

# CURRENTS

February / March 2019



*Egery Flats*

*Restoration  
of an important  
estuarine habitat*



# Egery Flats Restoration Project Continues to Move Forward

By John Blaha, *Habitat for Fisheries Tomorrow*

Photos by Lisa Laskowski Photography

Construction for the restoration efforts to restore over 100 acres of estuarine marsh habitat in the Egery Flats area of Upper Copano Bay started in August 2018. Since that time, the first set of culverts have been replaced, and the replacement of the second set of culverts began in early December 2018.

The replacement of these culvert sets is critical in the effort to restore this important estuarine marsh habitat. Once the replacement of these culverts is completed, additional efforts such as marsh grass plantings will help jump start the long-term goal of a restored and healthy marsh.

Habitat within Eco-systems along the Gulf coast, and all the coastal regions of the United States and the rest of the world has declined for decades due to development, transportation infrastructure, oil and gas operations, natural causes and much more. CCA Texas and Building Conservation Trust (BCT), CCA Nationals Habitat Program, have both played key roles in helping restore degraded habitat. These efforts are often

through partnerships with organizations such as Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP), Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and other like non-profit organizations and government entities. These projects have included marsh restoration efforts through the use of breakwaters, beneficial use dredge spoil, grass plantings, and floating island methods. Phase One of one such restoration effort was recently completed in Egery Flats, located on the upper end of Copano Bay.

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*This hydrological restoration project will lead to reduced salinities in Egery Flats and will improve conditions for over 600 acres of marsh, submerged aquatic vegetation and tidal flats.*

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Egery Flats sits on the western edge of Copano Bay near the mouth of the Aransas River. In 1945, when Farm to Market Road 136 was constructed, two culvert systems, each consisting of two 30" round culverts, were installed to allow water to flow in and out of Egery Flats. Over time, the water flow

through these culverts has become restricted enough to impact water quality and habitat, which has resulted in the conversion of over 100 acres of estuarine marsh and habitat to open water since the 1950s.

While FM 136 connects local communities and is a favorite spot for roadside fishermen, crabbers, and birders, Egery Flats has deteriorated greatly since its construction.

"This hydrological restoration project will lead to reduced salinities in Egery Flats and will improve conditions for over 600 acres of marsh, submerged aquatic vegetation, and tidal flats," commented Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program Project Manager, Rae Mooney. Mooney continued, "This will lead to overall increased ecological productivity in this area as these habitats serve as a critical nursery for finfish and shellfish and important feeding grounds for waterfowl, wading birds and shorebirds."

CBBEP received a grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund for the project. The project will replace the two 30" culverts with three 3' x 6' box culverts at each location. These new culverts will not only increase water flow greatly, but they will restore critical hydrology which will lower salinity levels in the area and enhance over 600 acres of emergent marsh, submerged vegetation, and tidal flats at Egery Flats. Prior to the start of construction, CBBEP worked with

*The original sets of two 30" culverts became plugged enough to allow only minimal flow. These culverts are being replaced with three 3' x 6' box culverts which will result in significant flow and water exchange increases.*





Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve (MANEER) at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute and TPWD to collect valuable preconstruction data, including pore-water salinity and vegetation monitoring. This data will be valuable in the evaluation of future projects. Once completed, monitoring will continue and will help determine the effectiveness of the culvert replacement and success of the restoration effort.

Successful projects are often successful because of a strong partnership base that works hand in hand. The Egery Flats project has several partners including: National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, Texas Parks & Wildlife, US Fish & Wildlife Services, Building Conservation Trust, Coastal Conservation Association Texas, Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve, University of Texas Marine Science Institute, and Texas Department of Transportation.

All of these partners have played and will continue to play a vital role through the completion and post monitoring effort of the project.

CCA Texas and BCT contributed \$70,000 to this project. These funds will be used to primarily plant approximately 8 acres of emergent marsh to help enhance the re-vegetation of the flats.

"Partnerships are a key and critical component in completing projects such as Egery Flats," commented Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT) committee chairman Jay Gardner. Gardner continued, "CCA Texas and HTFT are excited to see the outcome



*Volunteers from CBBEP, UTMSI and TPWD inventory species during the dewatering process before construction to replace culverts is begun.*

of this important project, and we look forward to continuing to work with Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program and other partners in the future."

Habitat restoration and creation is a vital component to insuring healthy and bountiful coastal resources for the future. CCA Texas and BCT are committed to continuing their support to projects along the Texas coast for generations to come. This support would never be possible without the continued success of the grass roots efforts of CCA Texas volunteers across the state and supporters within the communities in which CCA Texas chapters exist. CCA Texas and BCT are continuously seeking project and funding partners for habitat efforts. For more information about CCA Texas or BCT, please contact John Blaha at (713) 626-4222 or [jdblaha@ccatexas.org](mailto:jdblaha@ccatexas.org).



*Replacement of the first set of culverts was completed in December. The new culverts will allow greater water flow and exchange into the Egery Flats area.*





# Abandoned Crab Traps: A 16-Year CCA Coastal Tradition Continues

When Ronnie Luster began fishing out of Port O'Connor in 1961, the shallow waters of Shoalwater Bay in which he regularly wade-fished held an abundance of redfish and speckled trout and not a single crab trap. But by the 1980s, Texas bays had seen an explosion in the number of commercial crabbers, many of whom set as many as 300 or more traps.

Luster, an active member of the Coastal Conservation Association, got that organization involved, and dozens of CCA members volunteered to help wardens remove derelict traps from the waters around Port O'Connor on a winter weekend in 2002.

"We had close to 20 boats involved," Luster recalled. "We picked up 800 traps. A few weeks later, we did it again, and picked up another 750. There was not a single legal trap among them."

The program has proven to be a heartening success statewide, with Louisiana volunteers joining Texans in 2015.

"Now," said Chris Smisek, a long-time crab trap captain from Port O'Connor, "from Louisiana's Sabine Lake to Port Mansfield, hundreds of us are on the water, leaving it better than we found it."

More than 33,000 derelict traps have been taken out of the water, preventing the wasteful loss of as many as one million blue crabs, as well as untold numbers of fish and other marine life that would have fallen prey to "ghost" crab traps that continue killing after abandonment.

The program has continued each year since 2002, with the main volunteer effort traditionally set on the first Saturday of the 10-day closure. This year's closure of Texas bays to crab traps was set



for Feb. 16-25. The main volunteer effort to remove traps is Saturday, February 16. For locations of drop-off sites, see page 5.  
—Sam Caldwell



Top photo by Lisa Laskowski Photography. Other photos courtesy of CCA members.



# 2019 Crab Trap Drop-Off Site List

**SABINE LAKE** – Local TPWD coordinator Carey Gelpi (409) 983-1104 (ext. 222) Pleasure Island Marina Boat Ramp – Facilitated trap drop-off site

**GALVESTON BAY** – Local TPWD coordinator Glen Sutton (281) 534-0110 Jones Lake State Ramp (Fat Boys) Facilitated by CCA Texas – Facilitated and trap drop-off site Seabrook SH 146 Bridge Public Boat Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site Fort Anahuac County Park Boat Ramp – Facilitated by Galveston Bay Foundation and trap drop-off site Chocolate Bayou State Boat Ramp FM 2004 – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site TPWD Dickinson Marine Lab – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site Stingaree Restaurant and Marina (Bolivar) – Facilitated by Galveston Bay Foundation and others, and trap drop-off site

**MATAGORDA BAY** – Local TPWD coordinator Leslie Hartman (361) 972-6253 Mitchell Cut Boat (ICWW) Ramp at Sargent – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site Matagorda Harbor at Matagorda – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site Railroad Park at Palacios – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site

**SAN ANTONIO BAY** – Local TPWD coordinator Norman Boyd (361) 983-4425 Charlie's Bait Stand - Facilitated and trap drop-off site Port O'Connor TPWD Docks - Facilitated and trap drop-off site Austwell Public Boat Ramp – Facilitated by San Antonio Bay Foundation & trap drop-off site



**ARANSAS BAY** – Local TPWD coordinator Chris Mace (361) 729-5429 Goose Island State Park Boat Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site

**CORPUS CHRISTI BAY** – Local TPWD coordinator Tom Wagner (361) 729-2328 South Conn Brown Harbor Public Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site (Bigelow Street, Aransas Pass, TX 78336) Ransom Channel Public Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site (Ransom Drive, Aransas Pass, TX 78336)

**UPPER LAGUNA MADRE** – Local TPWD coordinator Holly Grand (361) 825-3993 Bluff's Landing Marina – Facilitated and trap drop-off site (4242 Laguna Shores Road, Corpus Christi, TX 78418) Kaufer-Heubert Memorial Boat Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site (FM 628 Exd Riviera, TX 78379)

**LOWER LAGUNA MADRE** – Local TPWD coordinator Jason Ferguson (956) 350-4490 Adolph Thomae County Park – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site Port Mansfield Navigation District Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site

*This year, the 10-day  
closure is from  
February 16 – February 25*



## *Callinectes sapidus* meaning *Beautiful Swimmer*

Omnivorous 10-legged crustaceans, related to shrimp, lobster and crayfish.

Blue crabs are bottom dwellers with stalked eyes, allowing them to see in every direction.

Gender can be determined by the shape of its underside apron. A male's apron is shaped like an inverted 'T'. An adult female's apron is broad and rounded, while an immature female's is more triangular. The red tips on the claws are also a good indicator of a female crab.

Females mate only once after their final molt but can spawn more than once, depending on the amount of sperm transferred during mating.

Crab larvae will undergo eight larval stages before they begin to look like crabs and won't become sexually mature until 12 to 18 months.

There are no bag limits on blue crabs, but there is a 5-inch minimum size limit (spine to spine) and it is illegal to keep sponge crabs (female crabs with eggs).

Recommended Reading: *Beautiful Swimmers: Watermen, Crabs and the Chesapeake Bay* By William Warner





# Advocacy

## **CCA Texas Opposes Discharge Permit for Desalination Plant Near Port Aransas**

*By Shane Bonnot*

The Port of Corpus Christi Authority of Nueces County proposes to permit and/or operate a desalination facility on Harbor Island with a discharge in the Corpus Christi Channel across from Port Aransas.

The location of the proposed discharge is within the Redfish Bay State Scientific Area (RBSSA), which per Texas Parks and Wildlife, contains the northernmost extensive stands of all five species of seagrass on the Texas coast.

The RBSSA is a component of both the Aransas and Corpus Christi ecosystems and has about 50 square miles of prime fishing habitat. It contains a unique and fragile environment of not only seagrass beds but also oyster reefs, marshes, and mangroves while providing a feeding habitat for shrimp, crabs, and gamefish, waterfowl, shorebirds and turtles.

The proposed discharge location is a major corridor for the annual migration of adult southern flounder and spawning grounds for large aggregates of sheephead.

It is also critical for the recruitment of red drum larvae and southern flounder juveniles during the most vulnerable stages of their life history.

CCA Texas understands the need to supply industries and municipalities in the Coastal Bend with a consistent supply of freshwater and that desalination will be considered moving forward. For any operation to be considered we offer the following recommendations:

- Use the latest technology to diffuse the effluent discharge into offshore waters to minimize the impacts to fragile ecosystems.
- Install intake piping below the seabed via directional drilling to prevent impingement of organisms on intake screens exposed to open water, and entrapment of other organisms carried with the feedwater through the intake screen.
- Conduct site-specific scientific studies of conditions at any proposed location to identify the risks the coastal ecosystem.


## **Comment Period for Coastal Texas Study Ends February 8**

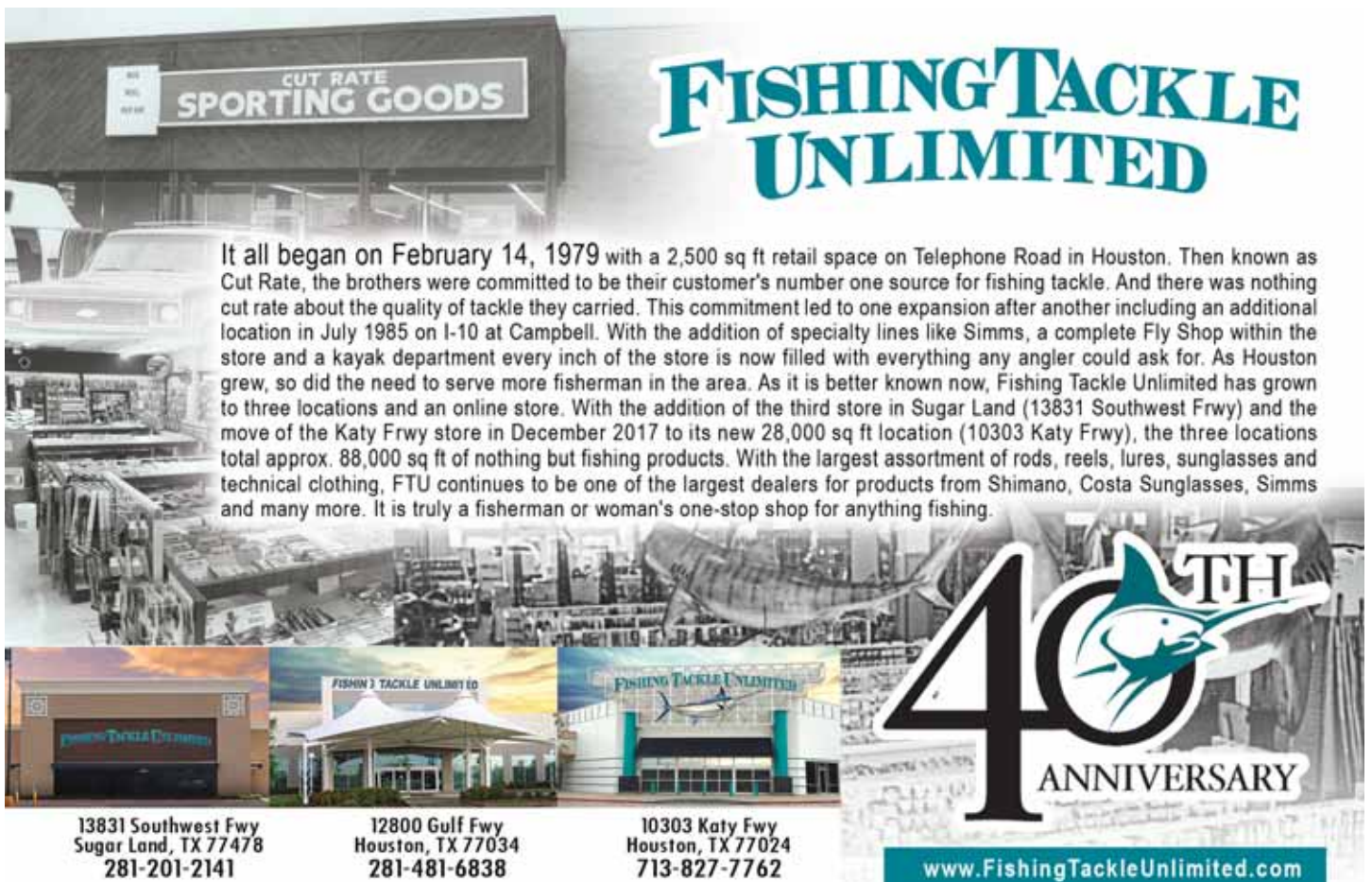
CCA Texas recently provided comments on the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study (Coastal Texas Study) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report Environmental Impact Statement (DIFR-EIS) to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

The conservation of and access to healthy fisheries in the Galveston Bay system is a concern of CCA. There is an overwhelming lack of detail in the Coastal Texas Study on environmental impacts, specific locations, design and magnitude of man-made and natural structures to be utilized in a Coastal Barrier along Galveston Bay.

At this time, given the lack of detail in the Coastal Texas Study, CCA Texas is opposed to the plans to construct gate system across Bolivar Roads without first completing environmental studies on potential impacts to the Galveston Bay system.

In the Study, the Corps itself admits that further studies are needed to determine the full environmental impacts. CCA Texas agrees with this notion and requests that before any further action is taken to implement any alternatives within the Coastal Texas Study, that environmental studies be completed to determine impacts to water levels, water velocity, salinities, sediment transport, shoreline erosion, seagrass, oysters, fish migrations, and larval recruitment of fish, shrimp and crabs.

A gate system across Bolivar Roads will fundamentally change the Galveston Bay system and have impacts far greater than those it is intended to reduce. In our comments, we recommend that the Corps fully determine the environmental impacts and then present them to the public for a supplemental 90-day comment period before moving forward to a design phase for the Coastal Barrier. 



**FISHING TACKLE UNLIMITED**

It all began on February 14, 1979 with a 2,500 sq ft retail space on Telephone Road in Houston. Then known as Cut Rate, the brothers were committed to be their customer's number one source for fishing tackle. And there was nothing cut rate about the quality of tackle they carried. This commitment led to one expansion after another including an additional location in July 1985 on I-10 at Campbell. With the addition of specialty lines like Simms, a complete Fly Shop within the store and a kayak department every inch of the store is now filled with everything any angler could ask for. As Houston grew, so did the need to serve more fisherman in the area. As it is better known now, Fishing Tackle Unlimited has grown to three locations and an online store. With the addition of the third store in Sugar Land (13831 Southwest Frwy) and the move of the Katy Frwy store in December 2017 to its new 28,000 sq ft location (10303 Katy Frwy), the three locations total approx. 88,000 sq ft of nothing but fishing products. With the largest assortment of rods, reels, lures, sunglasses and technical clothing, FTU continues to be one of the largest dealers for products from Shimano, Costa Sunglasses, Simms and many more. It is truly a fisherman or woman's one-stop shop for anything fishing.

**40TH ANNIVERSARY**

13831 Southwest Fwy  
Sugar Land, TX 77478  
281-201-2141

12800 Gulf Fwy  
Houston, TX 77034  
281-481-6838

10303 Katy Fwy  
Houston, TX 77024  
713-827-7762

[www.FishingTackleUnlimited.com](http://www.FishingTackleUnlimited.com)

# CCA Texas Social Happenings

Happy New Year! CCA is excited for the 2019 season with future habitat projects, banquets and who can forget all the upcoming Kid Fish events and the STAR Tournament. Plenty of opportunities to get out there and fish. 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 the Building Conservation Trust (CCA's National Habitat Program) and several other great organizations.

*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!*

**Facebook:** Attention Anglers! We need your help by doing 3 things. #1 Share this post. #2 Go to <https://cca-texas.org/take-action/> to give supportive online comment (or send an email to [gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org)). #3 Please attend one these meetings and give public comment supporting state management of red snapper. One-size-fits-all federal management of red snapper has proven to be functionally unworkable, with Gulf-wide recreational seasons decreasing to just three days prior to the implementation of the current exempted fishing permit that allows the states to assume management of the private recreational fishery for 2018-19. Simply put, Amendment 50 needs to pass to secure a recreational red snapper season beyond 2019 and we have been encouraged by the effort put forth in this amendment by the state fisheries directors to recognize and address the unique aspects of the recreational red snapper fishery in different regions of the Gulf.

**Twitter:** A huge shoutout to all of our @CCA\_Texas members and all others who made their voices heard in protecting recreational fishing. #ModernFishAct #LetAmericaFish



**Instagram:** @cca\_texas The installation of the first set of new culverts through FM 136 was recently completed in the Egery Flats Restoration Project. De-watering for the next phase, replacement of the second set of culverts, took place on December 11th.

This project, led by Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, is located on upper Copano Bay near the mouth of the Aransas River. Although seemingly productive to recreational use, the ecosystem of Egery Flats has suffered greatly since the construction of Farm to Market Road 136 in approximately 1941. Egery Flats has been fed water through two 30" round culverts in two sections underneath FM136. Overtime, water flow has been restricted even more, and more than 100 acres of estuarine marsh has been converted to open water since the 1950's. This project will replace the existing culverts with three 3' x 6' box culverts at each location. This project will restore hydrology and reduce salinity to enhance over 600 acres of emergent marsh, submerged aquatic vegetation, and tidal flats at Egery Flats.

Partners in this effort include: Project lead Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; Texas Parks and Wildlife; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Mission-Aransas Reserve; University of Texas Marine Science Institute; TxDOT; and Building Conservation Trust.

**Photo Credits:** Lisa Laskowski Photography



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**CCA Texas Blog:** [ccatexas.org/blog](https://ccatexas.org/blog)





## Upper Coast Capt. George Knighten

### *Patience, planning, catching!*

Go armed with knowledge of where you're going. Those great paper charts have given way to your in-hand GPS, which can solve basic problems like deep areas giving way to shallows. Here's a basic rule through February: Shallow areas get cold faster, while deep areas mean warm spots. Shallow areas will see bait moving as water warms faster. Trout don't venture far from their honey holes, so in a warm time frame, focus on those simple ideas.

Actually, February cold can be a good friend because you'll know that the gamefish like to move from that warm, deep mud to shallow sand when there's a warm snap. You'll go to the gamefish grocery store: deep areas next to shallow areas where sluggish fish can feed, then ease back to nearby, warm depths.

In the Galveston Bay system, inflow of fresh water determines where fish concentrate. The Trinity Bay region can get almost drinkably fresh after massive upstream rains, while West Bay will be least affected. Plan accordingly.

Through February, live bait will be hard to find, if you're a cast netter or live shrimp user. My solution is Bass Assassin paddletail lures, slow and low. Corkie type lures and Gulp can be an excellent stand-in for absent live bait. Again, slowwww. But hey, I've found it's never too cold to try topwaters. Slow of course, in transition areas, over a ledge, where deep water becomes a flat.

Here comes March in like a lion, but there will be more lamb-like, warm periods. Gamefish will begin spreading out of the depths for lunch, so watch your charts and GPS for transition zones, and be alert for large schools of reds in the upper end of Trinity Bay. Of course, on the water safety is foremost. Remember that important kill switch, layer up, take care of your crew, and be conservation conscious. CPR works to avoid freezer burn.

—Capt. George Knighten 832-310-9146

gtkphoto@yahoo.com

## Middle Coast Capt. Scott Salyer

### *Choose your spot according to the wind*

So many differing areas in the middle coast, and it'll be cold, so choose according to the wind.

While it may be more pleasant in the lee of an island, the redfish tend to be on the windward side. We'll have very "skinny" water the next two months, and probably more clear, and since you're working those Corkies and Paul Brown Fat Boys very slow early in the day, wading may be the best ticket for a trophy trout as well as a limit of reds. Then for the waist deep, mid-day bite, I favor Gulp, four-inch, dark with a chartreuse tail. Also, suspended baits like the Corkies, and I believe trout like BIG EYES on a bait.

Never underestimate a topwater attack.

May not be a lot of action, but when one of the big spotted girls crashes the party, it'll make your day. I like the Heddon Spooks, bone and purple, and it'll be hard to work them slow enough. I have learned it's better for survival of a CPR fish if you swap those treble hooks for a single hook. On that subject, I believe in the cradle approach to releasing fish, whether you're shooting pics or just admiring a lovely lady. Gentle is the motto.

In early March, count on more of the same, but you'll usually have more of the mild days to work with. Larger baits, in the mullet-looking family, until early April, when you'll begin the switch to crab and shrimp imitations. Remember safety on the water and while running. While wading, remember to shuffle along, because you have stingarees also looking for a meal. Go, but be safe, and think conservation always.

—Capt. Scott Salyer 832-401-8244

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www.redfishrunnerbayguidefishservice.com

## Lower Coast Capt. Rene Hinojosa

### *Deep and slow early, slow and shallow later.*

So far this year, no serious cold front has reared its ugly head. Your waders may be in the closet, but don't leave the dock without 'em. On those balmy days in February (if there are any), in the early AM, you'll look for shallow flats near dropoffs, and offer some topwaters in case the gamefish are sunbathing. I like Skitter Walks and Super Spooks, but slowwww.... That's also true of the depths where trout will be taking it easy. Light jigheads, moved slowly, and when you feel that slight tug, wait a bit then catch 'em up.

That's the boat drill. On light wind and sunny days, in those waders you brought along just in case, ease along shorelines hoping for some trophy redfish. Again, slow is the keyword. Might be a bit early for the old gold spoon trick but give 'em a shot before you go to the plastics. Fish want mullet this time of year, and your lure choice will be likewise.

Before you know it, here comes March, and you'll still be dealing with wind. But the larger gamefish should be exiting their almost-dormant phase and chasing down food fish. Best idea is to go south and fish behind wind-protected islands on the flats and watch for potholes. A good bet is drifting the IntraCoastal Waterway along sand bars near deep holes. Of course, you'll watch for bait concentrations.

In late March, you'll be looking for big trout, and they'll be interested in shrimp and shrimp-looking lures. Always, you'll be prepared with gear for the crew and a sharp eye for weather problems. Help a fellow fisherman if one needs it, and the same goes for your catch: send those big spotted ladies back for further duty. If you keep your camera ready for action, you may get one of those lifetime memories in full color for your wall, while the trophy goes back for further duty. Capt. Rene Hinojosa Jr. 956-966-0719 shallowcharters@gmail.com

A four-spot redfish, CPRed by this issue's featured photographer, Adam Gilvarry. Gilvarry gets up close and personal with his waterproof cameras.





# Caught Redhanded! Reports from TP&W Game Wardens

## *A case from Jefferson County wardens*

*The following is a strange case but shows you what is going on, and may be just the tip of the iceberg. No wonder flounder are in trouble. The flounder and whelks were obviously caught by a shrimp boat and the two oversized reds probably by hook and line. TP&W wardens think they were probably going to a restaurant, as the pickup truck was also hauling a lot of fresh shrimp. —Ronnie Luster*

On November 10, 2018 two Jefferson County Game Wardens were patrolling near Port Author Texas. While driving on a highway they noticed what appeared to be sacks of shrimp in the bed of a truck.

The wardens observed a traffic violation and stopped the truck they believed to be transporting commercial fish without the required markings. Upon inspection of the truck the wardens discovered more than shrimp.

The wardens found 105 flounder of which 59 were undersized. They also discovered two oversized redfish without tags and 19 lightning whelks.

The two occupants of the truck claimed that this load of seafood was given to them by a friend. Cases are pending.



*Texas Game Wardens, Serving Texans since 1895*



*Law Enforcement Off the Pavement*

## CCA Lost an Auctioneering Legend

CCA Texas is sad to share the loss of a dear friend and champion of marine conservation, Ed Phillips. Ed passed away after a short illness on December 8, 2018. Ed's distinct voice and auction call, quick wit, and ability to remember the names of auction participants through the years, was a driving force for the success of the many CCA Texas auctions he sold for more than 30 years. Ed was instrumental in raising millions of dollars through the years for marine conservation in Texas at virtually every CCA Texas banquet. Ed was more than an auctioneer. To many of us he was a friend with a friendly and encouraging voice, and he was a part of the CCA Texas family. CCA Texas staff and volunteer banquet committees will miss Ed dearly, but take comfort in knowing his love for the organization, and the team that he assembled around him will help carry CCA Texas live auctions for years to come.

CCA Texas offers our deepest condolences and prayers to the Phillips family at this time and in the coming months —John D. Blaha



*Photo by Sam Caldwell ~9~*



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On the cover: Photo courtesy of Lisa Laskowski Photography

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We hope your New Year is off to a good start! Chapter planning is already in full swing for 2019. We have put together our Pre-Banquet schedule for our "Anglers' Night Out" events. They will be: Tuesday, March 5th, Tuesday, April 2nd, Tuesday, May 7th, and Tuesday, June 4th.

We meet at 7:00 PM at Spring Creek BBQ in Pearland. Come early if you plan

# Chapter Updates

to eat before the meeting starts. We are still working on scheduling our speakers as this is written, but stay tuned, we have some great folks in the line-up.

Our tentative date for the 2019 Fundraising Banquet will be in June, but we are still waiting on confirmations to set the final date. We will firm up all the details in the next CURRENTS update.

This is also the time of year we invite chapter members to consider joining our board. If you think you may have an interest in getting more involved with CCA and your local chapter, shoot us an email at [AlvinPearlandCCA@yahoo.com](mailto:AlvinPearlandCCA@yahoo.com) to get the details. We work pretty hard putting our events together, but we always have a good time in the process!

The best way to stay up to date with our latest Chapter Events is to follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/alvinpearland.cca](https://www.facebook.com/alvinpearland.cca) or go to our chapter webpage at [ccatexas.org/Alvin-pearland](http://ccatexas.org/Alvin-pearland). We hope to see you at one of our chapter events this year! Don't forget to invite a friend to join you!

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

Hope you're all gearing up and are as excited as we are about registration opening

in January for the Twentieth Anniversary Babes on the Bay! **The dates for Babes on the Bay XX are May 17-18, 2019.** Registration should be up and running in early January at [www.babesonthebay.com](http://www.babesonthebay.com)! Vendors will register online as well. Aransas Bay CCA Chapter would like to thank you all again for your support of last year's tournament, and the record-breaking annual Aransas Bay Chapter fundraising/membership banquet after Hurricane Harvey. The Community of Rockport/Fulton has come together and is stronger than ever! We can't wait to have you back!

Have you picked your teammates? Team Name? Shirt Design? Guide? We are happy to announce that The Reserve at St. Charles Bay has joined our list of amazing sponsors! Not only are we excited about all of our awesome sponsors this year, but we have two new winner categories in 2019! We are bringing back "Redfish With the Most Spots" and a new category for "Best Team Shirts." You don't want to miss the fun in 2019, live music, swag bags are ordered and we're excited about seafoam this year!

Don't forget to follow us on our Instagram@babesonbay and our Facebook page for updates! If you have any questions please feel free to call Jen at (361)205-0182 any time, or you can e-mail [ccababes@gmail.com](mailto:ccababes@gmail.com). Happy New Year to you all!

**Austin**  
**Josh Cook 512-656-2964**  
**[josh@ccretx.com](mailto:josh@ccretx.com)**

Fellow CCA Members – your wait is nearly over! The 2019 Austin Banquet is just around the corner. **Mark your calendar, purchase your table, and plan to rally for your organization on May 9th.** It was through your support that the Austin Chapter was able to break the \$1M revenue mark again in 2018,

*Shallow Sport has done us proud once again. Austin's banquet raffle boat – a 22-foot SCB Stingray – is equipped with a 300HP Evinrude G2 E-TEC motor! She has many extras and sits atop a custom double-axle aluminum trailer!*





and we plan to make things bigger and better than ever for CCA Austin's 40th Anniversary Banquet!

There will be top-notch food, drinks for all and quality entertainment 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 of that on the agenda, the evening will prove to be exciting. Go to [ccatexas.org/Austin](http://ccatexas.org/Austin) 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 [ccatexas.org/Austin](http://ccatexas.org/Austin). 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. **This year's boat is an SCB S22 with an Evinrude G2 300hp engine!** She has many extras and sits atop a custom double-axle aluminum trailer! Go to [ccatexas.org/Austin](http://ccatexas.org/Austin) to buy a ticket, and she may be yours

on May 9th! **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 and spread the word. See you on May 9th!

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

**Brazoria County**  
**Dan Johnson**  
979-481-3907  
[djohnson@sparklingclear.com](mailto:djohnson@sparklingclear.com)

**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)

**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)



The Colorado Valley Fry for A.J. Zimmerhanel with Maxwell, Locke, and Ritter LLP.

**Central Houston**  
**Todd Buster** 713-545-189  
[tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com](mailto:tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com)

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

Greetings from the Colorado Valley! We hope you are spending some quality time in the deer blind as well as getting some excellent fishing time in with the cooler water temperatures we have now. We all know how great that fresh venison sausage tastes while spending those days out on the water.

## CCA & Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine Team Up!

CCA Members Only - 1/2 Price Subscription



Regular 12 issues \$25.00 - CCA Member Price only \$12.50  
Call and mention CCA Promotion when ordering.  
Or go online [www.tsfmag.com](http://www.tsfmag.com) and use code CCA1X.



Discount applies to new orders as well as adding 1 year (12 issues) to an existing account.





*The Colorado Valley Fry for Cecil Delgado with Masonry Works.*

Our board is busy preparing for this year's banquet which will be held on March 28, 2019 in La Grange at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Please get those table and raffle tickets early because we are expecting a very large turnout this year. Please contact any of our board members for the tickets. Also, our board had a great time putting on two fish fries we held recently. Luckily the rain held off for our events and they were enjoyed by all. Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all!

**Corpus Christi  
Clifford Johnstone**  
361-816-7338

[cjohnstone@higginbotham.net](mailto:cjohnstone@higginbotham.net)  
Happy New Year from South Texas.  
I hope everyone had a great holiday sea-

son and are ready for 2019. Our chapter is off to a fast start with one of the year's earliest CCA banquets on February 21st at 5:30pm. Our 41st Annual Fundraising Banquet will be at the American Bank Center. Our banquet chair, Valerie Chilton, has been very busy organizing our team and we thank all of our board members and volunteers for their efforts. Our expectation is that our banquet will be sold out as it has been in the last 8 years. Saltwater Grill will be our food caterer with multiple buffet stations and House of Rock, our beverage caterer, will be serving adult beverages and other drinks.

We truly appreciate the sponsorship support from all of our donors throughout the years. Our banquet would not be possible without such help. A special thanks goes out to our Gold and Silver Level Sponsors. Our Gold Sponsors are Andrews Distributing, L&F Distributing, Flint Hills Resources,

Academy Sports + Outdoors and AutoNation Chevrolet South Corpus Christi. Our Silver Sponsors are Premier Yamaha/Majek Boats and Corpus Christi Cycle Plaza and Boat Stop.

**Our Bull Red Raffle, sponsored by Andrews Distributing, features a 2019 Majek 22.6 Illusion M2 with a 150 HP Yamaha four stroke and Coastline trailer.** The boat tickets are \$50 and only 1,500 are available for purchase. Boat tickets may be purchased at Premier Yamaha Boating Center on SPID, by calling Courtney at 361-882-5199 or at the banquet. **You do not need to be present to win!**

**Our Sow Trout Raffle, sponsored by L&F Distributing, features 2018 Mahindra ROXOR with a 14-ft tandem axle utility trailer.** The ROXOR tickets are \$20 and only 1,500 are available for purchase. You may purchase your tickets by calling Courtney at 361-882-5199 or during the banquet. **You do not need to be present to win!**

If you want to be involved with our banquet committee, we are having weekly meetings until February 21st and we invite you to join us. For more information, call Cliff Johnstone at 361-816-7338. We hope to see you at our annual Banquet on February 21st.

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

On January 10th the Dallas Chapter hosted its first general membership meeting of the year at Tailwaters Fly Shop. Quentin Hall, Research Specialist for the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation was the guest speaker. Mr. Hall informed everyone on the status of Cedar Bayou and discussed the importance of the cooperation between CCA and CSSC. **Please mark your calendars as our next general membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 28th at Mariner Sails. This will be our last**

*The Corpus Christi Bull Red Raffle, sponsored by Andrews Distributing, features a 2019 Majek 22.6 Illusion M2 with a 150 HP Yamaha four stroke and Coastline trailer.*





**meeting before our 38th Annual Banquet set to take place on April 18th at 6500 Cedar Springs in Dallas.**

The 2018 banquet was a record setting year for us and we look forward to keeping the momentum in 2019. If you haven't purchased your ticket or table, you can do so by going to the Dallas page on the CCA Texas website or contacting me directly at [matthew.scherer@ryan.com](mailto:matthew.scherer@ryan.com). This year we are having a Special Early Bird raffle for table buyers that make their purchase by March 1st. As for the prize of this raffle, let's just say that the Beretta Gallery and Dallas CCA continue to work together. Please visit us on Facebook or Instagram. #CCADallas

**East Texas**  
**Dr. James Norman 936-554-3165**  
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**Fort Bend**  
**Donnie Powers 281-850-9023**  
[dpowers11450@gmail.com](mailto:dpowers11450@gmail.com)

**Fort Worth**  
**Brad Wallace 817-988-8926**  
[brad@northtexasmarine.com](mailto:brad@northtexasmarine.com)  
Happy New Year to our readers and fellow members. Your chapter board is ending the slower time of year for events, but things will be picking up as we begin to plan our Spring event (the crawfish boil last year was a massive hit with over 400 pounds of crawfish consumed) and **the Annual Banquet at Joe T Garcia's on May 2nd.**

Be on the lookout in your emails for updates on both events as we get closer to

those dates. In the meantime, don't hesitate to reach out to any one of us if you are interested in getting involved, would like to participate as a sponsor or have pictures you would like to share of your fishing adventures! We are here for you and thankful for your support! Tight lines. – John Black

**Galveston**  
**Dr. Ken Ellis 713-962-7731**  
[drkenellis@aol.com](mailto:drkenellis@aol.com)

**Golden Triangle**  
**Kevin Picard 409-658-5246**  
[kevinjpicaard@yahoo.com](mailto:kevinjpicaard@yahoo.com)

**Greater Sugar Land**  
**Robert Bailey 713-819-5534**  
[rbailey@robertbaileypc.com](mailto:rbailey@robertbaileypc.com)  
We enjoyed getting together at our December general meeting, which was well attended. Phil Ortiz shared many flounder fishing tips and was informative as usual. Phil also has a new line of lures that he's designed based on his many years of flounder fishing: [www.icjigs.com](http://www.icjigs.com). Our next events are:

**Feb. 6: General Meeting, Otto's BBQ in Stafford**  
**February 9: (tentative) Crab Trap Pickup, in conjunction with Parks & Wildlife**  
**March 21: Chapter Banquet -- Stafford Centre**  
**June 8 & 9: InterChapter Challenge**  
**Various Dates TBD: Kid's Fish Events**

That's it for now, but in the meantime, we at the Greater Sugar Land Chapter all hope that you had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Greater Woodlands**  
**Charlotte O'Dell 832-368-8263**  
[choctawcharlie69@gmail.com](mailto:choctawcharlie69@gmail.com)  
Happy New Year Everybody! Our annual fundraising Banquet date has been set for May 16, 2019. Please check our CCA website for events and updates. We have several new board members this year, with new ideas to bring to our chapter. Don't forget to join us on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/CCAGreaterWoodlands](https://www.facebook.com/CCAGreaterWoodlands). Tight lines and get ready for some tan lines!

**Guadalupe Valley**  
**Campbell Weber 361-243-8942**  
[cww\\_05@hotmail.com](mailto:cww_05@hotmail.com)

**Hays County**  
**Tim Young 512-573-7939**  
[tim.haysco@gmail.com](mailto:tim.haysco@gmail.com)  
We hope everyone had a great Holiday Season and wish to start off 2019 by thanking all our 2018 sponsors, donors, and volunteers.

Our board meets the second Tuesday of every month and we are always looking for new volunteers and sponsors. We are currently planning our 2019 general membership and banquet appreciation events. We'll post more information here and on our Facebook page [facebook.com/ccahayscounty](https://facebook.com/ccahayscounty) as details are finalized. If you are interested in joining our board or learning more about our chapter, please send us a message or reach out to one of our board members. Happy Fishing!

*The Corpus Christi Sow Trout Raffle, sponsored by L&F Distributing, features 2018 Mahindra ROXOR with a 14-ft tandem axle utility trailer.*





# HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

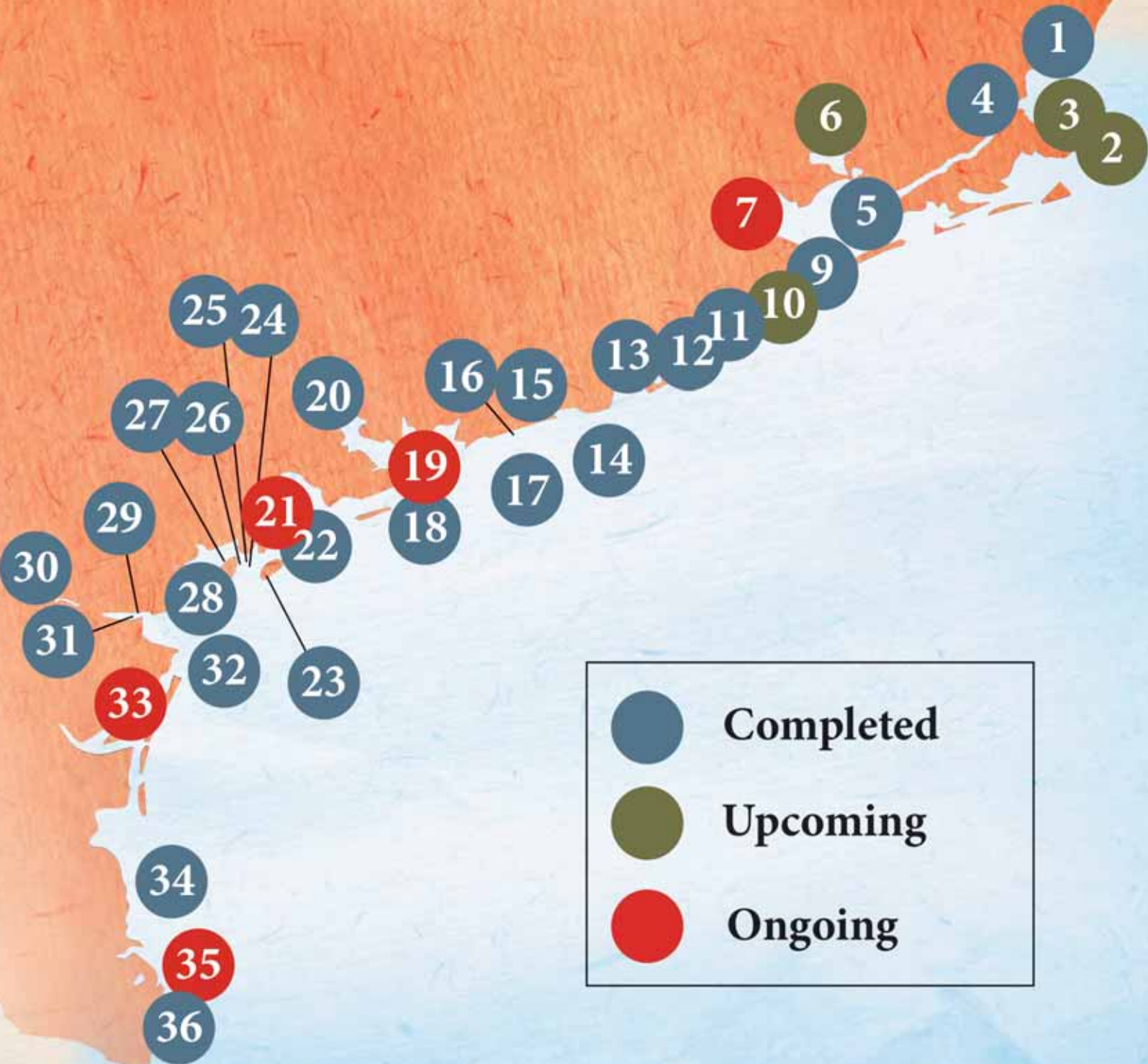
1. Sabine Lake Deep Reef Oyster Restoration
2. Sabine HI20 Nearshore Reef
3. Sabine Lake Oyster Reef Expansion
4. J.D. Murphree Breakwater
5. East Galveston Bay Oyster Reef Restoration
6. Trinity Bay Discovery Center Living Shoreline
7. Dickinson Bayou Marsh Restoration
8. Moses Lake Shoreline Restoration
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



# A Natural Partnership



*Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow*





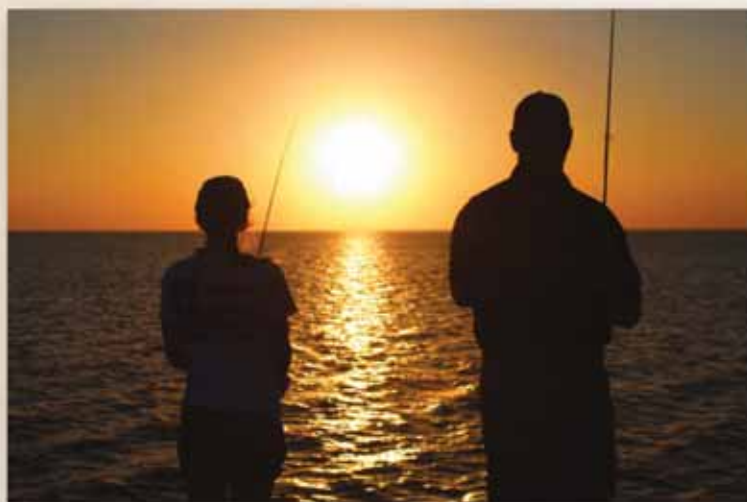
## THE TEXAS GULF COAST INITIATIVE



### 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  
CONSERVATION  
TRUST 

*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](mailto:jdblaha@ccatexas.org) • (713) 626-4222**



**Heart of the Hills**  
Kelly Parks 210-669-3732  
bucksdelucks@yahoo.com

**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  
jreid@newmarkhomes.com

**Houston Real Estate**  
Dale Couch 281-953-2510  
dcouch@txlmortgage.com

Our Annual Fundraising Banquet will be held Tuesday, February 5, 2019. We had a successful 2018 and are looking forward to 2019. Best wishes to all.

**Katy**  
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gman091753@aol.com

**Laredo**  
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**Live Oak**  
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**Lower Laguna Madre**  
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**Mainland**  
Eric Minor 409-370-7379  
eric.minor@anico.com

**Matagorda Bays**  
Chad Hensley 979-543-2734  
Chadwayne73@yahoo.com

**Mid Coast**  
Wade Harrell 361-935-1125  
wcharrell@hotmail.com

Happy New Year from the Mid Coast Chapter! The recent cold weather has the big fish biting and we are excited about what 2019 holds for our chapter. Our last big event of 2018 was our annual Guides



MidCoast's 2019 Sea-doo Fish Pro is this Mid-Coast event's top prize. If you haven't seen these yet, you should take a look at one of the most exciting personal fishing rigs to be introduced in a long time! Our second prize raffle item will be a Club Cadet golf cart. A big thanks to our raffle sponsor Atzenhoffer's Velocity Powersports LLC in Victoria.





Cup Tournament on October 5th and everyone said it was our best yet.

Thanks to Danny Goyen for once again organizing this successful fundraiser for CCA! The winning team was Eh-Boy, guided by Captain Dwayne Lowery with a total weight of 19.84 lbs. Eh-Boy team included Rodney Lowery, Jody Norris, Jim Franklin and Craig Williams. Second Place team was Waterloo Rods, guided by Captain Kolby Peyton, third place team was Lester Contracting, guided by Captain Kirk Morgan. Kelly Parks had the big red (7.06 lbs) and Jim Franklin had the big trout (4.5 lbs).

Our chapter will again be partnering with the San Antonio Bay Partnership to assist with the February Abandoned Crab Trap Cleanup in Aransas, San Antonio and Matagorda Bays. **The big event will be Saturday, February 16 with an after party that evening at Hooper's in Port O'Connor.** We will be working throughout the state crabbing closure period to clean up our bays. If you want to bring your boat and participate, Allan Berger has laid out cleanup routes to follow. You can contact Allan at 713-829-2852 for more information.

We are gearing up for our 2019 Banquet the evening of Friday, May 3 at the **Victoria Community Center**. This year we are doing something a bit different for our raffle, with a brand new for 2019 Sea-doo Fish Pro (<https://www.sea-doo.com/watercraft/sport-fishing/fish-pro.html>) as our top prize. If you haven't seen these yet, you should take

a look at one of the most exciting personal fishing rigs to be introduced in a long time! Our second prize raffle item will be a Club Cadet golf cart. We will also have a number of smaller prizes available via the raffle.

A big thanks to our raffle sponsor Atzenhoffer's Velocity Powersports LLC in Victoria. If you would like to purchase raffle tickets, please contact Mike Brawner, our raffle chair, at 281-787-1671. Several banquet table sponsorships have already been sold. We have numerous advertising sponsorship packages available in addition to table sponsors. If you are interested in more information or would like to purchase a table, please contact Tylar Walyuchow at 361-541-9011.

For the latest chapter updates and information on upcoming meetings, etc., please check our website (<https://ccatexas.org/mid-coast/>) and our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ccamidcoast/>). We hope to see you out on the bay, at a chapter event or at a banquet soon!

**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)

**Our February General Membership Meeting will be held on the 5th as usual at Houston Distributing on Cutten Rd.** We will have **Michael Bosse**, owner of Down South Lures. So please come and join us at 7 PM Tuesday February 5th.

Coming up is our **Annual Member Appreciation Fish Fry with all the fixin's, so bring your appetites on April 2nd, also at Houston Distributing.** Our speaker will be Joe Moughan (Chicken Boy) with Chicken Boy Lures.

Our sincere thanks to both Houston Distributing and Academy Sport + Outdoors. They are active sponsors of our meetings and many events. We are especially fortunate to have such great support. See you at the next meeting!

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

As we enter the 2019-year, good things are in the future. **Meetings will be on the 1st Monday of each month at the Domino's Pizza located in Orange on MacArthur Dr.**

**We have a date of August 8th for our 11th Annual Fundraising Banquet.** Keep a lookout through the year for important dates on any other events we will schedule. If you are interested in being part of our committee in planning these events, all you have to do is show up at any meeting. We look forward to meeting new members.



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**Port Lavaca**  
**Eric Ellison 361-983-4690**  
[fishingsalt@yahoo.com](mailto:fishingsalt@yahoo.com)

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

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

**Happy New Year to everybody! We hope you all had a great holiday.** We will start out this year with the Annual Appreciation Chili Dinner that will be on Thursday, February 7th 5:30 at the Cat Spring Hall. The dinner will be catered by Hinzes BBQ Sealy. There will be a speaker for the evening along with a \$1 raffle of items from CCA Texas and Sponsors. Tickets will be available, and it will be a great night of fun and good fellowship.

**We are working on the chapter's 22nd CCA annual fundraiser Banquet to be held on Thursday April 4th in the Cat Spring Hall starting at 5:30pm.** We are planning on a sellout crowd so purchase your tickets as soon as possible and if you are interested in purchasing a corporate table contact Patricia at 979-877-5598 or e-mail [manager@wpprint.com](mailto:manager@wpprint.com). Call as soon as possible we only have a limited number of tables for purchase. This year's banquet will be even better than past. Our dinner will be catered by Mikeska BBQ, which will include prime rib, boiled shrimp and more. The evening will be full of games, a silent auction, \$5 bucket raffle and a live auction with some outstanding items, trips, prints and more.

We are working on our annual Kid Fish that will be at the Walters Lake in Cat

Spring sometime in August, date and time will be announced later in the year. Have a great year of fun and fishing.

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

Your Redfish Bay Chapter Board is looking forward to working with our members to support conservation in the state of Texas again this year! Together, we had a great 2018, and we did our part in helping CCA Texas surpass its fundraising goals. We want our coastal and nearshore waters to be as healthy as possible. When you are a member and attend CCA events, you are doing your part to help in the success of CCA Texas conservation efforts.

**Mark your calendar! We start the year with our annual banquet on April 6, 2019 at the Port Aransas Civic Center.** As always it will be a family event with a sit-down meal, beer, wine and soft drinks. Our special treat is coconut shrimp in the raffle/auction area before dinner! We always work hard to have items of interest for everyone, and our local donors and sponsors are gracious enough to donate and sponsor artwork, jewelry, home decorations and other items that complement our fishing and camping equipment. Join us for an evening of family fun.

**The annual Take-a-Kid-Fishing event will be on May 31/June 1.** This is a great event for young anglers! The registration is the evening of the 31st. The charge is \$10 for a CCA youth membership that includes STAR. Each fisherperson receives a rod and reel, and there is a shrimp boil after registration. Fishing is Saturday, June 1st, until noon, when fish are weighed and measured. Trophies are given to each angler! Hot dogs are served during weigh-in.

**Our Beeville Fish Fry will be the Thursday before dove season starts.** A fun event!

More information to follow later in the year.

**Rio Grande Valley**  
**Boone Stutz 210-906-7676**  
[riograndevalley@gmail.com](mailto:riograndevalley@gmail.com)

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

Greetings! Happy belated Christmas and New Year! We missed our December deadline, so this was our first chance to say hello!

**SAVE THE DATE! Thursday, March 7, 2019, Sabine Neches Banquet.** Join us for a great night of fundraising for conservation; enjoy great stories, cold drinks, and hot crawfish!

Keep an eye on the mailbox or computer, reminders are being sent, not to jinx our new Banquet Chairs but we have sold this banquet out for the last 5 years!!! Matt Byars and Justin Hawkins are the 2019 Banquet Chairs and have assured us this will be the best banquet yet!

If you want to be a part of the action send me an email, [darin@jorgensenmarine.com](mailto:darin@jorgensenmarine.com). Stay tuned for more details! Here's to tight lines and good weather!

**Sam Houston**  
**Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908**  
[bkolaja@huntsvilletx.gov](mailto:bkolaja@huntsvilletx.gov)

I write this in anxious anticipation for warmer weather and sunny skies. Hopefully your early Spring has been filled with big winter trout or big game fishing adventures in warmer climates. Please follow us on Facebook @CCASAM-HOUSTON for chapter updates and **Save**



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the Date for our annual banquet September 5, 2019. – Chuck Godwin

**San Antonio**  
**Rick Neitzel 210-771-7807**  
**[tasicorneitzel@aol.com](mailto:tasicorneitzel@aol.com)**

Happy New Year! It's time to mark your calendar for our 6th annual "Hooked on Clays" sporting clays shoot on March 22, 2019, at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio. Registration starts at 11:30 AM. The shoot will start at 1:00 PM – Food and beverages to follow, along with a raffle, door prizes and awards. For information on this event please contact Tricia Kocurek at [hookedonclays@gmail.com](mailto:hookedonclays@gmail.com).

Order your tables and tickets now for our 40th Annual Banquet on May 2, 2019, which again will be held at the AT&T Expo Halls. You can order your tables and tickets now by going to the CCA Texas website or by contacting Joe Eaton at [jeaton@eatoncontracting.com](mailto:jeaton@eatoncontracting.com). If you would like to join our banquet committee, we meet at the Barn Door Restaurant on Tuesday nights starting at 6:00 PM. This year's meeting dates are as follows: Feb. 5 & 26 – March 5, 12, 19 & 26 – April 2, 9, 16 & 23. For more information please contact Robert Lozano, our Banquet Chairman, at [robertolozano129@yahoo.com](mailto:robertolozano129@yahoo.com).

Our next San Antonio Chapter "Night Out" will be on March 7th at the Barn Door Restaurant at 6:00 PM. Leslie Hartman, Matagorda Bay Ecosystem Leader from TPWD, will be one of our speakers for the evening. The other will be a well-known fishing guide. We will again be raffling off a guided fishing trip, along with having numerous door prizes. Please bring a friend and join us. Finally, remember to Wet-A-Line with your family and friends!

**San Bernard**  
**Ross Kutach 281-330-0135**  
**[rosskutach@yahoo.com](mailto:rosskutach@yahoo.com)**

The San Bernard Chapter will host the 2019 Annual Fundraising Banquet in East Bernard at Riverside Hall on February 28. Raffle tickets are available and top prizes include a Polaris Ranger and Custom Golf Cart. Give us a call to secure your raffle tickets, and it's never too early to reserve your table for the banquet. Please see your local chapter member for table pricing and sponsorship opportunities. If you haven't made it out to see our banquet, it is a great one to start the year with. We look forward to having you. Be safe on the water and leave it better than you found it.

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, the number is at the top. Hope to see everyone on the water and make sure to like us on Facebook and share your pictures and fishing experiences with us. Tight lines and safe travels.

**San Gabriel**  
**John Melnar 512- 497-8284**  
**[jmelnar@plateaulandgroup.com](mailto:jmelnar@plateaulandgroup.com)**

**Southwestern**  
**Veronica Oliver 830-765-6228**  
**[ronnimoliver@gmail.com](mailto:ronnimoliver@gmail.com)**

**TAMU**  
**Rudy Mueller 832-349-1055**  
**[tamuca@gmail.com](mailto:tamuca@gmail.com)**

**Texas State University**  
**Travis James 832-909-5833**  
**[travisj0915@gmail.com](mailto:travisj0915@gmail.com)**

**Tomball/Magnolia**  
**Matt Maddox 832-963-5215**  
**[matt@cribbsconcrete.com](mailto:matt@cribbsconcrete.com)**

**Tri-County**  
**Justin Putz 210-585-0401**  
**[putz.stx@gmail.com](mailto:putz.stx@gmail.com)**

**Trinity Bay**  
**Gerald Payne 281-728-6278**  
**[rockin\\_g\\_payne@yahoo.com](mailto:rockin_g_payne@yahoo.com)**

The Trinity Bay Chapter held the first meeting of the new year in January. It was great to see all the members, sharing stories about their holidays including pictures of fat winter trout and wildlife around the feeder.

The first order of business included the election of a 2019 Board. The chapter is very excited about the upcoming year as several new members were added in 2018 and we anticipate more in the coming year.

**The Annual August Banquet will take place in Baytown, Texas with more information to come.**

Lastly, the Trinity Bay Chapter would like to express our condolences to the family of our longtime friend and Auctioneer, Ed Philips. Ed served more than two decades as our Auctioneer and his presence will be greatly missed.

**The Trinity Bay Chapter meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm.** If you would like further details on becoming a member or sponsor please contact us, we'd be glad to hear from you.

*A few abandoned crab traps that will no longer foul your lower unit nor continue "ghost trap killing" in Sabine Lake.*

**Trinity Valley**  
**John Hebert Jr 936-334-2528**  
**[jhebert@imsday.com](mailto:jhebert@imsday.com)**

We hope that everyone had a great time during the holidays and got in lots of fishing. **We are looking forward to hosting our 7th Annual CCA Banquet on February 21st. It will be held at the Dayton Community Center at 6:00 PM.** We'd love to have you join us! The Cajun Country Cookers will be serving a boiled shrimp and sausage meal. There will also be drinks, an auction and tons of fun. For more information or tickets, please contact our chapter president, John Hebert at 936-334-2528. We look forward to seeing you! – Jennifer Creel

**West Houston**  
**Ruben Delgadillo**  
**281-808-1434**  
**[ruben@liftpull.com](mailto:ruben@liftpull.com)**

**West Texas**  
**Craig McDonnold**  
**432-682-3499**  
**[Craig@McDonnold.net](mailto:Craig@McDonnold.net)**







## 30th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo

While your current thoughts may still be focused on catching that trophy trout of your life, STAR is gearing up for our 30th year of changing lives! Thanks to you and our incredible sponsors, we have been able to award millions of dollars in life-changing scholarships. Every participant of STAR should relish all that they have supported for Texas youth. One of our favorite things to do is look back at the stories from previous year's winners' catches. Let's take a look at the story from a very special young lady, Audrie Lozano, the 2018 STARteen Lower Coast Trout winner, sponsored by **Academy Sports + Outdoors**:

*My name is Audrie Lozano, I reside in La Feria, Texas. On June 13, my dad handed me wading boots and we started out through slippery mud. Once we got to a good spot, we set up and began casting. After casting a good while, I thought I had seaweed on my line—but there was a big trout at the end!*

*I am grateful for the opportunity the CCA STAR Tour-*



STARteen Lower Coast trout winner Audrie Lozano and Charlotte Harris from Academy Sports + Outdoors

*nement has given me. I plan to finish my bachelor's degree in bio-medical science at the University of Texas Rio Grande. Then, transfer to Texas A&M to pursue a degree in the medical field and specialize in cardiology. This opportunity will help me achieve my career goals."*

Who knows, Audrie could one day be the cardiologist that saves your life, because you helped provide her with a STAR scholarship that allowed her to chase her dreams. 2019 is shaping up to be another great year at STAR and up and down the coast. Barring a big freeze, the Texas coast should be an incredible year for fishing. There is no better time than now to round up the family, get entered into STAR, and make memories that will last forever. Like others, you may even catch that prize of a lifetime. Take it from Robby Martin, father of this year's STARKids Flounder winner, Cannon Martin:



*My nephews Austin and Kaden were in town, and Austin wanted me to take him fishing in Sabine Lake. He had never caught a flounder and was dying to catch one. When we arrived at a spot I have been fishing all my life, we fished with chartreuse and pink gulp swimming mullet. Austin was excited to have finally caught his first flounder, but it was definitely my son Cannon's day. He set the hook on his 4th floun-*

*All three of us began celebrating, high fiving, and staring at the beast in awe.*








Sam Tucker from MustangCAT, STARKids Flounder Winner Cannon Martin, father Robby Martin.

der and yelled "I got another one dad!" I picked up the net and got in position when a giant flounder broke the surface and shook her head violently. I knew the "doormat" was big at 6 lb 3 oz, and it was good enough for a commanding lead over the current leading fish, and a college winner in the Startkids flounder Division!

After twenty-nine years of STAR, we have been blessed to be able to award Texas youth \$6.5 million in college scholarships from all over Texas, with angling abilities of all levels. As often mentioned, the credit for all of the lives

changed through STAR scholarships rests solely in the hands of our great sponsors. Without the support of these sponsors year in and year out, this great event that 50,000 Texas anglers enjoy would not be possible. We only ask that you reward our great partners for showing they care about what you care about! To learn more about the tournament (rules, prizes, entry, etc.) or our sponsors, simply head on over to [www.startournament.org](http://www.startournament.org). What could be a better gift to someone than the chance to win part of over \$1 million in prizes and scholarships? Sign up now!

## \$6.5 million in college scholarships to youth from all over Texas

We also have a special treat for this years' 30th CCA Texas STAR Anniversary. We are featuring a brand-new STAR Platinum artist this year, the rising star, Anastasia Musick. If you are not familiar with her work yet, you soon will be. Anastasia's unique and vibrant style has been taking the wildlife art scene by storm. We are honored to be able to work with such a talented artist with such a unique story and bring you one of our favorite STAR Platinum Membership prints. This is a private commission by STAR and only available to STAR members, this artwork "brings it home" to Texas outdoorsmen and women with her iconic style. You can check out this years' print, Texas Red, here or online at [www.startournament.org](http://www.startournament.org). 



PLATINUM  
PRINT 2019  
"Texas Red"  
BY ANASTASIA MUSICK



"Texas Red"  
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CCA Membership and STAR registration included with the purchase of this limited-edition signed print!

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# Great Photos 2019

**Categories: Best In Show  
Action / Scenic / Humor  
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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 7 for connections to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Every entry there will also be an entry in the *CURRENTS* Great Photos Competition. Great Photos submitted will 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



*Above and lower left: Adam Gilvarry specializes in closeup, hands-on, wide angle photography, with the focus on CPR of fly-fooled redfish.*



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Recipe Editor Liz Hewitt

# BELLA SAUCE / GRILLED FISH MAGNIFIQUE

## The Bella Sauce

2 Red Bell Peppers / 2 tsp Garlic Powder  
2 tsp Italian Seasoning / 32 oz Heavy Whipping Cream / 2 tbs Sherry Cooking Wine Olive Oil / Salt to taste

Coat bell peppers with olive oil and salt. Char peppers over open flame or in a 400 oven. Blacken/char on all sides.

Remove from heat and let cool enough to handle. Remove stem, slice in half and remove seeds. Slice julienne (long horizontal strips).

Heat large non-stick skillet to a medium heat. Add olive oil to coat bottom of pan and add sliced roasted red pepper strips, Sherry, Italian season, garlic and salt to taste.

Sautee until warm and incorporated. Add heavy whipping cream and continually stir until mild boil begins.

During mild boil, stir occasionally until sauce begins to thicken.

Turn heat off and let rest on burner for an additional 5 minutes, or until desired thickness.

*Serve over grilled fish. Perfect for flounder or snapper, chicken and/or pasta.*

*The picture is fettuccine tossed with Bella Sauce topped with pan-grilled snapper and cherry tomatoes. It is from Kacie Skalak at Dock's, Port O'Connor.*



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# Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Drive, Suite 100 Houston, TX 77024

## CURRENTS NEWSLETTER

February / March 2019

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boating emergencies, chemical and  
oil spills: 361-888-3162

Port Aransas: 361-749-5217

Port O'Connor: 361-983-2616

Freeport: 979-233-3801

Houston, Galveston: 409-766-5620

Sabine: 409-971-2195

The Texas Parks & Wildlife website is your starting point for almost anything you need to know about outdoor Texas, including links to many areas.

Visit [www.tpwd.texas.gov](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov)

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

[gov/fishboat/fish 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)*



### COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (including STAR Entry)

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Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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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. Additional \$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.

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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