

CURRENTS

April / May 2019



Abandoned Crab Traps

*Annual removal
of dangerous traps
requires all hands
on the water*

Advocacy

Coming soon to a bay near you

Oyster Mariculture

By Shane Bonnot

The State of Texas may very well see a new industry develop in coastal waters; one that can redefine the half-shell oyster market and improve water quality in the process. The term used to describe such an industry is known as "Oyster Mariculture." The first step to establishing oyster mariculture in Texas has been taken by Rep. Todd Hunter, District 32.

On February 1, 2019 Hunter filed House Bill 1300, otherwise known as the Cultivated Oyster Mariculture Bill. In a nutshell, the bill gives the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission the authority to adopt rules to establish a program governing cultivated oyster mariculture and it requires them to adopt such rules by September 30, 2020.

Oysters filter-feed on microscopic algae that are typically abundant in coastal waters. Because oysters do not need additional food to sustain growth, this species is relatively inexpensive and easy to culture.

The process of growing cultivated oysters in "controlled" environments is simple in concept but there are many steps in the process. The "grower" can influence the shape, size, look, taste, texture and characteristics of the oyster depending on choices that he makes before the oyster reaches market.

The first step in oyster mariculture is to produce the "seed" or larvae in a hatchery. Hatcheries can either produce single oysters or remote-set shellstock oysters, which are bunches of oysters that grow bound together.

For brevity's sake, we will focus solely on single oysters. To achieve a single oyster, farmers take dried and cured oyster shells from shucked meat processors, grind them into tiny sand-like grains, providing enough room for just one oyster larvae to attach. The common term for this ground shell is micro-cultch. It takes 6-8 weeks



Off-Bottom cages marked with buoys to indicate location. These cages utilize the lower portion of the water column, keeping oysters fully submerged throughout the grow-out period.

for an oyster larvae to reach the "eyed-larvae" stage when it is ready to set on this micro-cultch. Once it is set, it can be moved to the nursery phase.

The nursery phase is a labor-intensive transition from the hatchery to bay waters. In this land-based operation the newly settled larvae, known as spat or oyster seed, will be grown in flow-through upweller systems where ambient bay water is pumped (upwards) through an oyster culture tank, providing

the tiny oysters with naturally occurring phytoplankton. As they grow, the oysters require routine culling, sorting and cleaning until they are large enough, usually a half to three

quarters of an inch in size, to be moved to the grow-out phase in open bay water.

The final phase of oyster mariculture occurs in the open bay and there are numerous ways that a grower can achieve their desired goals for a half-shell product. Containment systems (or cages) can be located just off-bottom, in mid-water column, and/or floating at the water's surface. Each location within the water column has its own advantages and disadvantages. Ideally, it should take 18 months for a cultivated oyster to reach market size. It is this phase of oyster mariculture that is most likely to catch the attention of coastal anglers as some of these containments systems would be clearly visible at the water surface.

CCA Texas supports House Bill 1300 and will continue to work with the Texas Legislature and Texas Parks and Wildlife to develop a cultivated oyster mariculture program that addresses concerns of the angling community, redefines the Texas half-shell market and puts more oysters in our waters to benefit the coastal ecosystem. Please reach out to sbonnot@ccatexas.org if you have any questions regarding this piece of legislation. 🍷

The first step to establishing oyster mariculture in Texas has been taken by Rep. Todd Hunter, District 32.

Australian Long-line system is typically considered a mid-column culture system. These cages are adjustable in depth and will sway back and forth with wave action, creating a tumbling effect inside the cages which helps to create a desired cupped-shaped oyster.



COVER PHOTO: Tough duty, but it makes a big difference on the coast. Chris Smisek and retriever Chester head for a potential lower unit/propeller/ghost crab-destroying trap in San Antonio Bay.

Photo by Sam Caldwell, with thanks to the tough, waterproof Olympus TG-5.



SOUTHWEST



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Premiers April 5
Thursdays at 10:30 pm
Fridays at 7:00 am & 5:00 pm
Saturdays at 7:00 am

**FOX
SPORTS
GO**

Partnerships Make Habitat

By John Blaha

Photos by Lisa Laskowski Photography

CCA Texas, through its habitat initiative, Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT), and Building Conservation Trust (BCT), CCA National's habitat program, have been involved in thirty-seven habitat projects with a total contribution of \$6,759,600 since November of 2009.

CCA Texas Executive Board approved an initial funding of \$500,000 at its November 2009 Executive Board meeting, and the program has grown quickly to where it is today. In 2018, the program funded over \$950,000 to ten projects. CCA Texas' partnerships with like organizations, state agencies, academic institutions and others is an important component to the efforts along the Texas Gulf Coast to create and restore critical habitat. CCA Texas and its partners continue to build relationships and look forward to many years of conservation work together.

Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program

The Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP) marks its 20th Year Anniversary in 2019. CBBEP is dedicated to protecting and restoring the health and productivity of the bays and estuaries in the Texas Coastal Bend, while supporting continued economic growth and public use of the bays.

CBBEP works with local governments, conservation groups, teachers, students and the public to raise awareness of the natural surroundings through research, restoration and recreation projects, and environmental education. CBBEP strongly believes the health, beauty and bounty of our bays and estuaries are essential for continued enjoyment of both people and wildlife.

Ray Allen, Executive Director of the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program: "The overlap in our individual missions allows Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program and CCA Texas to be natural partners. Working together and leveraging funds, we have been able to create, enhance and restore millions of dollars of habitats for marine species, a tremendous benefit to recreational fisheries in the Coastal Bend, something both our organizations want to see."

CCA Texas and CBBEP have partnered together and with others on multiple projects in Nueces Bay, Redfish Bay, Matagorda



Quentin Hall from HRI discussing the benefits of the opening of Cedar Bayou with a group of community members at Cedar Bayou.

Island, and Copano Bay. These efforts have included a water management system in the Nueces Bay delta; marsh restoration efforts on Matagorda Island, in Copano

Bay (Egery Flats) and Nueces Bay; and oyster restoration efforts. CCA Texas and CBBEP continue to work closely in the conservation of ecosystems in the Coastal Bend.

Galveston Bay Foundation

The Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1987 under the laws of the State

of Texas. The Foundation's strength is that it involves a true cross-section of Bay interests to address issues and concerns related to Galveston Bay. It is managed by a strong Board of Directors whose members represent sport and commercial fishing groups, government agencies, recreational users, environmental groups, shipping, development and business interests.

The mission of the Galveston Bay Foundation is to preserve and enhance Galveston Bay as a healthy and productive place for generations to come. Philip Smith, GBF Director of Habitat Restoration: "At the Galveston Bay Foundation we work to develop and implement coastal habitat restoration projects within the Galveston Bay complex. These projects can range from restoring a small oyster reef or protecting miles of bay shoreline from erosion and re-establish marsh habitats along these now protected shorelines.

No matter the scale of the restoration project we work on, one thing is always a constant, we CAN'T do it alone! It takes partners to get these projects on the ground. We are fortunate here in Texas to

have strong partners, such as CCA Texas, all working toward a common goal; to protect and restore our coastal habitats."

CCA Texas and GBF have been partners for many years. Shoreline protection and marsh restoration has been the focus of the projects CCA Texas has partnered with GBF on, and include projects in West Galveston Bay, Trinity Bay and Galveston Bay. These projects also offer an avenue for public education and outreach through public Marsh Mania events, and other efforts with local businesses and schools.



New culverts in marsh restoration project at Egery Flats in Upper Copano Bay.



Water control station for the Nueces Bay Delta.

Friends of RGV Reef

CCA Texas's partnership with Friends of RGV Reef (FRGVR) is a success because of a strong and determined grass roots effort. FRGVR is a local 501 (c)(3) organization based in the Rio Grande Valley. Formed by an intense desire to improve the habitat and quality of local recreational fishermen, the organization came to fruition through the extensive efforts of brothers Bob and Gary Glick, Daniel Bryant and a host of other local individuals. In addition, the Port of Brownsville has provided an invaluable area for staging and loading materials that are to be deployed into the 1,600 acre nearshore reefing area.

CCA Texas was involved early on in the quest for a permitted reefing area and was one of the first financial contributors to the site. CCA Texas has continued to support the reefing efforts of FRGV with multiple financial gifts, and any necessary support to help promote the effectiveness and benefits of reefing material deployments into the site.

CCA Texas has contributed \$461,000 to the RGV Reef to date and looks forward to continuing its support in the future. Gary Glick, Friends of RGV President: "CCA immediately understood and committed to help fund the nursery reef concept as Friends of RGV Reef was gathering stakeholders to meet with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Artificial Reefing Program. CCA Texas was present in these initial meetings to encourage TPWD to secure a USACE Permit for the new nearshore site.

"We feel strongly that CCA Texas's early support was a large part of the reason that TPWD Artificial Reefing Program sought to permit the largest nearshore reefing site to date, and CCA Texas's input and financial backing has played a pivotal role in the success of the project."

Harte Research Institute and Texas A&M

CCA Texas was the founding partner at the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation with a \$500,000 contribution in the fall of 2012. Since that time, this partnership has continued to grow and offer an abundance of scientific research tied to habitat restoration.

Greg Stunz, Ph.D.: "We are proud to partner with the CCA on a variety of projects such as the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation, ReleaSense and others. One in particular, is our partnership in construction of nearshore artificial reefs. This project has been tremendously successful in terms of creating habitat, but also a great fishing area that is easily accessible to anglers with smaller boats to quality Red Snapper fishing. However, this work is expensive and often the reefing materials are limited. Thus, this partnership provides the best science to these programs in terms



HRI researchers at the St. Charles Big Tree reef.

of reef configuration amount, and location that will maximize fish abundance on these structures to create reefs in the most efficient way possible. This makes an ideal partnership, where we can use science to create the most successful reefing programs possible."

Jennifer Pollack, Ph.D.: "CCA has provided strong, visionary support to protect and restore coastal habitats across Texas. Their investment has allowed us to build key partnerships across the Gulf of Mexico and beyond to help make habitat restoration possible. Their leadership in the field of habitat restoration has been invaluable in increasing our understanding of historic habitat loss and developing solutions to support long-term sustainability in the future."

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

CCA Texas and Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) have been partners in conservation, science, advocacy and law enforcement efforts since CCA was established in 1977. Texas's coastal resources have seen endless benefits of this partnership for over four decades.

Without this partnership, recreational anglers and the general public may not have been able to enjoy the benefits the Texas coast offers today. CCA Texas has contributed millions of dollars to habitat projects, law enforcement equipment, research equipment and education programs through TPWD.

CCA Texas and the TPWD Artificial Reefing Program exemplifies the benefits of this ongoing partnership. CCA Texas has contributed \$1,800,000 to the eight nearshore reefing

sites along the Texas coast. This partnership, along with others within the Artificial Reefing Program, has created over 3,000 acres of nearshore fisheries habitat combined in these eight sites. These sites provide not only critical habitat for nearshore species, but also quality, easy to reach fishing sites for recreational anglers.

Dale Shively, TPWD Artificial Reefing Program Leader: "Coastal Conservation Association Texas has been a critical link in our ability to provide for marine habitat in Texas coastal waters. Years ago, CCA recognized that marine

habitat is the foundation to sustainable fish populations. By partnering with the TPWD Artificial Reef Program, they have provided support and funding for many reef projects. Success stories range from the recent reefing of a small barge and hundreds of 1-ton quarry rock at Sabine Nearshore Reef in the north, to countless artificial materials in the Rio Grande Valley Nearshore Reef to the south.

This critical habitat conservation partnership provides extensive marine habitat for popular game fishes such as red snapper and all marine life in the Gulf of Mexico offshore of Texas."

Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow and Building Conservation Trust

are key components to CCA Texas, and the efforts to restore and create habitat along the Texas coast. CCA Texas and Building Conservation Trust would not be successful without the continuous efforts of volunteers and supporters. If you would like to contribute to this effort or have any questions, please contact John Blaha at jdblaha@ccatexas.org or Patrick Murray at pdmurray@joincca.org



Materials deployment in Sabine Reef.

The Abandoned Crab Trap Navy in action A Sixteen Year Tradition continues

A convoy of CCA boats left the Port O'Connor region in much the same conditions as did hundreds of boats from South Bay near Mexico, to Sabine Lake's Louisiana shoreline—in heavy fog. The Capt. Camo boat and the Big Guys boats ran all the way to the East shoreline of San Antonio Bay, then worked back to Steamboat Pass.

A number of derelict traps were spotted in spite of lacking the required white floats, while others sported like-new floats and shiny yellow wire. The first float collected by the Camo boat in San Antonio bay was filled with some 24 stone crabs, all sent back for further duty. Some traps had empty shells of crabs that had starved. Others harbored live and hungry blue crabs, willing to pinch a rescuer's fingers. Many other traps released a variety of sea life.

In East Galveston Bay, one trap collected by CCA Assistant Directors Brian Weaver and Matt Still released a Texas diamond backed terrapin.

All 800 or so traps collected across the bay systems meant less chance to continue "ghost-killing," and the problem of damaging your lower unit and propeller.

San Antonio Bay Partnership (SABP) Chairman Allan Berger said, "The effort



Photos by Sam Caldwell, Olympus TG-5



Brian Weaver, CCA Asst. Dir., releases a Texas diamond backed terrapin in East Galveston Bay. Photo by Matt Still



Result of a tough day on the bay: Jason Dennis, Dr. Mike Sarosdy, Dr. Alan Baribeau, Boat Dog Chester, Sam Caldwell, Chris Smisek, Matt Green and Josh Novak. Photo by Lammie Green. Camera, Caldwell's Olympus TG-5.

In the San Antonio Bay and Port O'Connor region alone, with four CCA chapters involved, almost 800 traps were consigned to dumpsters. —Ronnie Luster

was a great success! Participation was up from last year and new technology was employed to improve efficiency. While the technology helps, it's still about boats/volunteers and eyes on the water. We recovered fewer traps than last year, likely because we did not have another Hurricane Harvey moving traps."

To improve efficiency, the effort used, for the first time, USFW's technological capabilities to mark abandoned

traps from the air and to make that data available to volunteers on the water. Unfortunately, mechanical and weather difficulties delayed the aerial survey until mid-closure when many traps were already removed.

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 was Saturday, February 16. —Sam Caldwell

Robert Vega Retires From TPWD

By David Abrego

Dr. Robert Vega, Coastal Fisheries Marine Stock Enhancement Director for the Texas Parks and Wildlife, recently retired from TPWD after 33 years of dedicated service.

Robert began his career with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on September 3, 1985 as a seasonal Fish and Wildlife Technician at the John Wilson Fish Hatchery in Corpus Christi – known today as the CCA/Marine Development Center. Through hard work, study and diligence Robert advanced through the Coastal Fisheries Division ranks serving as an intern, hatchery technician, a biologist and was appointed the facility's hatchery manager in 1989.

Throughout the years, Robert established and maintained working partnerships with scientists in the United States and abroad that continue to this day. Due to his leadership and vision the Coastal Fisheries Stock Enhancement Program is regarded in the U.S. and around the world as a model marine stocking program – not only because of its long history and large scale, but because of its honesty and openness.

Fellow Texas A&M College Station scientist, Dr. Bill Neill states, "Robert is one of the most respected individuals I know. His style, approach towards life, and profession is to lead by example and he is so successful in both. He has inspired so many to approach life in the same way. Simply put, Robert is the most caring, genuine, sincere, ethical and giving person that anyone can ever hope to meet."

"Dr. Vega's commitment to excellence, and drive for consistent improvement of the business and innovation of hatchery science has been a huge benefit to Texas angling," said Mark Ray, CCA Texas Chairman. "The TPWD hatchery program has been blessed to have such leadership and the Coastal conservation Association is proud to have been associated with his work for the past three decades."

It has been an honor and a privilege to work with Robert – a true conservation scientist, professional, leader, mentor and friend. We are all the better for knowing him. —David Abrego

David Abrego is the Facility Director at Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson and has worked for the Coastal Fisheries Division for the entirety of his 29-year career with TPWD.



May 2018: Robert Vega and new Hatchery Manager Ashley Fincannon inspect construction work on the new flounder building at the CCA/ Texas Parks & Wildlife Hatchery. Photo by Sam Caldwell

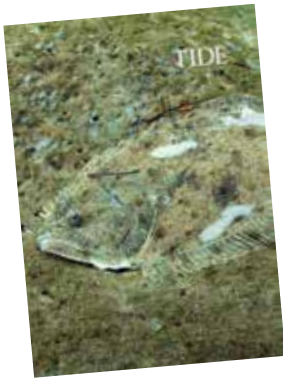
TOWA Top Awards again go to TIDE and CURRENTS Communicators

Outdoor Webpage:
First Place, Pat Murray,
patrickdmurray.net

Judge's Comments: "Patrick Murray's website, blog and interactive online postings are simply very well done and, because of the wonderful photography, a winner ...they serve their purpose – inform, entertain and promote the beauty and excitement of Texas' outdoors."

Outdoor Publication:
Second Place, Pat Murray, publisher, **Ted Venker,** editor, *TIDE Magazine* / September/October 2018.

Judge's comments: "TIDE is beautiful, every issue. Fantastic photography, good design and an array of important research articles make this magazine a winner year-in and year-out."



Pat Murray hooked up.



Editor Ted Venker with trout, and the winning TIDE Magazine

Outdoor Video:
First Place, Sam Caldwell,
Wounded Warriors Flag Song

Caldwell's video details a weekend of recovering veterans being hosted on bay adventures by dozens of skippers in the little Texas town of Port O'Connor. Song written and performed by Craig Carter with The Pledge to Allegiance read by Charley Daniels. [You Tube: Wounded Warriors Flag Song.](#)

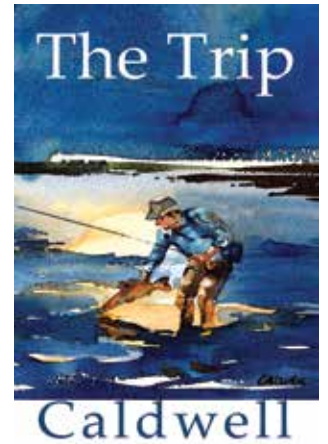
Judge's Comments: "Wounded Warriors Flag Song will bring tears to your eyes as it promotes this wonderful program that allows these great servicemen and service-women to enjoy the outdoors."

Outdoor Book:
First Place, Sam Caldwell,
The Trip.

Judges Comments: "Wonderful, entertaining...the judge gave Sam Caldwell's *The Trip* the nudge because of the wonderful prose and artwork it displayed."

Outdoor Photography, Honorable Mention: Sam Caldwell,
Fly-fooled Flounder; Currents Newsletter, October-November 2018.

Judges' Comments: "What a wonderful collection of Outdoor Photography. These photos are not only beautiful, but tell a story."



Sam Caldwell photo by Sam Smolik

Caught Redhanded! 🦋 Reports from TP&W Game Wardens

February 7, 2019 at approximately 5pm, Beaumont District wardens Iles, Ataya and Caywood were on NRDA patrol transitioning through the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in Jefferson County on the 29' Safeboat, *PV Pauling*. The wardens observed a bass boat traveling at high speed and attempted to stop it for a water safety inspection. Suspiciously, the bass boat occupants never turned around to observe the wardens and the activated blue lights on the patrol vessel.

The wardens were able to catch the bass boat after approximately three miles at a public boat ramp. It appeared that the subjects were in a hurry to load their vessel. Contact was made and upon inspection, the wardens found several water safety and fishing violations; over the limit of red drum (X4), undersized red drum (X5), and one undersized black drum were some of the violations noted. Multiple citations were issued and civil restitution is pending. 🦋



Texas Game Wardens, Serving Texans since 1895

Law Enforcement Off the Pavement

Upper Coast Capt. Vince Garza

It's time for a hookup

It's time for the northers and stiff fronts to go away! April can be great on Galveston bay as tide runners start to follow shrimp back into our bays. I like to start in the lower Galveston Bay Area around San Luis Pass, throwing bone or blue and silver topwaters, Shedogs/Skitterwalks. A blowup on a topwater is what we live for.

As the days heat up, we will also throw 1/8 oz jig heads, Down South Lures; Chicken of the sea or Color X soft plastics. Wade fishing can be very productive this time of year, but drifting works as well. Be quiet. Use your trolling motor and your senses. If you smell a slick or see active bait, stop! It's time for a hookup.

As May approaches, we start to transition towards East Galveston Bay but never overlook the reefs in front of the Texas city dike or the south shoreline of East Bay. Our main focus will be reefs and structure from sloughs to points along our shorelines to main reefs. We will be getting out of the boat when the weather allows but mainly blind-drifting deep reefs.

Don't let the depth of water fool you-- a topwater can be deadly this time of year as is a Lele (Borboleta), a fast or slow-sinking plug, a bait I've become very fond of. As the day starts to heat up or wind starts to get higher, we will be throwing soft plastics on 1/8-1/4 oz jig heads in DSL limestone or spicy pumpkin on Waterloo Rods and 13fishing reels. Which all can be purchased at most fishing retailers near you or 13fishing.com and Waterlorods.com or the Waterloo shop in Victoria.

Be aware-- a lot of new regulations are in the process of taking place in our fishery here in Galveston. Keep what you will eat and let the rest go for another day. Be courteous to your fellow anglers and take a kid fishing.

--Capt. Vince Garza 832-221-0889

NPursuitGuideService.com

Middle Coast Capt. Tommy Countz

A redfish time of the year

It's April, and there's nothing like wading a shoreline at daybreak, tossing a pink Skitterwalk into nervous bait and waiting on the explosion. If that doesn't get your heart thumping then you need to be home watching The View.

It's a redfish time of the year. The south shore of West Bay is my favorite place to be. I love to work the front of drains concentrating on areas lined with shell reefs, and later work my way out and across grass beds. Bait activity and slicks are the keys. My go-to baits are Mirrolure Little Johns rigged on 1/16 ounce lead heads; Glo with a chartreuse tail, Purple Demon and Watermelon with gold glitter. They also seem popular with trout and reds.

If the winds are fairly calm, the New Halfmoon Reef can be productive for trout, a quarter mile straight out from Hotel Point in West Bay. East Matagorda Bay has some great drifting spots. The west end has plenty of scattered shell and the east end has big mud flats in six feet of water. Look for bait activity and slicks.

In late April, tripletail begin their move into West Matagorda Bay. A few usually, but May can produce a lot more. Last but certainly not least, is the surf. Anytime in late April or May that the beachfront gets flat and green is a time to check out our surf. We have over 20 miles of beach in each direction from the Colorado Jetties.

I've tried to give you a look at the many options for fishing in our area and I hope that you consider giving Matagorda a shot when you plan a trip in April or May. Give me a call and I'll take you for a first hand view of what we have going on. You can call me at 281-450-4037 or email me at tcountz@sbcglobal.net. Check out my website www.matagordafishing.com

—Capt. Tommy Countz
837 CR 243 / Bay City, Texas 77414

Lower Coast Capt. Sally Black

Flyfishing gets underway NOW

In April, the Upper Laguna Madre is beautiful, including the Land Cut and the 9-Mile hole, some of the most magnificent grass flats in Texas. Very little bay pressure keeps these areas pristine and clear with fish ready to gulp a lure or fly!

Big trophy trout are feeding in anticipation for the spawn which happens when the water temperatures reach 80 degrees. From Port Mansfield to the Upper Laguna and the Land Cut and into Baffin Bay, the spawn continues through early May.

Baffin Bay is in fine form this year. Water conditions, grass expanses and the impressive amount of bait signal that this bay is in its best shape in years. Double digit trout have been CPR'd in good numbers and mid-sized trout are numerous. The future is especially bright for Baffin because of the moisture that Mother Nature has delivered to the bay, the ranches and surrounding areas. The grass flats are hearty and ready to host shrimp, crabs and other little fishies like glass minnows.

Paddle tails on Black's Magic 1/32oz jig head are very effective. Since most big fish are found in shallow water, (knee to mid-thigh deep), this light jig head really keeps the lure looking natural as it swims over the grass and through the potholes. Fly fishing is well under way as the patterns of weather start to even out, with lots of sunshine.

Baffin Bay Rod and Gun is an Orvis Endorsed Lodge for Fly Fishing and Wing Shooting. We cater to everyone with an interest in tossing a fly at a fish. Our lodge even has a casting pond for practice sessions! We hope to see you soon at "The Last Best Place on the Texas Coast." —Capt. Sally Black / Co-Owner, Baffin Bay Rod and Gun www.BaffinBayRodandGun.com / Sally@BaffinBayRodandGun.com

Adam Gilvarry believes in CPR, fishing shallow, shooting photos close and sending Great Photos to CCA's CURRENTS newsletter.



CCA Texas Social Happenings

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!

The recent Texas Outdoor Writer's Association (TOWA) Conference in Corpus Christi saw a lot of CCA conversation and conservation. During three days of meetings and seminars, conservation of the Texas outdoors was the keynote in all events.



Facebook:

Hailey Boeck, Adjunct Professor at TAMUCC and Dr. Larry McKinney of the Harte Research Institute shared a seminar at the recent TOWA convention in Corpus Christi. Hailey is President-Elect of the Texas Outdoor Writer's Association.

She said, "Dr. Larry McKinney gave a very exciting presentation about all that is happening at the Harte Research Institute. CCA is also positively impacting the Corpus area, seeing the thousands of dollars dedicated each year by the STAR tournament for young fishers and what CCA can accomplish with it is inspiring!"

Hailey has a Masters in Marine Biology from TAMUCC, and is Academic Advisor for College of Science and Engineering at TAMUCC.



Instagram:

A CCA booth at the TOWA conference presented the HTFT Videos, provided TIDE and CURRENTS newsletters and answered visitor's questions from around the state and nation. At a luncheon, the big screen backdrop featured the Nearshore and Habitat Volunteer videos. The event in Corpus Christi's Radisson Hotel featured a Saturday night banquet and presentation of the annual Excellence in Craft Awards, a number of which were top awards presented to CURRENTS and TIDE communicators. For more information, see page 7.

Here, Kirby Brown, Conservation Outreach Biologist of Ducks Unlimited and Hermann Brune, TOWA president and Jeff Lichon of Outdoor Publications talk about a CCA Nearshore video with Sam Caldwell.



Twitter, You Tube:

A great video from Adam Gilvarry who wrote:
"Longer days and afternoon wades are just around the corner. Grab em' by the tail y'all #redfish #flatsfishing #skinnywaterculture #texas #drumspots #fishing #waterman #flyfishing"

Facebook: facebook.com/CCATexas

Twitter: twitter.com/CCA_Texas

Instagram: instagram.com/ccatexas

YouTube: youtube.com/CCATexasProjects

CCA Texas Blog: ccatexas.org/blog



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2019 has been off to a busy start for the Alvin Pearland Chapter! We have been enjoying our general meetings and planning our 2019 Banquet!

Thanks go out to **Capt. Scott Null and Jared Esley** from "Tails and Scales Guiding Service" for speaking at our March and April meetings. You guys did a wonderful job! We have additional **Anglers' Night Out events scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month on May 7, and June 4.** The meetings will be at **Spring Creek BBQ in Pearland and will begin at 7p.m.** Come earlier if you plan to eat.

Our 2019 Banquet is scheduled for Thursday June 20 and will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Pearland. We will be serving a delicious **Steak Dinner** by Joe's BBQ, having a "Sportsman Raffle" that will include guns, Engel Coolers, and 13 fishing reels, and have live and silent auctions as well as numerous raffles. This is an event you won't want to miss. Reserve your spot now!

Banquet tickets are \$60/Person, \$100/Couple, \$15/Kids. Reserved/Sponsor Tables start at \$550 for 8 Guests. All adult tickets include a CCA Membership. Sportsman Raffle tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. If you would like to purchase banquet tickets, reserve a table for your group/company, or make a donation to our event, please **contact Erich Schneider at 713.626.4222 or email us at AlvinPearlandCCA@yahoo.com.** The best way to stay up to date with our latest chapter events is to follow us on Facebook at **www.facebook.com/alvinpearlandcca** or go to our chapter website at **www.ccatexas.org/chapters/houston-area/alvin-pearland/**. We hope to see 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

It's going to be a fantastic year for **Babes on the Bay!** A lot of teams have already registered and or found a guide for our **20th Annual Tourna-**

Chapter Updates

ment in Fulton held May 17-18 this year.

We have exciting news about this year, we have added a Fly Fishing Division and registration is officially open on our website! www.babesonthebay.com. If you need help finding a guide you can visit the CCA Texas website or Coastal Bend Guide Association, or text **Jen at 361.205.0182** for assistance. We are expecting this to be our best year yet and can't wait to see all of the smiling faces! Don't forget we have added redfish with the most spots and best team shirts category, so start planning early!! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @babesonbay for updates! **Don't forget to save the date August 10, 2019 for the twentieth annual CCA Banquet at Camp Aranzazu.** Catch'em up!

Austin
Josh Cook 512-656-2964
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 9.** It was through your support that the Austin Chapter was able to break the \$1M revenue mark again in 2018, 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 that on the agenda the evening will prove to be exciting. Go to www.ccatexas.org/2019-austin-banquet for table and ticket sales. **Seating for this banquet is sure to sell out, so don't delay in purchasing your spot!**

A special thanks goes out to all of our generous sponsors. It's through their commitment to CCA that the Austin Banquet shines like no other. Space constraints don't allow us to acknowledge all of our sponsors in this newsletter, but please take a minute and check out the complete list of sponsors at www.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. Our 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! Go to www.ccatexas.org/austin, buy a ticket, and she may be yours on May 9! **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

Brazoria County
Dan Johnson 979-481-3907
djohnson@sparklingclear.com

By the time you see this, your Brazoria County Chapter will be shoulder deep working our **37th Annual Banquet on April 5.** We look forward to another great turnout for this year's event thanks to all the hard work our board members/banquet committee have done reaching out to new sponsorship for this year's event.

And a big thanks to those sponsors who have continued their support throughout the years to make this the success it has become. Thanks again banquet committee for what looks to be our best event to date. Check out our Brazoria County Chapter page at www.ccatexas.org/brazoria for our next meeting date or you can contact the president directly. We are always looking for new board members or even those who are interested in what we do.

Brazos Valley
John Ben Strother 979-220-1738
jbsunlimited@yahoo.com

Brenham
Brandon Marth 979-277-0151
brenhamironworks@sbcglobal.net

The 25th Annual Brenham Chapter Crawfish Boil will be held April 25, 2019 at the Silver Wings Ballroom. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets on sale now www.ccatexas.org/2019-brenham.

Brush County
Brenda Ballard 361-296-4037
brendagballard@hotmail.com

Centex
Wayne Webb 254-405-1300
sheyhunt@aol.com

Centex Chapter is ready for another season of spring and a successful banquet. **Our Annual Banquet will be held June 13 at 6 p.m. in the Waco Convention Center.** This year's big-ticket item is a Can-Am Side by Side with a trailer. Special thanks to our sponsors, WACO Motorsports, Flat Rock Trailer and Ranch Supply and RDO Equipment for helping again this year. If interested in a table and raffle tickets please contact **Brian Weaver bweaver@ccatexas.org**. Hope to see you there.

CEN-TEX CHAPTER
CCA
Can-Am Side by Side Raffle
Includes a 77x12 Single Axle Trailer w/B-Fold Gate
Donated by Flat Rock Trailers of Waco
(Winner is responsible for all applicable taxes)
Drawing, June 13, 2019
WACO Motorsports
Flat Rock
RDO EQUIPMENT CO.
For Information Contact: Brian Weaver 713-626-4222

Central Houston Todd Buster 713-545-189

tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com

Colorado Valley Eugene Ulrich 979-249-7425 zeke.ulrich@gmail.com

Greetings from the Colorado Valley! We sincerely hope that y'all are spending some quality time on the water along with attending this year's banquets.

Our chapter recently held a general meeting at the E H kitchen in LaGrange at the Fayette County Fairgrounds. We were very fortunate to have CCA's very own Advocacy Director Shane Bonnot speak to us about recent changes to fishing regulations and a lot of other interesting facts. Our chapter would like to express our thanks to all who attended this event. We enjoyed refreshments sponsored by **Brown Distributing Budweiser** and **Ozarka Spring** water along with some great sausage wraps from **V&V Sausage from Cistern**. Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all.

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

Spring Time in South Texas! Our chapter just wrapped up our 2019 banquet and had a great turnout—over 2100 attended! Great food, great drinks and great friends. **Valerie Chilton, our banquet chairperson**, and our board of directors and volunteers did an outstanding job to make our 2019 banquet successful.

Our Bull Red Raffle, sponsored by Andrews Distributing, featured a 2019 Majek 22.6 Illusion M2 with a 150 HP Yamaha Four Stroke and Coastline trailer. The boat winner was Ron Laza.

Our Sow Trout Raffle, sponsored by L&F Distributing, featured 2018 Mahindra ROXOR with a 14-ft tandem axle utility trailer. The ROXOR winner was Paul Dirks.

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 Bronze Level Sponsors. **Our Bronze Sponsors were Access Storage, Augs Services, Berkeley Eye Center, Big Box Waste, Borden Insurance, C&S Plating, Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation, CMC Metals, Cooper Outdoor Advertising, GlobalChem, Grunwald Printing, Gulf Coast Marine, Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, Lamar Advertising, Mike's Marine, Ohmstedt Ltd, Pipe Pros, Poses and Associates, Ron Hover Marine, Roy's Bait and Tackle, Tenacious Torque, Roy's Kayak Shop, Total Oilfield Equipment & Supply, Valero Energy Foundation, USA Debusk, UT Marine Science Institute and Wahoo Metal Works.** Also, we thank Sentinel Integrity Solutions for being one of our Silver Sponsors and the Cooler Game Sponsor.

On February 23, the 24th Billy Sandifer Big Shell Beach Cleanup on Padre Island National Seashore was a huge success with 1,400 volunteers. 75 tons of trash from 25 miles of beach was removed. CCA Corpus Christi Chapter had numerous volunteers at the event including: Tyler Thorsen (VP of Friends of Padre), Troy Adler, Jay Gardner, Jacob Augs, Jeff Smith,

Valerie Chilton, Dr. McKee, Cliff Johnstone, Lilly Walker, Jessica Arroyo, Grace Hawley, Josh Hawley and Courtney Johnstone. Well done!

Our next chapter events are: April 23, Tuesday at Brewster Street Ice House 6pm--Anglers' Night Out with two outstanding fishing legends: Jay Watkins and Cliff Webb. Our Anglers' Night Out is open to the public and entry is free!

April 27, Saturday at the CCA Marine Development Center/Hatchery--Poco Rojo Kids Fish Tournament. **Flint Hills Resources will be our title sponsor for the event.** Registration for kids under the age of 14 will begin April 1 at the CCA Corpus Christi Website.

For more information about our Anglers' Night Out and Poco Rojo Kids Fish events, please go to our CCA Corpus Christi website and Facebook page. If you are interested in volunteering for our CCA Chapter events, please give us a call. For more information, call **Cliff Johnstone, President**, at 361.816.7338. **We hope to see you at one of our next events - Anglers' Night Out on April 23 and Poco Rojo Kids Fish on April 27.**

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

On March 28 the Dallas Chapter held its second general membership meeting of the year. Our good friends at **Mariner Sails** hosted the event and kept the store open after hours. Our local Texas game wardens came out and entertained us all with stories and provided a little education too.

Our 38th Annual Banquet is set to take place on April 18 at 6500 Cedar Springs Event Center in Dallas. Once again, we have secured some amazing trips for our live auction that include an Argentina dove hunt for up to 20, red stag hunt in New Zealand, African safari, a quail hunt for 4 and many other fishing and hunting trips.

We have also worked closely with the Beretta Gallery of Dallas to have several custom CCATexas engraved Silver Pigeon shotguns available in our raffles. If you haven't purchased your ticket or table already, you can do so by going to the Dallas page on CCA Texas website or contacting **Drew Adams** at dadams@ccatexas.org.

The 4th Annual Hooked on Clays Sporting Clay Tournament has been set for September 20, 2019 at The Dallas Gun Club, so mark your calendars. Please visit us on Facebook or Instagram. #CCADallas

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

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



Two new CCA workers. Left, Jen Thomasson is now Tournament Director of Babes On The Bay. On right, Charlotte "Cee Cee" Fitzgerald will serve on the State Board of Directors in Governmental Affairs. Cee Cee's father, Phillip Fitzgerald was one of the CCA earliest members. The locale of the scene was the February 19 meeting at the Armadillo Palace in Houston.

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

As the weather and fishing temperatures begin to heat up so is your Fort Worth Chapter Board. This is a busy stretch for us and we are planning some awesome events to share with you. After last year's smashing success (we served and you all ate 400 pounds of crawfish and sides!) we are bringing the **crawfish boil** back.

Make sure you free up your calendars for the evening of March 27 at Mopac Center (1615 Rogers Rd, Fort Worth, TX 76107). There will be live music, complimentary beverages and.... lots of crawfish. Come hungry and thirsty. For those that need some last-minute gear before the warmer weather fishing arrives we will have a couple of raffle items as well. Fingers crossed that the famous Hope Beel will be there to mix and mingle with our guests. This event is to get everyone amped up or the big **Annual Banquet at the famous Joe T Garcias in the historic Fort Worth Stockyards. The banquet will be on May 2**, so plan to come and celebrate a little (early) Cinco de Mayo and save some fishies with us! Check out the link below to purchase your individual and table tickets now. www.ccatexas.org/events/2019-fort-worth-banquet

We are always looking for new sponsorship opportunities to help you promote your business and have some fun in the process. See the sponsorship options right on the Fort Worth Chapter website at www.ccatexas.org. There will be plenty of new merchandise to stock your travel bags with for your next fishing adventure. As always thank you for the support and we hope to see you at both of these events!

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

Greetings from the Galveston Chapter! We are hard at work planning our many events for the year. **Our banquet will be held on Saturday July 27 at the Moody Gardens Convention Cen-**

ter so put that date on your calendar. Raffle ticket sales for our boat raffle began in February, and will continue until they are either sold out, or we draw the prize at the banquet. **This year we have a fantastic looking 2019 Haynie 23' Bigfoot, powered by a Mercury 200L Pro XS motor, and it will come on a Coastline tandem axle trailer.**

Contact any board member or CCA Assistant Director Taylor Rieck if you wish to purchase a ticket. **Only 700 tickets will be sold at \$100 each so your chances to win are great!** Put Saturday April 27 on your calendar for the annual Kids Fishing tournament which will be held at Harborwalk Marina. We will also be hosting our Annual Ladies Fishing Tournament again on Saturday June 22 at the Galveston Yacht Basin, with a Captains' meeting on Friday the 21. Check the chapter webpage for signup information for both tournaments.

Golden Triangle
Kevin Picard 409-658-5246
kevinjpicard@yahoo.com

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

We had a great turnout for **Joe Moughon** aka Chickenboy's talk at our last general meeting on February 6. He's always entertaining and well received. **Thank you, Joe!**

Our next events are:

April 4, 2019, 6:00 p.m.: Chapter Banquet--Stafford Centre; details at www.ccatexas.org/greater-sugar-land/#banquet

May 1, 2019, 7:00 p.m.: General Meeting--Otto's BBQ--Stafford; speaker to be announced

May 4, 2019, 8:00 a.m.: Kid's Fish at New Territory--need volunteers as this will be well attended.

June 8-9, 2019: Interchapter Challenge

September 21, 2019 (tentative): President's Cup Fishing Tournament.

Various dates to be announced: Additional kids fish events.

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

Don't miss our Annual Banquet! Thursday - May 16, 2019. We're having it at a beautiful rustic venue, The Springs, located at 14135 Laramie Trail, Montgomery 77316, doors open at 6:00p.m. It's a great opportunity to win some new gear for your fishing trips this year. So grab your fishing buddies, co-workers, family or friends and sponsor a table for 10 and collect even more goodies.

It's a great night for fishing fellowship and fun! Sign up online: www.ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands. There's also a link on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CCAGreaterWoodlands, where you need to Like Us anyway, and so you won't miss out on our other events. Or you can call **Drew Adams** at 713-626-4222, our CCA Texas Assistant Director, who helps us make our event a success. Tight lines and ready for some tan lines!

Guadalupe Valley
Campbell Weber 361-243-8942
cww_05@hotmail.com

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

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

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

CCA Helotes has enjoyed exciting and fun events all year! This family-friendly group has participated in two parades on boat floats, attended and won a category in the InterChapter Challenge in June, hosted a youth

fishing tournament with nearly 50 kids participating, helped with beach clean ups (*see page 20 for a photo*), helped with a C.A.S.T. for kids fishing day, enjoyed a fish fry for banquet volunteers and packed the house at our first annual banquet. This seems to only be the "tip of the iceberg" with this group.

Banquet committee members sold out our 2nd Annual Banquet held March 21, 2019 at the Helotes AG Activity Building. This chapter has really bonded and made many new friends with the common goal of supporting CCA Texas, raising funds for "Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow." Our chapter added two more titled positions this year, a Vice President, Banquet Chairman and Secretary. A huge Thank You to **Nathan Lutz and Johnny Rayburg** for stepping up and making great contributions to the chapter as our newly elected officials!

For more information on the "Busiest Little Fish Club in Texas," contact our President **Bob Mitchell** at cacahelotes@gmail.com.

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

The following is an outline of our events for 2019:

April 7: 7th Annual Social at the Red Barn in Seguin Texas. Advanced tickets only, call **Dawn Koehler** for information at 210.573.1143, tickets can also be purchased online.

May 21: Our first General Meeting with Jay Watkins as our guest speaker.

July 16: General Meeting (Speaker to Be Announced)

July 20: Our summer tournament for Hill Country Chapter Members only. For more information call **Cameron Kallies** 830-560-6936 or **Augusta Kallies** at 210-249-1617

August 15: Hill Country Chapter Annual Banquet at the Civic Center in New Braunfels Texas. For ticket information call **Todd Thetford** at 830-660-8825.

October 15: Final General Meeting for "2019" (Speaker to be Announced)
 Other events that we are in the process of scheduling are:
Board of Directors Fishing Trip for Tex Mex Concrete Victor Rodriguez, Crawfish Boil for (100) and a Fish Fry for (50)

Our Meeting and Tournament Sponsors are as follows: **CEMEX, Creative Eyewear, FAPCO, Fishers of Men RV Park, KGNB KNBT, 1st. Source**

Digital, Redfish Bay Boathouse Redfish Willies, Sandollar Resort, Stay Tuff, Whitaker Insurance and Power Engineering Services.

All general meetings will be held at the Elks Lodge in New Braunfels Texas. Look for newsletters and e-blasts for information on these meetings. I am looking forward to an exciting year with our chapter. If you would like to become a sponsor and/or get involved with our chapter, cast me a call.

Houston Homebuilders
Jimmy Reid 281-932-3395
jreid@newmarkhomes.com

Houston Homebuilding Annual Banquet: May 9, doors open at 5:30 p.m. at the Sam Houston Race Track. Whole table and individual tickets available. Opportunities for sponsorships and donations also available.

We would like to thank some of the sponsors that have been instrumental in helping us get this chapter started: **Action Gypsum Supply, Alleyton Resources, Allpoints Surveying, Builders Post Tension (BPT), Houston Carpet Services and Weyerhaeuser.**

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

Great Banquet this year. Maybe the best as far as networking. Thanks to our many contributors and the supporters who purchased the items and trips. Looking forward to a very good year in Houston and many more good works of CCA.

Katy
Gary Mancini 281-850-2212
gman091753@aol.com

Laredo
Javier C. Villarreal 956-206-7953
Jcvillarreal13@gmail.com

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

Live Oak
Taylor Kotrla 979-732-7265
taylorkotrila@hotmail.com

Lower Colorado
Stephen Zapalac 972-244-6633
szapalac@ykc.com

Lower Laguna Madre
Oscar Garcia 956-491-8148
oscar@shallowsportboats.com

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

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

I would like to report that the Matagorda Bays Chapter is in full swing for the year. We should be taking delivery of our 2019 raffle boat in a couple of weeks. **This year's boat will be a fully rigged 25' Haynie Magnum with 300 HP Suzuki. The boat sits on a double axel Coastline Trailer.** The guys at Chris's Marine are making sure the boat will be an eye catcher. Be looking for the boat around the end of March and a chance to buy a ticket around the El Campo area. If you are not in this part of the world give **Wesley Smolik a call at 979-543-2753.** He will be happy to get you hooked up with a ticket. **Be sure to mark your calendars for our 2019 banquet on June 27th at the El Campo Civic Center.**

The chapter's **14th Annual Lil' Salties Fishing Blowout** is scheduled for **May 11, 2019** at the Matagorda Harbor. Matagorda Bays chapter members should be receiving entry forms in the mail. Parents be sure to get them filled out and mailed back ASAP so we can plan another great tournament. Last year we had a great year with 227 kids coming out for a day of fun.

Every entry receives a prize bag, trophy and tee shirt. If you are interested in donating to this great event or have any questions, contact **Lynn Staff lstaff@yahoo.com** or **Thomas Gold tagold@elc.net**. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the chapter.

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

Spring is almost upon us! Big winds and bull tides will be welcoming spring tide runner trout before we know it. **Our Mid Coast Chapter is excited about our 2019 banquet, which will be held at the Victoria Community Center on May 3.** If you're reading this before then, come on! Our chapter participated in the Abandoned Crab Trap Clean Up on February 16. We had two boats and five board members, **Wade Harrell, Mark Saddler, Rod Graci, Mike Brawner and Cheryl Guthrie**, who pulled 53 traps out of San Antonio Bay. Overall, the one-day cleanup effort coordinated by the San Antonio Bay Partnership yielded 225 traps. Members of the Austin and Port O'Connor chapters also helped out.

Tables for our 2019 banquet are selling quickly, so make sure and get your spot before we sell out! If you are interested in more information regarding table sales or other sponsorship opportunities, please contact **Tylar Walyuchow at 361-541-9011.**

We are excited to have a **2019 Sea Doo Fish Pro** as a raffle item this year! (www.sea-doo.com/watercraft/sport-fishing/fish-pro.html). This personal water craft is drawing a lot of interest since it is the first-ever wave runner specifically designed with the fisherman in mind! **Also, on the raffle is a 2019 Club Car, Baretta A400 12-gauge shotgun, Waterloo custom rod combo and a CCA 65 Qt. Engel cooler.** Big thanks again 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** or **Cheryl Guthrie**, at **361-935-3342**. We only sell 400 tickets and they are already going fast!

For the first time ever, we had a CCA Mid-Coast Chapter booth at the Victoria Livestock Show, February 28-March 3. Thanks to all our board members that stepped up to help at the show, sold raffle tickets and recruited new CCA members.

For the latest chapter updates and information on upcoming meetings, etc., please check our website www.ccatexas.org/mid-coast and our Facebook page www.facebook.com/ccamid-coast. 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

IT'S NOT TOO LATE...General admission Tickets are still available for the **2019 Northeast Houston Chapter Crawfish Boil and Fundraiser on April 6, at the Walden on Lake Houston Country Club.** Doors open at 6p.m., so join us for some crawfish, drinks, auctions, raffles, and good old fundraising fun. For tickets please contact **Brian Weaver bweaver@ccatexas.org** or **713.626.4222**. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.ccatexas.org/2019-northeast-houston.

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

Our Annual Member Appreciation Fish Fry will be held on April 2, so bring your appetites! Our guest speaker is none other than **Chicken Boy** with **Chicken Boy Lures**. If you have never had the chance to enjoy one of his speaking events, please come by... he is very entertaining! The fish fry will be held as usual at **Houston Distrib-**

Members of the CCA Crab Trap Navy: MidCoast had two boats and five members. They eliminated 57 traps from the San Antonio Bay system.



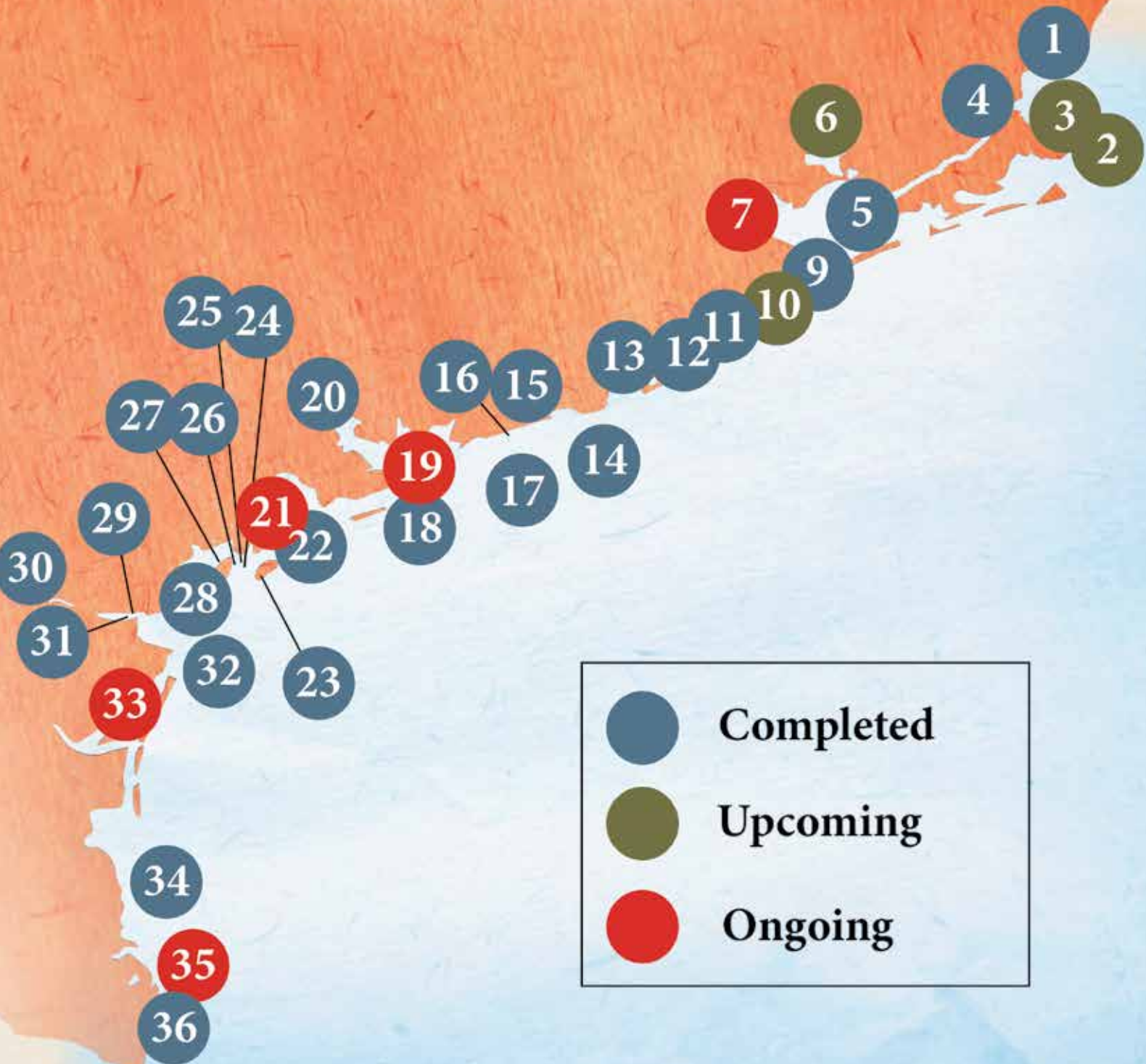
HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

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 · (713) 626-4222



A SPECIAL GIFT FOR NEW LIFE MEMBERS

brought to you by

SIMMS.



CCA Texas and Simms Fishing Products have teamed up again for a very special offer to CCA members.

For a limited time, anyone who becomes a CCA Texas Life Member (\$1,000 + \$25 shipping) will receive these workhorse Simms G3 Guide Stockingfoot Waders and Taco Bag with the CCA Texas logo. Tax Deductible: \$657.00

(Retail Value: \$500)

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

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

Please expect 3-4 weeks for delivery. No P.O. Box addresses. Adult signature required.

You MUST return this form to the CCA office completely filled out to receive your gift (This offer is NOT available online.)

CCALifeMember APPLICATION

Name _____ CCA Member ID# _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Method of Payment \$1,025.00

Please Choose ONE of the following Sizes:

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

☐ Small ☐ Large (9-11 foot)

Credit Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____

☐ Medium ☐ Large (12-13 foot)

☐ X Large ☐ 2XL

Signature _____

CVV _____

CCA Texas | 6919 Portwest Dr., Ste. 100 | Houston, TX 77024

Phone 713.626.4222 | lbosmans@ccatexas.org | www.CCATexas.org

uting, 7100 High Life Drive off Cutten road in the Stein Room starting at 6:30 p.m.

Coming up is our **2019 Annual Kid Fish on Saturday May 11, 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** at the Sylvan Beach Park – Fishing Pier in La Porte. Many thanks to Harris County Precinct 2, The City of La Porte and Linda's Bait & Tackle for their continued support of this annual event. It is very important to get our young generation out there and fishing. They are our future Conservationists!

Our June General Meeting will be held on June 4, guest speaker TBA. So please come and join us as we will have our usual raffle items.

August 8, 6:00 p.m. Save that date because you do not want to miss our 30th Annual Northwest Houston Chapter Banquet and Fundraiser. It will be held again at Shirley Acres, located at 217 Woerner Road. More information to follow!

Our sincere thanks to both **Houston Distributing and Academy Sports + 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
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Port Lavaca
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Port O'Connor
Bill Moore 361-983-4690
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Prairie
Patricia Walters 979-885-7464
manager@wpprint.com

Hope everybody is having a great year! On February 7, we held our annual General Membership Meeting and Chili Dinner at the Cat Spring Hall, we had a great turnout. The chili and all the fixins' were prepared by **Scott Hinze of Hinze BBQ catering.** We had the \$1 bucket raffle with some outstanding items from CCA Texas and Sponsors. We sold tickets for our **Sportsman package raffle that consisted of a Yamaha golf cart, 65Qt Engel Cooler, Waterloo rod & reel, \$500 Academy gift card and Glock 22.40 pistol,** these items will be presented at our **CCA Banquet on April 4th at the Cat Spring Hall.** Tickets can be purchased at **Wittenburg Printing 210 Meyer Street in Sealy Texas 979.885.7464, www.ccatexas.org/2019-prairie or from any Board member.**

Our guest speaker for the evening was **Shane Bonnot,** CCA Texas Advocacy Director, who presented information about the flounder population in the Gulf and spoke about the opening of the new CCA Flounder Hatchery and the impact it will make in the gulf waters.

We are also working on the **Prairie Chapter Kid Fish** that will be held sometime in August at the Walters Lake the day and time will be announced by the next **CURRENTS** article.

Don't forget our 22nd Annual CCA Prairie Chapter Fundraiser Banquet on Thursday, April 4 at 6:00pm in the Cat Spring Agricultural Hall tickets are still available.

I would like to thank everyone that attended and a special thanks to Brian Weaver from CCA and the sponsors and all that helped put together this event.

Thanks, Ron Chess 979-525-9254

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

The Redfish Bay Chapter started 2019 with its usual determination to support our local environment through the Coastal Conservation Association, Texas. Our annual banquet was April 6, 2019, and, as usual was a fun and successful event! **Special thanks to Chris's Marine for being our Title Sponsor for the 16th year in a row (talk about tradition)!**

We would also like to thank all of our donors and sponsors for making our raffles and auctions interesting for all of our attendees. Our local Board and Houston support team work hard to make this a family event, and we could not be successful without the support of our local communities. Nothing happens unless our members attend the event, and we thank you for taking time out of your schedule to purchase tickets and tables as well as buy raffle tickets and auction items. All monies raised in Texas stay in Texas!

Our next event is the "Take a Kid Fishing" event May 31/June 1. The "tournament" will start on Friday evening with registration (\$10), free rod and reel, and shrimp boil. There is also a drawing for the lucky kids who will be able to fish with one of the game wardens on Saturday morning (a parent has to accompany the kid/kids). Fishing is Saturday morning, and the fish are then weighed and measured for trophies to be given out at ceremonies to follow. Hot dogs are served for lunch. This is a fun event for the kids, the only rule is that there are no rules! **The \$10 at registration is for a youth membership in CCA that includes STAR membership.**

The Beeville Fish Fry is later in the year, and it is usually the Thursday before dove



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The Sabine-Neches Chapter held their annual Crawfish Boil Fundraiser. The hall awaits a full house of crawfish-eating CCA members and guests.

season starts. More information will be provided as the date nears. It is very much like a banquet with raffle, silent auction, and live auction items.

Rio Grande Valley
Boone Stutz 210-906-7676
riograndevalley@gmail.com

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

Thursday March 7, 2019 the Sabine-Neches Chapter held their annual Crawfish Boil Fundraiser and once again they took the show to another level! It was a great evening in our old/new venue and it was good to see everyone again!

As always, we could not have done this without the hard work and dedication from our board members and of course our sponsors! Adam Saunders/Bob Bowers Civic Center, Anthony Touns/Matt Lumpkin/Classic GMC for the great looking trucks, Del Papa Distributing (Bud Team), Giglio Distributing (Miller/Coors), Shane Chesson/Pure Cajun for the awesome crawfish, Annette Smith/Dylan's for hosting our meetings, Pete Jorgensen Marine and American Airboats for the good-looking displays.

There are people I'm forgetting but you know who you are, and we greatly appreciate everything! Looking forward to next year! Until then, tight lines to all!

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

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

In case you missed our last General Membership Meeting on March 7 with Leslie Hartman (Matagorda Bay Ecosystem Leader for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) and Capt.

Jerry West, or our 6th Annual 'Hooked on Clays Shoot', we have plenty more events planned for you to attend. Our next General Membership Meeting will be on June 12th at the Barn Door Restaurant at 6:00 PM. We will have two speakers for the evening, a game warden to be named later, along with Capt. Joey Farah. As usual we will be raffling off a guided fishing trip from Capt. Farah, along with plenty of other items to

be raffled off.

Get your tickets and tables now for the San Antonio Chapters 40th Annual Banquet being held on May 2 at the Freeman Expo Hall. You can order your tickets now by going to www.ccatexas.org/2019-san-antonio or by contacting Joe Eaton at jeaton@eatoncontracting.com. Early Bird table buyers who buy on or before April 8th will receive one entry for a Weatherby 6.5 Creedmore Rifle. Banquet Chair Robert Lozano, along with his committee, has put together another fantastic banquet.

This year's Grand Prize Boat is a 2019 Shallow Stalker CAT204 with a 2019 Evinrude G2 150 Motor, along with a 2019 Coastline Trailer. Thank you Gulf Coast Marine. Another raffle item is a 4-door Jeep Wrangler 4 wheel drive outfitted by Maximum Altitude and LineX. Thank you Mike Davis and Jordan Ford.

In addition to these we will again have a Polaris570 UTV provided by Shiner Beers. As always, we will have our Cutting Board Auction, The Silent Auction, The \$5 Raffle, Our Ice Chest Sales, and our Main Event, The Live Auction. I

want to thank all of our loyal sponsors and volunteers for their continued support for CCA San Antonio! Lastly, remember to Wet-A-Line with your family and friends!

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

The San Bernard Chapter hosted the 2019 Annual Fundraising Banquet in East Bernard at Riverside Hall on February 28. Attendance was superb as was the support. I can't say enough about the participation of the crowd. Over the past 12 years we have gone through many changes, but our attendees have always held strong. Thank you to all of the patrons who came out and supported our chapter.

Special thanks to some seasoned veterans of our chapter including: Alleyton Resource, JW Farley, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Capital Farm Credit, WTX Ranch, Pekar's Body Shop, Poor Farms Wrecker Service, K5 Sporting Goods, Smaistrle Insurance, Silver Eagle, Lupe's Mexican Restaurant, Xtreme Roofing and Riverside Hall. Slade Stary of El Campo and the Stary bunch delivered yet another stellar steak dinner. Thanks to all of our longtime supporters.

We had some new faces in the crowd this year that gave the veterans a run for their money. Thanks to: Johnnie's Complete Car Care, S Curve, Fisch Construction, EB Air, Shoppa's Farm Supply, Fulshear Animal Hospital, Jeff Jallowy, DDS, Bill Gerke Sales, Compton Consulting, Ag Land Fuel, Evolve and Sport Marine.

Our brother chapters came out in full force. Thanks to Live Oak, Prairie and Ft. Bend Chap-



Johnny Rayburg of the Helotes chapter again took volunteers to work on the Sandifer Padre Island Beach Cleanup. He said the President of CCA Hays County Chapter Tim Young and Secretary Laura Flores randomly met up when they hopped in his truck for the ride down the beach. In the photo: Along with Young and Flores are Johnny Rayburg and Doug Phillips (Both of the Helotes Chapter).

Bottom photo: The entire group that cleaned mile 33-34, along with some of the trash they picked up.



ters for bringing full tables and participating the way you did. We look forward to having you all back again next year.

The presale raffle was a success and allowed us to have overflow raffles at the banquet. We offered a crossbow package and a five-gun raffle the night of the event. Both were huge successes. Special thanks to all of our help from the San Bernard Chapter Board Members and families. Without your support, none of this would be possible. The hard work and dedication to make the event a success is proof in the pudding. Thanks to Coleman and the crew of CCA for all your help.

Our next event will be the All You Can Eat Crawfish Boil in the spring. Talk to your local board member to get some info on the event.

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

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Southwestern

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TAMU

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Travis James 832-909-5833
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Tomball/Magnolia
Matt Maddox 832-963-5215
matt@cribbsconcrete.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 is moving right along in 2019, planning our spring crawfish boil and supporting neighboring chapter events. **Please, mark your calendar for our annual banquet which will take place on August 23 in Baytown, Texas.**

Instead of the usual Sportsman Raffle the chapter decided on something a little different this year: **The grand prize will be a fully rigged Piranha P140C skiff, powered with a 20 hp Tohatsu Motor and aluminum trailer.** All made possible through sponsorships by **Tohatsu & The Boat Yard** www.eaglesboatyard.com located in Kemah Texas. **Don't miss out, only 400 tickets will be sold.**

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. www.ccatexas.org/trinity-bay

Trinity Valley

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

We recently had our 7th Annual CCA Banquet. It was another successful year! Everyone had a great time and the food was amazing. Now we are looking forward to some spring fishing weather.

If you'd like to become involved with our chapter and share in the fun we have, contact **President John Hebert** at (936)334-2528. We look forward to hearing from you. Happy fishing!
-Jennifer Creel

West Houston

Ruben Delgadillo 281-808-1434
ruben@liftpull.com

West Texas

Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499
Craig@McDonnold.net



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30th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo

It seems like just yesterday we were handing over boat keys and scholarships to tournament winners. Now we have a looming Early Bird drawing deadline and the tournament kickoff not long after that! If you haven't done so already, get entered in the 30th Annual Texas STAR tournament by April 26, and you'll be entered into this year's Early Bird drawing to win a 210 Dargel Skout, 150 hp Evinrude E-TEC G2, and McClain trailer package or twenty other great prizes.

In the spirit of reflecting on our past 30 years of CCA Texas STAR tournament action, we reconnected with another one of our past scholarship winners to see what her STAR scholarship was able to help her accomplish so far.

Taylor Shirley was the winner of the 2010 STAR Teens Sheephead Division \$20,000 scholarship. She weighed in a 7 lb. 1 oz. fish, caught in Trinity Bay that happened to be the heaviest one that year. No stranger to STAR, Taylor had placed on the leaderboard three times before she became a WINNER at age 12! This young lady knows what she wants and is doing everything right to reach her goals.

Taylor has been fishing and hunting south Texas since she was two years old, so she knew that Texas A&M Kingsville was where she wanted to go. It is



"I have a goal, and I know I won't be content until I meet it."
— Taylor Shirley

one of the top universities in the nation for Range and Wildlife Management study and research. She not only carried a heavy academic load her undergrad years, she also volunteered and participated in the Wildlife Society all three years, was president of the Texas A&M Kingsville Ducks Unlimited chapter and

was an officer for two years in the Texas A&M Kingsville chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. She even assisted multiple grad students with their research projects as a technician.

She was able to graduate Magna Cum Laude with her Bachelor's degree in three years after taking a course load that would make most college students cringe and advisors do a double take.

This incredible young woman attended Texas A&M Kingsville for three years and has graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Range and Wildlife Management. Taylor was also awarded the Outstanding Wildlife Student of the Year and the Distinguished Student for the College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences. Now in graduate school, Taylor is attending Iowa State University and working on her Masters in Wildlife Ecology. She is utilizing the last of her \$20,000 STAR scholarship to do so. After reading about Taylor and her journey, you won't be surprised that she plans on working towards a PhD in Wildlife Science after she graduates in 2021.

CCA Texas applauds the accomplishments of this fine young lady! Taylor's great story is just one of many from twenty-nine years of STAR scholarships being awarded to Texas youth. STAR has now given away \$6.5 million dollars in college tuitions and will be giving away another \$325,000 this year in increments of \$25,000 and \$50,000, with ten different chances to win. Ready for the even better news? The youth in your life can win one of these scholarships for an entry fee that costs the same as air—free—with their \$10 CCA membership.



Mike Varnado- Tagged Redfish Division Winner

While a huge part of the goal at STAR is to get kids involved in fishing and promote education, it can be even more fun winning as an adult! Even if you procrastinate and miss out on the Early Bird drawings, with your small \$25 entry fee (plus CCA membership), you can win one of nineteen boats, five trucks, or three UTV's.



Alexandra Blain, Drawing Winner



Offshore Division Prize



Inshore Division Prize



Frank Cavasos- Lower Coast Trout Winner

Let's take a look at what you could have in your driveway this fall!

Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division- Texas Ford Dealers continue to make this division the "Best in Texas"! The first five registered STAR participants who catch a tagged redfish will receive a tough 2019 Ford F-150 Texas Edition truck to tow their awesome Haynie 23 Bigfoot, rigged with a Mercury ProXS OptiMax sitting on a Coastline trailer. The next five anglers will receive the same boat, motor, and trailer package. Registered young anglers not of legal driving age

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

who land a STAR tagged redfish, will receive the boat package plus a \$25,000 college scholarship, in lieu of the truck.

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

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

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

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

Flounder Division- \$50,000 scholarship for the heaviest flounder!

Gafftop Division- \$50,000 scholarship for the heaviest gafftop!

Sheepshead Division- \$50,000 scholarship for the 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!



CCA Texas Guides Division

It is the hope of Texas STAR and CCA Texas to be able 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. **ALL GUIDES ARE ELIGIBLE TO ENTER AND WIN!!** The winner of this division will take home a 26' Mowdy CAT with a 225 hp engine and Coastline trailer. See www.startournament.org for more details and eligibility requirements!

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

CCA Texas STAR Guides Division 2018 Winner – Charlie Buchen

It is the hope of Texas STAR and CCA Texas to be able 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 winner of this division will win a Mowdy 26' CAT, 225 HP outboard, and custom Coastline trailer.

To be eligible, all guides must possess:

- Current CCA membership and STAR entry
- Valid USCG Captains License
- Current TPWD Guide license

ATTENTION:

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

RULES

This division is for Guides only, and no customers or regular STAR anglers will be fishing against guides at any time.

1. All guides must meet the above criteria to win the Mowdy 26' CAT, Mercury 225 hp ProXS OptiMax outboard, and custom Coastline trailer.

2. All eligible guides who were present when a member of their party catches any fish on the final leaderboard on a paid, or unpaid trip, will be entered into a drawing to win the division, pending polygraphs. Drawing will be held after the final winner board is posted. Entries will be weighted in descending order based upon final standings, with a division-winning fish (including all tagged redfish winners) being worth five entries and a fifth place fish being worth one entry. The guide must be listed on the angler's Official STAR weigh-in form to receive entries.

**As below, we then attach chances for each guide in the drawing based upon the client/angler's placement in the FINAL STAR Leaderboard standings:*

Final Place	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Entries	5	4	3	2	1



THE PRIZES DON'T END THERE!

First through fourth runner-ups in all divisions will receive various gift cards from our longtime partner **ACADEMY SPORTS + OUTDOORS!**
Youth Member Drawing- All youth STAR participants (age 6-17) are eligible for a bonus drawing for a \$25,000 college scholarship, even without wetting a line!

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



2019 CCA Texas STAR Platinum Print "Texas Red" by Anastasia Musick

CCA Texas STAR celebrates our 30th Anniversary in 2019 with a special commemorative painting by the legendary artist, Anastasia Musick. A private commission by STAR and only available to CCA STAR members, this artwork "brings it home" to Texas outdoorsmen and women in her iconic style. The STAR Platinum print program is designed to enhance our funding for scholarships. The



print picture is beautiful here, but the actual print (25"x19") is so vivid and colorful you can see the fine details of the deer and the ducks as well as the special "Texas Red" tail. Get your STAR Platinum Print Package today!



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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's 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.

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. —**Photo Editor**



The 'Halloween Corky' was great in an unnamed coastal bay.

Photo Editor's comments: Liked the way the angler cradled the fish before the release. There are some good 'tough cameras' (the editor swears by the Olympus TG-5 right now) and cell phone waterproof cases available nowadays, so everyone should shoot and send Great pix to *CURRENTS*.

Mike McGuire says: Caught this red and CPR'd. The red was 27.5" and 11 lbs. Fell for a corky fat boy, black back, orange belly, the 'Halloween' corky. We caught and released 8-10 bulls and slots that day ranging from 9 lbs to 13.5 lbs. Photo by Michelle Rathkamp, using her iPhone.



"Sunrise with Topwater Plug." Great Scenic Photo with a touch of humor. It's hard to use a sunrise without a bit of life involved. This one caused a double take on the part of the Photo Editor. Thanks to this issue's featured photographer, Mike McGuire. Camera, Samsung Galaxy 8.

Nothing but stars for this great deal!

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SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE



Recipe Editor Liz Hewitt

Texas Redfish On The Half Shell

Serves 2

Ingredients:

4 oz Crab Meat (Lump or Jumbo Lump)
 ½ lb. Small Gulf Shrimp peeled
 and deveined
 4 oz Shredded Jalapeno Jack Cheese
 4 oz Panko Bread Crumbs
 Salt and Pepper to taste
 Container of Seafood Butter
 1 lb. Redfish fillets, skin side down,
 cut in 8 ounce portions

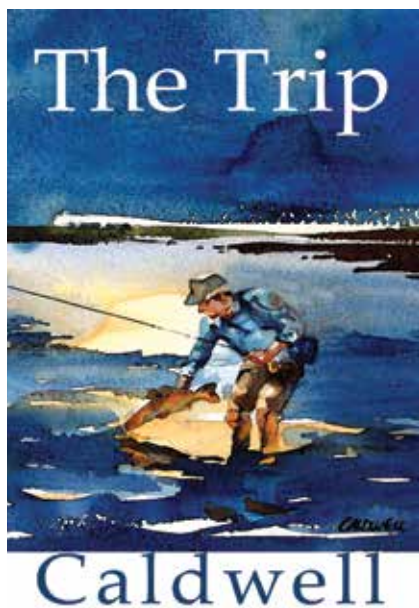
To start, make hollowed-out pocket cuts on both your redfish fillets. Mix pico de gallo with pepper jack cheese, crab meat, and peeled and deveined shrimp and then stuff your mixture inside the pocket of the fillets. Mix 2 ounces of melted seafood butter with Panko crumbs and 1 tablespoon of fresh herbs. Season your redfish with salt and pepper, brush fillets with melted seafood butter and top stuffing with your Panko bread crumb mix. Grill on medium high heat until internal temperature is 160 degrees, serve and enjoy!



With thanks to Richard Groomer / Groomer's Seafood, Inc.

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CURRENTS NEWSLETTER

April / May 2019

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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
To focus on fishing and boating, visit

www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish 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



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