Evinrude, exclusively for CCA members!

Mustang- Be on the look-out for Mustang CAT's 2019 member benefit!



CCA Texas STAR Platinum Print Membership Package, Series VIII- We're pleased to offer "Until We Meet Again" by renowned Texas artist Sam Caldwell in this year's package. 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, and one signed, limited-edition print created exclusively for STAR, all for only \$125! This one-of-a-kind-print is worth the price alone. If you are considering one, or several, of these limited-edition packages, visit: www.startournament.org for more details, or to place your order with the STAR Department, call (713) 626-4222.

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 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! The more than 100 prizes include 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 caught a tagged redfish will receive a tough



2018 Ford F-150 Texas Edition truck to tow their awesome Haynie 23 Bigfoot, rigged with a 150 hp 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.

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!

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 E-TEC G2 and Coastline trailer. (Eight pound minimum weight, please release all fish under 28")



2017 STAR Lower Coast Trout Division winner Juan Ramirez

Offshore Division- Hoffpauir Polaris is back again providing anglers who land the heaviest kingfish, dorado, and ling an awesome Polaris Ranger Crew 570 EPS UTV in Polaris Pursuit Camo on top of a Big Tex 35sa trailer to cruise around in when you're back onshore!



2017 STAR Dorado Division winner Chris Brzozowski

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



2017 STAR Gafftop Division winner John Landrum

StarKid Divisions (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**

Texas STAR and CCA Texas would like to reward Texas fishing guides who support marine conservation, and empower them to help recruit more anglers into the CCA mission through this new division. The winning guide of this division will take home a 26' Mowdy CAT with a 225 hp Mercury ProXS and custom Coastline trailer. This division is for guides only, and no customers or regular STAR anglers will be fishing against guides at any time. See 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 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, visit www.startournament.org.

Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament!



PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS



2018 Red Snapper Season

By Advocacy Director,
Shane Bonnot

D icy Texas weather during the first half of June has somewhat curtailed efforts at the beginning of the projected 82-day Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) federal-water red snapper season. From January 1- May 31, recreational anglers landed ~22,000 pounds of red snapper in state waters, and from May 31-June 15, recreational anglers have landed ~18,000 pounds of red snapper in state and federal waters combined.

"Cumulatively, Texas saltwater anglers have met 16.6% of the red snapper allocation as of June 15," stated Lance Robinson, Deputy Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Coastal Fisheries Division. "We expect that there will be an increased rate of landings as we progress through the season and we will continue to provide National Marine Fisheries Service with our landings reports on a bi-monthly basis."

U nderwhelming landing rates are not the current trend in the middle and eastern Gulf. The state of Louisiana has experienced higher than anticipated landing rates during the 2018 EFP red snapper season, forcing Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to close the private recreational red snapper season on July 8. Louisiana state officials determined in late June that anglers could possibly meet the self-imposed 743,000-pound quota by July 9. There is a possibility that Louisiana will reopen the recreational red snapper fishery during weekends only if the quota has not been met. Officials in Alabama have lamented similar concerns, and they will likely reevaluate their remaining season dates to stay within the quota.



Photo by Adrian Gray

The immediate effect (of EFPs) is dramatically longer seasons in federal waters for anglers in every state.

The varying degrees of effort along the Gulf Coast – and certainly down the Texas Coast – highlight the need for recreational anglers to stay engaged in the fishery and assist TPWD with data collection by reporting their red snapper landings on the iSnapper app.

Ted Venker, Conservation Director of CCA, highlighted the need for angler engagement in a recent *TIDE* magazine editorial. "The immediate effect (of EFPs) is dramatically longer seasons in federal waters for anglers in every state, but eventually the states could be given greater authority for tailoring management of the fishery in ways that make more sense for each state. All of that potential, however, is predicated on the states being able to generate better, more accurate and timelier data on what anglers are catching," Venker goes on to say, "By doing our part, anglers can inform and inspire better fisheries management decisions that work both for the resource and for our access to it."

As highlighted in the last edition of *CURRENTS*, the two-year EFP is an excellent opportunity for recreational anglers to engage in the data collection process of this fishery. Report your landings on iSnapper, practice safe release by using a descending device and participate in TPWD dock-side surveys. We can all do our part to ensure the success of the EFP and help pave the way for permanent state management of the recreational red snapper fishery.



Baurotrauma and Descending Devices

Barotrauma can occur at relatively shallow depths and most fish brought to the surface from any depth greater than 90 feet will exhibit symptoms such as expanded abdomen, bulging eyes and the stomach protruding from the mouth. As fish are reeled to the surface, gases in the swim bladder expand because the pressure decreases. The gas expansion also increases buoyancy, which can make the fish an easy target for predators. Catch and release mortality of red snapper is highly dependent upon the depth which the fish was landed and how the fish is returned to the water. A simple and effective method to decrease mortality involves the use of a descender device, which will rapidly descend the fish back to a prescribed depth on a weighted line to recompress the swim bladder, alleviate barotrauma symptoms without having to vent the fish and minimize predator interactions at the water surface. The device can be a weighted hook, lip clamp or box that will hold the fish while it is lowered to depth. It will either release the fish automatically, release the fish by actions of the operator of the device or will allow the fish to escape on its own. Since minimizing surface time is critical to increasing survival, descending devices should be rigged and ready for use while fishing is occurring. One of the more popular devices on the market is called the SeaQualizer, which can be purchased online (<http://seaqualizer.com/>) for approximately \$60. Descending devices are an excellent conservation tool that are scientifically proven to minimize discard mortality, which can ultimately result in increased allocations (longer seasons) for recreational anglers.



U.S. House of Representatives Passes Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Bill

Landmark Fisheries Reform Takes Major Step Toward Becoming Law

Washington, D.C. – July 11, 2018 – Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 200, a bipartisan bill that includes the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017 (Modern Fish Act). This historic vote marks the first time the priorities of the recreational fishing sector are included in the reauthorization of our nation's primary marine fisheries law, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The provisions of the Modern Fish Act (H.R. 2023) were included in H.R. 200 by the House Committee on Natural Resources on December 13, 2017. H.R. 200 is sponsored by Representative Don Young (R-Alaska) and cosponsored by Reps. Garret Graves (R-La.); Brian Babin (R-Texas); Clay Higgins (R-La.); Gene Green (D-Texas); Robert Wittman (R-Va.); Lee Zeldin (R-N.Y.); Glenn Grothman (R-Wis.); Steve King (R-Iowa); Marc Veasey (D-Texas); Jeff Duncan (R-S.C.), and Austin Scott (R-Ga.).

"Marine recreational fishing is not a partisan issue, which was illustrated by the support H.R. 200 received from both parties today in the House," said Jeff Angers, president of the Center for Sportfishing Policy. "We owe great thanks to Chairman Rob Bishop, Congressmen Don Young, Garret Graves, Gene Green and Marc Veasey for working together to properly recognize recreational fishing within the Magnuson-Stevens Act. These bipartisan leaders have made the difference for anglers from coast to coast."

In 2014, the priorities of the recreational fishing and boating community were identified and presented to federal policy makers by the Commission on Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Management in a report "A Vision for Managing America's Saltwater Recreational Fisheries." This group is also referred to as the Morris-Deal Commission, named for co-chairs Johnny Morris, founder and CEO of Bass Pro Shops, and Scott Deal, president of Maverick Boat Group.

Many of the recommendations of the Morris-Deal Commission are ad-

ressed by the Modern Fish Act and included in H.R. 200. This legislation addresses many of the challenges faced by recreational anglers, including allowing alternative management tools for recreational fishing, reexamining fisheries allocations and improving recreational data collection. The bill aims to benefit fishing access and conservation by incorporating modern management approaches, science and technology to guide decision-making.

"The recreational fishing industry is grateful that H.R. 200, which includes the provisions of the Modern Fish Act, has now passed the U.S. House of Representatives," said Glenn

Hughes, president of the American Sportfishing Association. "The Modern Fish Act represents the collective priorities of the recreational fishing community for improving federal marine fisheries management. There are 11 million saltwater anglers in the U.S. who have a \$63 billion economic impact annually and generate 440,000 jobs. This legislation will help ensure that the economic, conservation and social values of saltwater recreational fishing will continue well into the future."

"We applaud the U.S. House of Representatives for passing commonsense legislation modernizing the federal fisheries management system, which will provide America's recreational anglers and boaters reasonable and responsible access to public marine resources," said Thom Dammrich, president of the National Marine Manufacturers Association. "The recreational boating industry calls on the U.S. Senate to pick up the baton, and immediately take up and pass S.1520, the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017 (Modern Fish Act). Millions of Americans are counting on it."

"We are grateful to our champions from both sides of the aisle in the House for recognizing the needs of recreational anglers and advancing this important fisheries management reform," said Patrick Murray, president of Coastal Conservation Association. "This is truly a watershed moment for anglers in our never-ending quest to ensure the health and conservation of our marine resources and anglers' access to them."

"We thank the House Leadership, Congressman Young and the leaders of the House Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus for their leadership in finding bipartisan solutions to move the bill forward," said Jeff Crane, president of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. "The provisions of the Modern Fish Act contained in H.R. 200 are a top priority for saltwater anglers across the United States and charts a clear course for effective recreational fisheries management while ensuring abundant, sustainable fisheries for future generations."

"We are on our way to pragmatic Magnuson-Stevens Act reform that will allow better access to rebuilt fish stocks while ensuring long-term sustainability," said Jim Donofrio, president of the Recreational Fishing Alliance.

"Passing these provisions of the Modern Fish Act means taking the next important step in recognizing the cultural value of recreational fishing and conservation contributions of American anglers," said Whit Fosburgh, president and CEO of Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. "We will continue to work with our sportfishing partners to engage with senators and see to it that the Modern Fish Act becomes law—it is critical if we hope to see saltwater anglers benefit from the advances in fisheries science, data collection, and management at the heart of this important legislation."

Following today's vote, the coalition encourages the Senate to quickly pass S. 1520. Marine recreational anglers and boaters are eager to see these landmark reforms signed into law.



CCA Texas Social Happenings

Summer is here, and the fish are biting! Be sure to follow us on social media, listen to our podcast "Coastal Advocacy Adventures," keep up with our blog and visit 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 for consideration!

Facebook:

Two local CCA Texas chapters (Aransas Bay and Redfish Bay) collaborated with Texas Parks and Wildlife Texas Game Wardens to bring the joy of fishing to 5th grade students at Fulton 4-5 Learning Center on Wednesday, May 23, 2018. 5th grade science lab teacher Martha McLeod received an ACISD Education Foundation grant almost 10 years ago to purchase rods and reels, tackle, nets and other supplies for an annual wetlands trip. Hurricane Harvey caused the cancellation of most of the recent trip. However, the school was able to reschedule the fishing part of the trip. All 9 classes of 5th graders walked down to the Fulton Harbor area and learned the basics of fishing. A safety lesson for each class was conducted first by Game Warden Scott McLeod. Each class then got to fish. All of the bait for the students was graciously donated by Glenn Martin of Woody's Sports Center out of Port Aransas. It was a great day taking kids fishing and teaching them all about marine conservation!

Twitter:

@Texas Game Warden: Texas Game Wardens in Matagorda teamed up with the Matagorda Bays CCA for 13th Annual Lil' Salties kids fishing tournament. On display were the Operation Game Thief Trailer and Airboat. Wardens spoke to the kids and parents about the importance of water safety. @CCA_Texas

Instagram:

@cca_texas: Congratulations to the 2018 Inter Chapter Challenge champs, the San Bernard Chapter! Thank you to all the chapter presidents and board members who came out for CCA Texas' annual appreciation tournament this past weekend! Photo: Lisa Laskowski #ccatexas #joincca #conservation



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CCA Texas Podcasts: ccatexas.org/podcasts

Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR TEXAS MARINE HABITAT

Gulf Council Offers Protection to Deep-Water Corals

Several years ago, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) hosted a workshop that brought together scientists associated with both fisheries and corals to discuss how corals may be affected by fisheries. A recommendation from that workshop was to re-evaluate areas in the Gulf of Mexico that might require special protections, in particular deep-water corals.

Many (but not all) deep-water corals are already protected under a provision in the Magnuson-Stevens Act from physical damage by fishing gear or to prevent loss of, or damage to, fishing gear from interactions with corals (think of shrimp trawling). Additional protections can be offered if the corals fall into a special criteria

of Essential Fish Habitat known as a Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC). In order to qualify as an HAPC, the habitat must meet one or more of the following criteria: 1) The habitat serves an important ecological function; 2) Area or habitat is sensitive to human-induced degradation; 3) The habitat is stressed; 4)

The next meeting of the Gulf Council will be held in Corpus Christi on August 20-23, 2018 at the Omni Hotel on Shoreline Blvd., with a public comment period on the afternoon of August 22.

Habitat is considered rare.

The Gulf Council determined that there was a need to further protect deep-water corals from destructive fishing practices, and after hearing a summary of public comments,

the Council took final action on Coral Amendment 9 this past June.

The Council chose to designate 21 new areas in the Gulf of Mexico as HAPCs. Of those 21 areas, the Council selected to add fishing regulations to prohibit bottom-tending gear on 13 areas, 2 of which are off the south Texas Coast (Harte Bank and Southern Bank, both of which have minimum depths of 162 feet.) Bottom-tending gear includes the following: bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, dredge, pot or trap, and bottom-anchoring by fishing vessels. The Council

also decided to designate eight of the remaining areas as HAPCs without adding fishing regulations, including the Garden Banks off Texas.

And on the subject of the Gulf Council, the next meeting will be held in Corpus Christi on August 20-23, 2018 at the Omni Hotel on Shoreline Blvd., with a public comment period on the afternoon of August 22. Do not pass up this opportunity to speak up and let the Gulf Council know what you think about the management of our federal fisheries. Subjects like permanent state management of red snapper, reallocation of red snapper across fishery sectors, gray snapper stock status and bag/size limits on cobia are certainly going to be on the agenda at this meeting. We need recreational anglers to attend and have their voices heard by our federal fishery managers.

—Shane Bonnot
CCA Advocacy Director



Photo courtesy of TPWD.Texas.Gov



Upper Coast

Capt. Ralph Frazier

Balmy early days mean hungry fish

As we fade from summer heat into mild autumn weather, the fish will be a lot more active, as well as us. Think monster trout in the shallows. My favorite way to be active is wading early with topwaters like MirroLures, Top Dogs and She Dogs. Corky's can be good fished slowly. Always a favorite in my boat or wade box is the Bass Assassin. And, remember that while wading or trolling in clear water, silence is golden.

Don't forget advantages of our Upper Coast region, like the ship channel, and those big-boulder jetties. In case of a hefty breeze, knowing the wind direction, you can launch and shelter in a fishable spot that doesn't cause discomfort for your crew. The early days of Autumn may be balmy, but you will be well advised—whether spring, summer, fall or winter—to know before you go.

And, there are our magnificent beaches and surf. Catch the Upper Coast surf clear and green, and the action can be continuous on large specks. Surf fishing can be excellent waist deep, but even at the first bar, think life preservers.

Easing into late August, deep-water boaters will be watching for working birds and slicks, a dead giveaway that gamefish are there and hungry. Unlike action in the spring, many of these fish will be keepers. Got kids? They always like a lot of action, and here the key for fun will always be due to live bait. Take pictures! The Currents photo editor is always looking for great Kid photos.

September will bring big changes in weather patterns, and your fishing may focus on drifting the mid-bay reefs. Again, prior planning can be a life saver. Of course, in our big upper coast bays, you will always consider the safety of your crew, have emergency gear for all onboard, remember the limits (now only one trout over 25") and consider turning those big spotted ladies back for further duty. Tight Lines—**Capt. Ralph Frazier**

281-337-0321

Ralph2fish@aol.com

Middle Coast

Capt. Tommy Countz

Go early August, sight cast September

August fishing in Matagorda can be challenging. Well, August can be challenging, while September is the month that you can see fall on the horizon. My advice for fishermen in August is, go out early, stay hydrated, come in early. If you're not catching fish by mid-day, you're probably not going to.

In August, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that it's cooler. You will find me wading the south shore of West Matagorda Bay on the outer grass beds and sand bars. I like to work along the drop-offs that run between the bars. Trout, like us, get hot and spend more time in deeper, cooler water. I like to throw Mirrolure Lil Johns rigged on 1/16 ounce lead heads. Work light lures slow through grass and you'll feel a bite better. Feel for the slightest wiggle, and if the line starts to move, crank down, then set the hook. If you set it too quick, the fish usually drops it and you're out of luck. If I'm fishing from the boat, I'm usually in East Matagorda Bay drifting with live shrimp under a popping cork rigged with a three foot leader. Make sure you pop that cork. It's like ringing a dinner bell. Trout and reds will come to that sound.

September is a different story. Usually by then, redfish are starting to school, and if you've never sight cast to redfish feeding down a grass line, then you really haven't lived. Most of the time I look for big Vs in the water with bait fish skittering ahead of them. Birds moving down the grass hoping to grab a shrimp as it attempts to escape are another telltale sign. I move my boat ahead of the school setting up an ambush.

By late September we get our equinox tides which allow me to get my boat closer to the shore to target schooling reds. If you're a fly fisherman, September is a great time to sight cast reds in Matagorda. Cooler temperatures sneak in the later part of September, which cool the water and kick off fall fishing. If you've never fished Matagorda before, then you owe yourself a trip down here. Give me a call, and I'll be happy to show you my piece of God's green earth.

—**Capt. Tommy Countz** 281-450-4037

837 CR 243 / Bay City, Texas 77414

Lower Coast

Capt. Sally Black

Waiting for that first giant blow-up

There's really nothing much better than tossing a topwater lure along a knee-deep shoreline and waiting for that first giant blow-up, or stalking up to a big, tailing redfish with your fly rod!

Finding the bait and/or watching for slicks, then fishing underneath them is the key to catching a nice stringer of trout. But after about 10 am, shallow water is where the real game is in late summer. Then, change gears and get up skinny. The south shoreline of Baffin Bay, the west shore of the Land Cut and the 9-Mile Hole is about as good as it gets for all sight casting. Depending on the winds, pick a spot to begin. Bait is still a key, even up shallow. Move quietly and watch for the big, football shape of redfish or the coppery colors of their bodies and the blue edges of their tails.

Big fish up shallow are usually there for just one thing – to eat. Put your lure or fly in the “dinner plate zone” (about two feet in front of their eyes), and watch as a redfish or black drum keys in on the sound and action of a tiny prey. It never gets old watching a big red or black drum pin the lure down to the bottom and suck it in!

Use Black's Magic 1/32 oz jig heads with Gulp 3" Swimming Mullet, or if you're tossing a fly rod, use a simple white clouser or white crab pattern.

Summertime on the Lower Coast and Baffin Bay is great for families, but then, after a day of fishing, jumping in the swimming pool and chilling down a little, hanging out and reliving the moments of the day is truly priceless! Capt. Black and I look forward to hosting your corporate group, a family fishing trip or a group of buds or gals wanting to hang out together at our Orvis Endorsed lodge, Baffin Bay Rod and Gun.

From top to bottom, we are pleased to provide a “5-Star Adventure for Everyone” here at BBR&G and you will feel the difference when you walk into our Lodge. —**Capt. Sally Black**
361-205-0624 Sally@CaptainSally.com
Facebook: Baffin Bay Rod and Gun /YouTube: Baffin Bay Rod and Gun Channel

CONNECTED! Adam Gilvarry says a fly-hooked tarpon demands patience, luck and a hungry fish.



Caught Redhanded!



Reports from TP&W Game Wardens

Aaron Koenig Game Warden Officer of the Year

Aaron started his Game Warden career in 2004. His first duty station was Matagorda County, where he is currently serving the citizens and protecting our coastal resources.

Aaron is married to Erika, and they have two wonderful children, Heidi and Branch. Aaron's parents are Charles and Dorris Koenig. Charles is a retired Texas Game Warden out of Comal County.

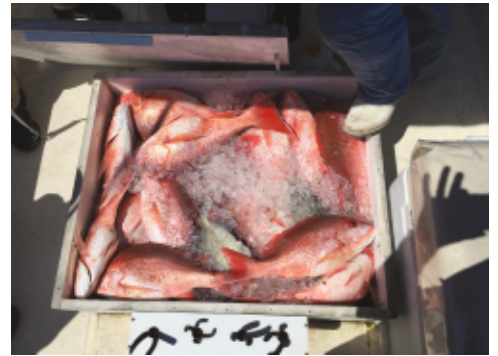
Aaron dedicates much of his time working to protect our fisheries. This has been well documented, with Aaron having also received the CCA Officer of the Year award in 2010. Over the last eight years Aaron has filed many quality cases and is a leader in the effort to enforce our coastal fishery laws.

His patrols of the Matagorda Bay Complex have found many violations. The types of cases filed include recreational fishing infractions (such as undersize and oversized fish), going over the limit of fish (including redfish and snapper), fishing license violations and water safety violations.

Aaron is also effective at enforcing commercial fishing violations that include shrimping at night and using illegal nets. His oyster cases include

harvesting oysters in closed waters and undersized oyster violations. This past 12 months Aaron has filed more than 200 cases and over 100 warnings. Aaron's efforts have helped to plant the seed in the minds of people who break our fishing laws that there is a real chance at getting caught.

The snapper picture is from one of Aaron's cases. This particular boat had a box with a top secured with 16 screws. Aaron removed the screws and found the fish.



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Editor, Sam Caldwell
sam@samcaldwell.com

This is the issue of August/September 2018
Vol. 36, Issue 5

Chapter Updates

Alvin-Pearland Rex Richards

alvinpearlandcca@yahoo.com

On behalf of our Board of Directors, we want to thank everyone who attended the 2018 Alvin/Pearland Chapter Annual Banquet in June. The banquet was a great success, with plenty of awesome food, beverages and fun. All our auctions, games and raffles had fantastic offerings and did very well! We had a great time, and we hope you did too!

Thank you to our long-time supporters and Title Sponsors for supporting us again this year: Commonwealth Financial, Sunbelt Valve and Academy Sports + Outdoors! We also want to thank our volunteers, sponsors and donors for your support. This event does not happen without all of you, your hard work and generous donations!

Our post-banquet season is now in full swing with our "Angler's Night Out" events held on the first Tuesday of the month at Spring Creek BBQ in Pearland. The dates are August 7, September 4, October 2 and November 6. We have some great speakers scheduled to come out. Mark your calendars now, and plan to attend!

The best way to stay up to date with our latest Chapter Events is to follow us on Facebook or go to our chapter webpage at www.ccatexas.org/alvin-pearland. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events! Don't forget to bring a friend, or even better, a kid!

Aransas Bay

Bud Kittle 210-279-7309

ernestkittle@gmail.com

Austin

Josh Cook 512-656-2964

josh@cookrealestatetexas.com

The 39th Annual Austin Chapter Banquet is officially in the record books. Because of your generosity, we were able to top the \$1.2 million revenue number again this year. We had over 1,700 people in attendance, the entertainment was outstanding, and it took us all of about 28 minutes to sell 175 Yeti Coolers. To our extensive list of sponsors and generous patrons, thank you for all that you did to help us accomplish this monumental task!

Please visit us at www.ccaustin.org to see a list of all the sponsors who helped make



The Colorado Valley Banquet Crew took great pride in a fine 2018 event.

this happen, as space constraints don't allow us to acknowledge all of them in this letter. From the who's who in the Austin culinary world, to corporate powerhouses in the Austin business scene, we have the best group of sponsors in the state.

Congratulations to Will Wood of Austin, who won the 24' SCB Recon by Shallow Sport! And more congratulations to all the winners of our stellar live auction and our vast array of other stand-alone games. We truly couldn't do this event without all of you and cannot wait to see you again next year.

Next up on the calendar is our Angler's Night Out (ANO) on July 18, featuring Pat Murray, President of CCA, and Brian Holden, Guide and Manager of the Redfish Lodge located in Rockport, Texas. These are two guys you don't want to miss! ANO is held at 6:00 pm at Abel's on the Lake, which is located at 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., Austin, Texas 78703.

Get out there and go fishing this summer. We look forward to seeing all of you at ANO on July 18! – Josh Cook

Bay Area

Curtis Anderson 832-435-0257

cla1965@att.net

Brazoria County

Dan Johnson 979-481-3907

djohnson@sparklingclear.com

Brazos Valley

John Ben Strother 979-220-1738

jbsunlimited@yahoo.com

Brenham

Brandon Marth 979-277-0151

brenhamironworks@sbcglobal.net

Greetings from the Brenham Chapter! We will be having our annual Brenham CCA Howard Kiecke Memorial Fishing Tournament on August 3-4, 2018 in Port O'Connor, Texas. The entry deadline is Thursday, July 26 at the regularly scheduled Brenham CCA Chapter Meeting at Hopkins Distributing. Entries may also be mailed to Trey Scherer at 2008 Tommelson Creek Road, Brenham, Texas 77833. All entries must be received by July 26! The tournament is sponsored by Mike Hopkins Distributing. We hope to see you there!

Brush Country

Brenda Ballard 361-296-4037

brendagballard@hotmail.com

Centex

Wayne Webb 254-405-1300

sheyhunt@aol.com

Central Houston

Todd Buster 713-545-1897

tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com

Colorado Valley

Eugene Ulrich 979-249-7425

zeke.ulrich@gmail.com

Greetings from the Colorado Valley! We recently enjoyed a great night of fundraising at our 18th Annual Banquet held in the newly remodeled K of C Hall in La Grange. Our banquet is usually held in March, but due to the hall flooding after Hurricane Harvey, it was delayed until the middle of May. We are getting back to March for next year so please put March 28, 2019 in your calendar and come join us for a great night!

The KCs again prepared an excellent ribeye steak and shrimp meal, plus we had refreshments provided by one of our long-time sponsors, Brown Distributing-Budweiser. We have to say thank you to three of our sponsors, J&J Metal Works, Inc., Lakeview Glass and Mirror, and Oviedo Auto Group for donating our caps again this year. We also had some terrific towels made up for the night, and they were sponsored by Burgh's Septic and Wastewater, Morris & McClimon Attorneys at Law, PLLC and CJNR Ranch. Our Dry Bag Sponsors were M-G Farm Service Center in Weimar and CJNR Ranch. Our Visor Sponsor this year was WHATABURG-ER. Murphy's Steakhouse in Winchester sponsored a large ribeye for the door prize, and our Print Sponsors for this year were La Grange Ford, National Bank & Trust, Powerscreen Texas, Inc. and Round Top State Bank. We also want to extend our gratitude to our Grand Slam Table Sponsors: AJ Florus; Covert Chevrolet, Buick, GMC in Bastrop; J & J Metal Works, Inc.; Masonry Works; Maxwell Locke & Ritter LLP; Murphy's Steakhouse; and Academy Sports + Outdoors. We would also like to thank all the other Bull Red and Reserved Table Sponsors.

Our chapter members, who worked so diligently this year preparing for our banquet night by selling tickets, procuring donations, selling tables, getting sponsors and ensuring our night

HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

1. Sabine Lake Deep Reef Oyster Restoration
2. Sabine HI20 Nearshore Reef
3. Sabine Lake Oyster Reef Expansion
4. J.D. Murphree Breakwater
5. East Galveston Bay Oyster Reef Restoration
6. Trinity Bay Discovery Center Living Shoreline
7. Dickinson Bayou Marsh Restoration
8. Moses Lake Shoreline Restoration
9. Sportsmans Road Wetlands Restoration
10. Big Man's Reef
11. Bird Island Cove Marsh Restoration
12. Snake Island Cove Marsh Restoration
13. Oyster Lake Shoreline Stabilization
14. Vancouver Nearshore Reef
15. Cow Trap Lake Shoreline Stabilization
16. San Bernard NWR Shoreline Stabilization
17. Matagorda Nearshore Reef
18. Port O'Connor Nearshore Reef
19. HRI Nearshore Reef Enhancement Study
20. Weed Eradication for Water Flow Restoration
21. HRI Oyster Restoration Site Locator/Mapping Study
22. Matagorda Island Marsh Restoration
23. Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough Restoration
24. St. Charles Bay Oyster Restoration
25. Aransas Bay Oyster Restoration
26. Goose Island Marsh Restoration
27. Copano Bay Oyster Restoration
28. Aransas Bay Debris Removal
29. Nueces Bay Marsh Restoration
30. Nueces Bay Delta Water Management Gates
31. Nueces Bay Demonstration/Restoration Oyster Reef Project
32. Corpus Christi Nearshore Reef
33. Baffin Bay's Unique Serpulid Study
34. Port Mansfield Nearshore Reef
35. Rio Grande Valley Reef
36. Bahia Grande Restoration

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Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow



THE TEXAS GULF COAST INITIATIVE



THE TEXAS GULF COAST NEEDS YOU NOW.

Your gift to CCA's National Habitat Program, the Building Conservation Trust (BCT), is vital to make a positive impact on marine habitat creation and restoration, from coast to coast. Every dollar you give to BCT is leveraged multiple times to create a conservation impact far beyond your initial gift. Start making a difference now for marine habitat, fish, outdoorsmen and future generations by making your gift to BCT's Texas Gulf Coast Initiative.

Don't wait. Call BCT at (713) 626-4234 today to speak with our fundraising staff for your area.



Since the creation of Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT) by the CCA Texas Executive Board in 2009, CCA Texas has been a partner in 36 projects along the Texas coast with a total contribution of over \$5.6 Million. Project partners include: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Galveston Bay Foundation, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, Harte Research Institute, Aransas County, San Antonio Bay Foundation and Texas Ducks Unlimited.

BUILDING
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CCA's National Habitat Program



2018 BCT AND CCA TEXAS FUNDED HABITAT PROJECTS

- Vancouver Nearshore Reef: \$10,000
- Dickinson Bayou Marsh Grass Planting: \$25,000
- Trinity Bay Discovery Center Living Shoreline: \$40,000
- Nueces Bay Demonstration Oyster Reef: \$60,000
- Baffin Bay's Unique Serpulid Reef Habitat Conservation Science: \$60,000
- Sabine Lake Restored Oyster Reef Expansion: \$100,000
- Rio Grande Valley Nearshore Reef: \$150,000
- Sabine Nearshore Reef: \$200,000
- Big Man's Nearshore Reef: \$250,000

TOTAL DOLLARS COMMITTED: \$895,000

EQUATES TO \$3.6 MILLION IN MARINE HABITAT

A Natural Partnership



Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

Building Conservation Trust strives to be the largest marine habitat restoration, enhancement and creation entity in the United States. BCT is a development and major gift program that multiplies and maximizes funds raised to restore and enhance marine habitat. The grassroots-driven projects achieve one or more of five key objectives: Restore degraded habitats; Create new habitats; Advance the science of coastal habitat restoration and marine fisheries conservation; Foster habitat stewardship; and Educate coastal communities of the value of conservation.

TO BECOME A PROJECT PARTNER CONTACT jdblaha@ccatexas.org · (713) 626-4222

was a great success, were **Trish Kubena, Gary Janda, Rusty Kubena, Danny Olenick, Dave Fehlker, George Bubba Gold, Kendall Rhode, Eugene Ulrich, Verlene Ulrich, and Kenneth LeFrance**. We also could not have done without the fantastic support of our Banquet Assistants **Connie Janda, Lucas Janda, Mike and Norma Petras, John and Kristi Gold, Crawford Gadd, and Robert and Kalynn Hodges**. Dave Fehlker did another fantastic job of putting our banquet program together, plus he had some wonderful technical graphic assistance from the very talented **John Gold**, who helped us out with putting together the scenes for our program front cover and the towel. Thanks to **Taylor Rieck** and his group for making it all happen from the Houston end.

Our chapter enjoyed participating in the recent ICC in Aransas Pass. The food and beverages were great, along with networking with the other chapters. We had a fishing team of 10, plus three individuals who fished under our chapter name as well. Our team consisted of **Eugene and Verlene Ulrich; Rusty Kubena; Gary, Lucas and Cade Janda; and Kenneth, Stephen, Mathew and Tommy LeFrance**. The three individual anglers on our team were **Nick Baker, James Helms and Brady Neiman**. Our team totally enjoyed collecting three of the door prizes, which were given away on Friday night, although I wish our next day of fishing was as good as the giveaways!

We truly hope everyone's fishing is going well – stay after them reds, because you never know when one might have that special tag on it! Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all! – **Eugene Ulrich**

Corpus Christi **Clifford Johnstone 361-816-7338** **cjohnstone@higginbotham.net**

Hello CCA Members, Summer is here in Corpus Christi, and it is HOT. But the good news is we have been receiving rain lately, which has been helping our bays and estuaries. Fish on!

Last month, our chapter competed in the **Annual Inter Chapter Challenge fishing tournament in Aransas Pass**. What a great event! This year's fishing team consisted of **Jay Gardner, Kesley Gibson, Jim Sutton and Cliff Johnstone**. Jim and Cliff fished in the lower Laguna Madre while Jay and Kesley fished on Padre Island National Seashore. The weather was great, and Jay caught a nice large trout in the surf. **Joseph Briones and Kevin Hill** also joined us at the Friday night Captains Meeting for great food, drinks, prizes, and fun!

In September our chapter will sponsor the **Poco Rojo Kid Fish Tournament** at the CCA Marine Development Center in Flour Bluff. We will be announcing the date shortly. **Dr. Robert Vega** and his Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff at the hatchery will be hosting the event. **Mike Henry and Troy Adler** will be the leading the Kids Fish committee. The chapter will be posting information about the tournament on our webpage and Facebook page, and we will be sending out an email blast – Mark your calendar and bring the family for some great fishing and a tour of the hatchery!

Also, in September, we are having an **Anglers' Night Out** event. We are in the process of confirming the details, and more information will be released soon. **Jay Gardner, Kesley Gibson, Judy Arnold and Jessica Arroyo** are working hard on the final checklist.

In October, the Corpus Christi Chapter will

be hosting the **Babes on Baffin Ladies Fishing Tournament** on Columbus Day weekend (October 5-6). The event will be at Marker 37 (same as last year) on North Padre Island. Two hundred- fifty lady anglers participated in last year's tournament, and we are expecting a great turnout again this year! **Valerie Chilton, Tournament Director**, can be reached at (361) 882-5199 regarding sponsorship opportunities and information. Registration is currently open, and you can access it through the CCA website, CCA Corpus Christi Facebook page or Babes on Baffin Facebook page.

Would you like to get involved as a volunteer for one of our upcoming events? For more information, contact **Cliff Johnstone** at (361) 816-7338 or **cjohnstone@higginbotham.net**, or **Jay Gardner** at **jgardner@lja.com**. Thanks again to all our volunteers and sponsors who make our events possible. I hope to see you at our next event! – **Cliff Johnstone**

Dallas **Matt Scherer 214-995-6777** **matthew.scherer@ryan.com**

On June 9, 2018, the Dallas board members headed down to Aransas Pass for the **Annual CCA Inter Chapter Challenge fishing tournament**. The team had a strong showing with a full stringer, but unfortunately, we could not bring the trophy back to North Texas. Everyone had an amazing time out on the water, as well as getting the opportunity to talk with various chapter board members from across the state. It was also great to help support the local economy, as Aransas Pass and Rockport are coming back STRONG.

On July 4, **Greg Resnansky, Shon Conine, Robert McMurray** and few other Dallas members showed off their patriotic spirit by pulling a boat in one of the local parades, giving CCA exposure to over 40,000 people in attendance! Not only was the boat decorated with CCA banners and flags, but they had a boat full of junior TIDE members tossing out "JOIN CCA" wristbands. I hope some of you got the chance to see it!

On July 27, the **3rd Annual Hooked on Clays sporting clays tournament** will be held, and we expect to have a great turnout. We look forward to reporting the success of the event in the next publication of *CURRENTS*.

In closing, I encourage you to visit us on Facebook at Dallas CCA or visit the CCA webpage for details on future events and meetings. You can now also follow us on Instagram, as **Layne Kinny** has stepped up our game in social media. Thank you, Layne!

East Texas **Dr. James Norman 936-554-3165** **jnorman7@suddenlink.net**

Fort Bend **Donnie Powers 281-850-9023** **dpowers11450@gmail.com**

Fort Worth **Brad Wallace 817-988-8926** **brad@northtexasmarine.com**

The temperature is heating up here in North Texas, which typically means it's time for unexpected weather and the **2018 Fort Worth Chapter Annual Banquet, held at the historic Joe T. Garcia's!** In true fashion, your Fort Worth board weathered quite a bit of rain to get the banquet set up for our celebrated guests, and in return

you did not let us down. It was another record year, helped by some amazing auction items that included trips to the Texas coast, Argentina and Panama. One lucky bidder went home with a nearly finished German shorthaired pointer from **Phantom Kennels**.

By the time the banquet rolled around, the sky was blue and the temperature ripe for a good time! There was even a celebrity siting of the famous **Hope Beel**. Many thanks to **Brad Wallace at North Texas Marine** for chairing the banquet this year. If you are in need of a boat, or just a tune up, head on over to see Brad, and he'll take care of you.

Looking back, it was a banner year for the Fort Worth Chapter. The usual fish fry and evening at the brewery was replaced with a crawfish boil, and it was incredibly well received. Our guests ate nearly 450 pounds of crawfish during our first boil, and we couldn't keep it coming fast enough!

We would like to also encourage everyone who is planning a fishing trip this year to make sure you enroll for the **CCA Texas STAR Tournament** – You never know if you are going to have a tagged fish on the end of your line!

As always, if you would like to get involved with the board, feel free to reach out to us. Until next time – We again express our sincere gratitude for your support. It's for the fishies! Tight lines – **John Black**

Galveston **Dr. Ken Ellis 713-962-7731** **drkenellis@aol.com**

Golden Triangle **Joseph Ramey 409-892-3323** **ramey.joseph@gmail.com**

Greater Sugar Land **Robert Bailey 713-819-5534** **rbailey@robertbaileypc.com**

We're in summer mode here at the Greater Sugar Land Chapter. Our monthly chapter meetings are the first Wednesday of each month and resume September 5. The venue remains the same: **Otto's BBQ** at 11222 Fountain Lake Dr. near 59 & Kirkwood.

We have our first Kids Fish scheduled for **September 23 in Riverstone** subdivision. More details will follow in the next few weeks.

We hope your summer is a great one! Tight lines and full coolers!

Greater Woodlands **Charlotte O'Dell 832-368-8263** **choctawcharlie69@gmail.com**

Guadalupe Valley **Chuck Howard 361-275-9464** **chuck.howard@att.net**

We will begin workups for the **2018 Guadalupe Chapter Annual Banquet** starting with the late August/early September quarterly meeting. As of this writing, there has been no location or food themes selected. Members are encouraged to provide their ideas ASAP. One topic to bring forth now is that the chapter will be recruiting a new president. I will be resigning at the conclusion of the Annual Banquet in November. This is a great time for someone to step up and learn how it works with the planning and execution of the banquet. The chapter has a terrific volunteer base that is experienced, hardworking and has a "Gung Ho" attitude. **Matt Still, our CCA Texas Assistant Director**, is 110% behind the chapter.

Volunteers make it all happen. The job is pretty easy unless you just want to make it difficult, and I can't imagine why anyone would!

The Annual CCA Texas Inter Chapter Challenge was held on the second Saturday of June, with 30+ chapters competing. Guadalupe Valley was competitive and placed 3rd overall. **Marcos Pena brought the largest chapter trout** to the table, a respectable 23+ 4.6lbs. San Bernard won the title this year with a stringer weighing in at 18.5 lbs, and Ft. Bend took second place with 18 lbs. This is a great event; Guadalupe Valley is competitive and expects to win it!

I have gotten a few fishing reports from chapter members, and everyone seems to be having productive trips, from Port O'Connor to the Upper Laguna Madre. The croaker soakers have been on the fish early, taking limits of fryers before the sun breaks the morning clouds. Those chunking plastics have had a slower time of it but are taking bigger fish. Working the sand pockets and the edges of the grass beds is key. We have to have some water movement, bait present and attention to small details. On a personal note, I have had no less than one oversized trout taken and released on plastics almost every trip this summer. I am amazed at the quality of fish we're finding almost everywhere we go!

Hays County

Tim Young 512-573-7939
tim.haysco@gmail.com

Heart of the Hills

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

It is time to purchase tickets for the **2018 Heart of the Hills Chapter Annual Banquet that will be held on Thursday, September 20, 2018!** We will be out at **Don Strange Ranch** this year and **Hungry Horse will be catering the event.** You can expect some great food and drinks, awesome live and silent auctions, and raffles. Individual tickets are \$60, and sponsor tables are \$600 for Trophy Trout and \$800 for Bull Reds.

Call **Kelly Parks** at (210) 669-3732 or **Brian Weaver** at CCA at (800) 626-4222 for more information. We look forward to seeing you there!

– Randy Plummer

Helotes

Bob Mitchell 210-442-7009
bobmitchell89@gmail.com

Hill Country

Miles Engelke 210-260-8968
engelke@pe-svcs.com

Houston Homebuilders

Jimmy Reid 281-932-3395
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Houston Real Estate

Dale Couch 281-953-2510
dcouch@txlmortgage.com

Katy

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Laredo

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



SOLD OUT! Tenth year in a row that the Matagorda Bays Banquet Committee has sold out the house for their CCA banquet. Here's the Committee and Board of Directors celebrating before the start of the event.



Matagorda Bay's fully rigged 24' Tran Sport XLR8, sponsored by Tran Sport Boats and by long-time chapter supporter Polasek Construction.

Lee County

Jake Horne 979-540-6117
jake@aubainesupply.com

Live Oak

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

Lower Colorado

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Lower Laguna Madre

Oscar Garcia 956-491-8148
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Mainland

Eric Minor 409-370-7379
eric.minor@anico.com

Matagorda Bays

Chad Hensley 979-543-2734
Chadwayne73@yahoo.com

Once again, "Sold Out" signs were pulled out and taped to the front doors of the **El Campo Civic Center** for our **33rd Annual Matagorda Bays Chapter Banquet!** This is the tenth year in a row that the banquet has sold out. All of this could not be possible without the continued support from the generous donors and members of our chapter. Banquet guests enjoyed a

fun-filled evening, with chances to win the Pick of the Litter Cap Raffle sponsored by **Prasek's Hillje Smokehouse, El Campo Boating Center and Polasek Construction**; a Koozie Raffle sponsored by **First State Bank and Quality Hot Mix**; and a Tumbler Raffle sponsored by **Weise Crop Insurance and Energy Construction Inc.** Another great rib eye steak meal with all the trimmings was prepared and served by board member **Slade Stary and his top-notch cooking crew.** The live auction, sponsored by **Full Auto Firearms, Wiese Crop Insurance and Gulf Coast Lease Service**, was full of great items that ranged from fishing and hunting trips from around the world, to guided fishing trips right here on the Texas coast. **The Jim Ehman Memorial Guides Cup** trips were once again a big hit among buyers. This tournament, sponsored by **Duckett Bouligny & Collins LLP, Harbor Bait and Tackle, and Multi Fab Metals**, is held every year in September in Matagorda and can only be entered by purchasing a trip in our live auction.

To try and speed the night's events up, a fully digital silent auction was implemented for the first time this year, allowing bidders to use their smart phones to place bids from their tables. We will make needed adjustments for this next year, but all in all it went very well! The highlight at the end of a long evening was the drawing for the fully rigged 24' **Tran Sport XLR8**, sponsored by **Tran Sport Boats and by longtime chapter supporter Polasek Construction.** A big thank you goes out to these guys for their continued support. This year's lucky winner was **Brady Collins** from **El Campo, Texas.** As

always, I wish I could list everyone who donates and contributes to our chapter, but here are a few who are there year after year: Cedar Creek Woodshop, Multi Fab Metals, Eichorn Gonzales & Miller Jewelers, Coastal Que, Capt. Kenny Hauff Jr. and Salt Grass Lodge, Del Papa Distributing, Hartman Distributing, Texas Coast Limo Services, and Full Auto Firearms.

Once again, thanks to all the members of our great chapter, and I look forward to seeing all the Guides Cup buyers in Matagorda on September 17- 18. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the chapter. – Chad Hensley

Mid Coast

Danny Goyen 361-564-7471
goyenfishing@yahoo.com

Northeast Houston
Jason Law 713-898-8594
jlaw1899@yahoo.com

Northwest Houston
Rob Sziy 832-971-1989
sziy@sbcglobal.net

Save the date - August 9, 2018 at 6:00 pm! You do not want to miss the 29th Annual Northwest Houston Chapter Banquet and Fundraiser. It will be held at a new venue, Shirley Acres, located at 217 Woerner Road, Houston, Texas 77090.

Join us for dinner, select complimentary beverages, cash bar, auctions, raffles and good old fundraising fun! For more information, please contact Drew Adams at dadams@ccatexas.org or (713) 626-4222.

Also, in August, please join us for our General Membership Meeting on the 7th. The speaker is to be announced, and there will be our usual raffle and of course complimentary select beverages, courtesy of Houston Distributing. We hope to see you at both of our upcoming events!

Orange County

Scott Bandy 409-988-3667
scottbandy77@yahoo.com

On August 9, 2018, we will be hosting the 10th Annual Orange County Chapter Banquet at the Orange Convention and Expo Center, with doors opening at 6:00 pm! We still have some Corporate Tables available. Corporate Redfish Sponsor Tables are \$1,750 and include front seating (come with 16 seats), Corporate Speck Sponsor Tables are \$600 (come with 8 seats) and Individual Tickets are \$60.

Our friends at Granger Chevrolet of Orange will serve as our 10-year Banquet Sponsor. Dean and Al are also celebrating their 10-year anniversary at the dealership in Orange. **Spanky's Bar & Grill** will be serving their famous steaks will all the trimmings.

I'd like to extend a special thanks to our loyal Redfish Sponsors, Innovative Air (card raffle), Spanky's (card raffle), LANMARK staffing (hat raffle), Vincent Recycling, Golden Pass LNG, TOTAL and Brown Hearing Centers (program sponsors). – Scott Bandy, scottbandy77@yahoo.com; Louis Moore, louis_moore@yahoo.com; Davis Dixon, dcdixon149@yahoo.com

Port Lavaca

Eric Ellison 361-983-4690
fishingsalt@yahoo.com

Port O'Connor

Bill Moore 361-983-4690
wildbmb@tisd.net

We hope everyone is having a great summer! The crowds on the weekends demonstrate that a lot of people are taking advantage of all the activities going on in our area.

It seems strange to not be working on our fall banquet, but Harvey had a hand in changing that. **We will now continue to have a spring banquet, which is scheduled for Saturday, March 30, 2019.** So, be sure and pencil in that date on your calendar at the POC Community Center!

Now that we have made the adjustment to a new banquet date, and if you would like to get involved, give us a call in POC, "Where it all began." – Bill Moore

Prairie

Patricia Walters 979-885-7464
manager@wpprint.com

I hope everyone is having a great summer of fun and fishing! **Don't forget to register for the CCA Texas STAR Tournament that takes place May 26-September 3.** The cost is \$25 for current members, and you can register online at www.ccatexas.org.

On August 11, we will have our 17th Annual Prairie Chapter Kid Fish Tournament. It will take place between 3:00 pm-6:00 pm. This year it will be at the Walters Fish pond located at 12857 Newberg Road, Cat Spring, Texas. The tournament is open to the public, and everything is free. Prizes will be awarded for different age categories. Hot dogs and drinks will be served. Just bring your fishing poles, and bring a lawn chair. Worms and bait will be provided, and the fish that are caught will be released. **RSVP to manger@wpprint.com, or for more information contact Patricia at (979) 877-5598.**

Have a great summer, and we'll see you at the tournament! Thanks – Ron Chess

Redfish Bay

Norman Oates 361-758-0266
noates@cableone.net

Rio Grande Valley
Louis Zimmerer 956-373-0799
Lmz01@yahoo.com

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

Sam Houston

Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908
bkolaja@huntsvilletx.gov

Mark your calendars for the 2018 Sam Houston Chapter Annual Banquet on September 6 at the Walker County Fairgrounds! This will be a great evening to get out and support our great organization. The event will host a sportsman raffle that will include guns, coolers, and rods/reels, as well as live and silent auctions. There will be plenty of food and cold drinks, so gather your family and friends for an event you will not want to miss! For Corporate Tables, vendor information and tickets please call **Brandon Kolaja at (281) 797-6908 or Tim Buhler at (936) 662-8478.**

San Antonio

Rick Neitzel 210-771-7807
tasiscorneitzel@aol.com

Hello everyone – I hope you've enjoyed the summer by doing some fishing and catching!

Mark your calendar for our 3rd Annual "Hooked on Golf" Tournament on September 28, 2018 at the Silverhorn Golf Club. For information on putting teams together, contact **Tim Kiker at tim@timkcpa.com.** This event gets bigger and better every year!

Mark your calendar again for our next General Membership Meeting on October 17 at 6:00 pm at the Barn Door Restaurant. Our speaker for the evening is **Patrick Murray, CCA National's President.** This is one meeting you don't want to miss out on! Pat is one of CCA's biggest advocates and will be able to share with us what is happening with CCA Texas, along with the rest of the country. We will have our usual raffle of door prizes, and we will also raffle off a guided fishing trip.

Our Banquet Committee will start having meetings in the fall. If you want to get involved, contact this year's Banquet Chairman, **Robert Lozano, at robertlozano129@yahoo.com.** Lastly, remember to wet-a-line with your family and friends! – Rick Neitzel

San Bernard

Ross Kutach 281-330-0135
rosskutach@yahoo.com

The San Bernard Chapter had a busy spring and early summer. Seven brave board members made the trek to Port Aransas and participated in the **ICC Fishing Tournament on June 9.** Conditions were perfect for a wall hanger trip, but the feed cycles were off with the new moon approaching the super moon on the 12th. The bite was early, and though we did not box a ton of fish, the ones we were able to string produced the first ever win for the San Bernard Chapter! With a mix of live bait and various topwater plugs, our chapter posted a 19+ lb. stringer consisting of 1 red and 3 trout. Individual accolades go to **William Wilcox** with the 1st place overall trout under 25" at 4.88 lbs. **Clay Hudgins** came in a tight 3rd with his 4.36 lb. trout. Our redfish was solid at 7.89 lbs., but only good enough to get 3rd. A great time was had by all, and we would like to thank **Travis Hennecke** for providing lodging for the chapter participants. Although a few miles in the distance, Travis has continued to be a tremendous supporter of his hometown chapter, and we can't say enough for all the good he and his company **Batteries Plus Bulbs** do for our organization. Thanks Travis!

Spring held host to our first social event of the year. **The crawfish boil at S-Curve Bar in East Bernard** was a hit, with fun and fellowship had by all. Thanks to **Shane Bonnot** for headlining the event with his presentation of the red snapper outlook, followed by a question and answer session. **Our second event of the year will be a repeat of the steak and lobster dinner that proved to be a huge success last fall. The event will be in early September,** so if you are interested, contact one of our board members or give me a call. We would love to have you!

Our Inner-Chapter Challenge will kick off on July 27 and commence on July 28 in Matagorda. We have 8 board members who graciously donate their time and boats to the chapter for our banquet, and the competition is as heated as ever! If you haven't had a chance to come and join this event, I urge you to come to the next banquet in February and see if you can get in on the fun. Hosted by **Billy and Joyce Klopsteck** and spearheaded by event champion **Jarrold "Tibedeaux" Montaigne**, the event this year

is shaping up to be another great success. The conditions in Matagorda are holding to form, and there might be some 5 lb.+ sub 25" trout snagged out of the surf. Thanks to all the donors who purchased a spot in this event! We will start Friday with a rib eye steak dinner and finish on Saturday with fried chicken. Good luck and safe travels to all participants!

Please keep **Jarrod Montagino** in your thoughts and prayers. We are all praying for a speedy recovery!

The bay system in Matagorda has caught fire after the slow start of the year, with late fronts and cool temps. Over the past couple of weeks, the boxes have been filled with just about anything you put on the end of your line. Although I love to sling the Jr., red and white has been producing steadily, and it's tough to beat trout candy under a popping cork when you have the little ones on the boat. If you haven't tried Little Johns yet, it might be time. Our chapter is beating along strong, but we always welcome additional support. If you love to fish, this organization is, and will be, a great way to dedicate your time to your passion. If you are interested in getting involved, please give me a call at (281) 330-0135. I hope to see everyone on the water! Please "Like" us on Facebook and share your pictures and fishing experiences with us. Tight lines, safe travels and don't forget the sunscreen! – **Ross Kutach**

San Gabriel

John Melnar 512-497-8284

jmelnar@plateaulandgroup.com

Planning for the 16th Annual San Gabriel Chapter Banquet is heating up to be a success! We have had a great response thus far from our loyal and supportive donors in early reservations for our event on **August 2, 2018, with Don Hewlett Chevrolet as our Title Sponsor. Doors will open at 6:00 pm, and it will be held at our new facility: the Sheraton Conference Center in Georgetown, Texas.**

Seeing all the early donor/sponsor interest is exciting and proof that CCA is doing some great work for our habitat. This year looks to be another sold-out event. We are encouraging those who are interested to reach out as early as possible to lock your spot. This will be a fun-filled night, with an awesome selection of games (including our newest game, Poker Chip Challenge) and updated auction items to choose from. Contact

me or one of our board members directly to lock in early and join the fun. Please continue to read upcoming issues of *CURRENTS* to learn how San Gabriel is making this year's banquet better, with new trips and prizes for those who attend, as more information is coming!

This year, San Gabriel is excited to thank all our wonderful top tier Game and Auction Sponsors with an early VIP Reception party starting at 5:00 pm. Please contact me directly to learn how you can join and have early access.

We are extremely grateful to have these incredible major sponsors this year: **Don Hewlett Chevrolet, Morris Glass, PMB, Aday & Assoc., Independence Title, CHASCO, Independent Bank, LJT Texas, R Bank, NAVCON, Waukesha-Pearce Industries, and Academy Sports + Outdoors.** These sponsors consistently and generously step up efforts each year to support CCA.

So, grab ahold of your fishing and hunting buddies, and commit early to save your spot at our 16th Annual Banquet – You're going to have fun and enjoy what San Gabriel puts together! – **Darryl Hanson**

Southwestern

Veronica Oliver 830-765-6228

ronnimoliver@gmail.com

TAMU

Rudy Mueller 832-349-1055

tamuca@gmail.com

Texas State University

Travis James 832-909-5833

travisj0915@gmail.com

Tomball/Magnolia

Matt Maddox 832-963-5215

matt@cribsconcrete.com

Tri-County

Justin Putz 210-585-0401

putz.stx@gmail.com

Trinity Bay

Gerald Payne 281-728-6278

rockin_g_payne@yahoo.com

The Trinity Bay Chapter Annual Banquet will be held on Friday, August 24, 2018, at the Nuevo Leon Social Events, located at 1000 Park Street, Baytown, Texas 77520. We look forward to seeing all our dedicated sponsors for an evening full of food, drinks, raffles and games!

Since our last report, numbers of individuals turned out for our "Anglers' Night Out," an event featuring **Chester Moore as the Guest Speaker.**

The Trinity Bay Chapter meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. If you would like further details on becoming a member or sponsor please contact us, we'd be glad to hear from you! – **Gerald Payne, (281) 728-6278**

Trinity Valley

John Hebert Jr 936-334-2528

jjhebert@imsday.com

Well, it's midsummer, and we've recently had our **5th Annual Trinity Valley Chapter CCA Fishing Tournament.** As usual, everyone had a blast! Fishing was a little tough that day but nonetheless, it was still a lot of fun. **The Sjolander Resources team brought in 1st place.** We'd like to thank **Stingaree Restaurant**, where we had the weigh-in and then lunch afterwards. The food was amazing as always. **We'd also like to thank our other sponsors: BJ Ford, Liberty County Farm Bureau, Capital Credit, Del Papa Distributing and Giglio Distributing.** Without you, this wouldn't be possible. We look forward to this event again in 2019!

We'd love for you to be a part of our chapter and all the fun we have! If this interests you then please contact chapter president, **John Hebert at (936) 334-2528.** – **Jennifer Creel**

West Houston

Ruben Delgadillo 281-808-1434

ruben@liftpull.com

Greetings, West Houston! I hope your summer is in full swing by now with vacations, travels and hopefully tons of fishing. If you are like me, it's more like camps, work, kids' activities and very little fishing being done. Nonetheless, I hope your summer is going well!

This past year was a crazy one! Harvey really did a number on our city, especially on the west side of town. Many of us who flooded are barely recovering or have yet to recover. One of the things that Harvey deleted from our history was the Farm and Ranch. Harvey destroyed this venue and forced them to close. We had tons of great memories there, and it was a one-of-a-kind place. As Alexander Bell once said, "When one door closes, another door opens," and sure enough, another great door opened for us this year. **Our banquet this year was held at the Omni Hotel West Houston.** We could not have asked for a better location to begin our next chapter of West Houston! Our historic crawfish boil attracted over 300 members, and everyone was extremely grateful for A/C, big bugs, and great fun and prizes. **One of our big winners of a Ranger Polaris was Josh Bets from Argo Surety.** We want to thank all our sponsors and table buyers for your continued support. We look forward to next year being another great year!

Be on the lookout for our second General Membership Meeting soon. We thank our General Membership Meeting sponsor **Fishing Tackle Unlimited**, and we look forward to having our meeting there. We will send out information on this meeting soon!

West Texas

Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499

Craig@McDonnold.net

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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 8 for connections to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Every entry there will also be an entry in the **Currents Great Photos Competition**.

Gathering at the Cabin, by Annette Syring. A memorable moment in time, from a few years back.

The Release, by Dave Shelpuk. The angler has enjoyed a few minutes with a ladyfish (*elops saurus*, first cousin to the tarpon (*megalops atlanticus*) and sends it back for another angler.

The Big Catch, by Anthony Skrobarczyk's Dad? A great moment, caught because Dad had a camera handy.

Great Photos submitted are close to CCA Communication Director Kim Philippi's heart, since the images can be also be considered for use on *Currents* Social Happenings media.

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



Gathering at the Cabin / Great Scenic, by Annette Syring

The Release / CPR, A ladyfish goes back, by Dave Shelpuk. Photo with iPhone 6

The Big Catch / Kids, Anthony Skrobarczyk's Dad, with Anthony's STAR-Scholarship flounder



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- 8 oz. softened cream cheese
- 2 Tbsp. Mayo
- 1 Tbsp. Horseradish, grated or prepared
- 2 Tbsp. Minced onion
- 1/8 tsp. Black pepper
- 1/8 tsp. Seasoned salt
- 1 tsp. Chopped parsley
- 1 lb. Fresh crab meat

Mix first 7 ingredients together. Fold in crab meat until well combined. Spoon into greased oven-proof dish and bake at 375 degrees for 20 minutes until lightly browned and bubbly.

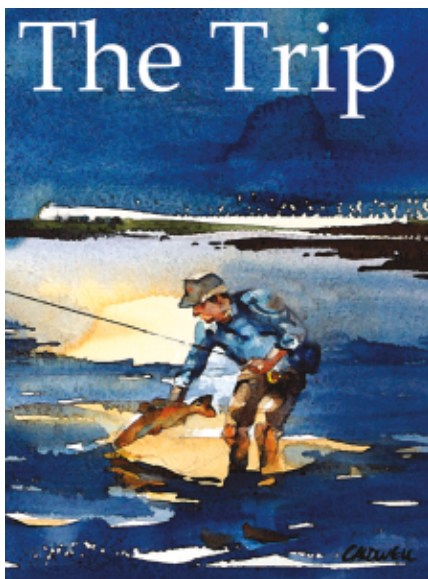
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August/September 2018

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