

CURRENTS

August / September 2019



*TAG—
you're a
winner*

Advocacy

The Great Red Snapper Count

By Shannon Tompkins, courtesy of the Houston Chronicle
Photos by Lisa Laskowski Photography

When Texas anglers catch a red snapper between now and the end of the year, they might be landing more than the most popular reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico and the makings of some wonderful meals. That red snapper could prove a pretty good payday for its captor and provide crucial information in an unprecedented research project aimed at benefiting the fish and the anglers who target them.

As part of a two-year program titled The Great Red Snapper Count, fisheries researchers earlier this year captured 4,000 red snapper from offshore waters along the length of the US Gulf coast, from Key West and Brownsville. They fit those snapper with small streamer tags – bright yellow, thin plastic tubes resembling a short piece of spaghetti on which is printed an identifying number and a request the person catching the fish call a contact number printed on the tag.

Also printed on each tag is “Reward \$250.” Some of the 4,000 snapper are fit with two tags, upping the reward to \$500 for the person reporting capture of those fish.

Those tagged snapper were released where they were caught, in dozens of offshore locations off the coast of the five Gulf states. And, barely two weeks into the recreational snapper fishing season in federal waters off Texas, a little shy of 100 anglers have landed tagged snapper, reported their catch and claimed their \$250-\$500 reward. “They’re thrilled,” said Dannielle Kulaw, project coordinator of The Great Red Snapper Count based out of Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and the person who answers when anglers call the contact number on the tags. “There hasn’t been one unhappy person. And we’re happy, too.”

This mark/recapture project, the largest such tagging effort attempted involving red snapper, is part of The Great Red Snapper Count’s multi-faceted research program effort aimed at estimating the population of red snapper in the United States’ portion of Gulf of Mexico. The effort, funded with a \$10 million appropriation from Congress, involves a multidisciplinary team of 21 of the top fisheries scientists from universities and other organizations from all Gulf states.



A double-tagged snapper could provide an angler with a great supper—and a \$500 reward.

The project, officially funded through Alabama-Mississippi Sea Grant, is coordinated through Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies.

The two-year project, which began in 2017 and is set to continue through this calendar year, includes mapping, identifying and classifying red snapper habitat, using various methods (including remotely operated vehicles with video capabilities and cutting-edge, precise electronic SONAR equipment) to count fish on those habitat types, conducting depletion studies on selected sites to gauge snapper response to harvest rates as well as using the Gulf-wide tagging study to gauge harvest rates as well as gain insights into movement of the generally non-migratory snapper.

The tagging portion of the research project got underway this year, with crews along the length of the Gulf Coast catching, tagging and releasing fish ahead of the start of the 2019 recreational red snapper fishing season. For recreational anglers fishing from private boats off Texas, it will be the longest such season they have seen in 12 years.

Earlier this year, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department set the recreational red snapper season in Gulf water under federal jurisdiction to open June 1 and run

for a projected 97 days, through Sept. 5. Water under state jurisdiction (inside nine nautical miles of the coast) is open for recreational snapper fishing the entire year). Before the change allowing states to manage the recreational snapper fishery, federal managers set a single season for private-boat recreational anglers targeting red snapper in waters under federal control. Length of that one-size-fits-all federal recreational snapper season steadily withered,

Also printed on each tag is “Reward \$250.” Some of the 4,000 snapper are fitted with two tags, upping the reward to \$500 for the person reporting capture of those fish.

from a year-round fishery in 1996 to as few as nine days in 2014. In 2017, the last year before the shift to state control of snapper seasons, anglers fishing from private vessels in federally controlled water had a 42-day season.

This year’s longer red snapper season comes in part because of an increase in the annual catch limit. Federal officials earlier this year increased the annual red snapper catch limit for recreational fishery to 7.4 million pounds - up from 6.7 million pounds in 2018. The share allocated to private-boat anglers increased from 3.88 million pounds to 4.27 million pounds.

The long-running controversy over red snapper management, especially shrinking season lengths despite evidence of a significant rebound in the snapper population, is behind The Great Snapper Count project. The project is aimed at giving an independent assessment of the snapper population separate from the stock assessment conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SET THE HOOK



Portion of proceeds benefiting


TEXAS

The independent population assessment will give managers new insights into the red snapper population and could lead to changes in the way the fishery is managed, perhaps including less onerous regulations or at least more predictable fishing regulations.

The tagging study, which will help illuminate harvest rates, is a big component of the effort. Information from tag returns gives fisheries managers insights into harvest rates of snapper. It also can yield information about snapper movement – or lack of movement – in the Gulf. This crucial information, combined with other insights provided by other components of the multi-part research program, can help managers develop management plans and fishing regulations that allow anglers maximum opportunity to harvest snapper while also allowing the fish to continue building their abundance.

Anglers who land a tagged red snapper are asked to clip the tag from the fish and retain it, even if they release the snapper instead of keeping it, Kulaw said. To receive the monetary reward, anglers are required to report the fish, and that reporting should include the day the fish was caught, the port from which the anglers departed for their day on the water, the length and weight of the fish and the coordinates (latitude and longitude) where the fish was caught. After calling in the information, the angler is required to return the physical tag to the research team to receive the award. Many of the anglers calling to report landing a tagged snapper have expressed surprise that such a project is underway. Tagging programs for offshore species are rare.

"Most people said they were unaware of the tagging program until they caught a tagged fish," Kulaw said. "Some said they used Google to see if it was a real study."

Most are thrilled to be a part of the study, she said. And the \$250 or \$500 reward isn't the only reason for their enthusiasm. "They're getting to be active participants in science to better understand the snapper fishery," Kulaw said. "Most are very appreciative." 🐟



Harte Research technicians recording data for snapper release.



A double-tagged snapper goes back for further duty.

Dennis Bonnen:

CCA Conservation Hero named in Top Ten Best Legislators

By Robby Byers

Congratulations to Dennis Bonnen on being named Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives. In the *CURRENTS* issue of January 2018, Bonnen was recognized for his critical work in passing important legislation. His amendments to HB 51 instituted reforms of the oyster fishery that will go a long way in the recovery of public oyster reefs.

In *Texas Monthly* magazine's annual rating of Best and Worst, topping the list of Best Legislators was Speaker Dennis Bonnen. The two members on nearly everyone's Best List were Bonnen and Representative Joe Moody for their ability to create an unusual level of harmony and bipartisanship in the House.

Speaker Bonnen has served in the Texas House of Representatives for over 20 years, representing the 25th House district that encompasses southern Brazoria County and the entirety of Matagorda County. First elected to the Legislature at the age of 24, Bonnen joined the House in 1997 and began his twelfth term of office in January 2019.

Speaker Bonnen was born and raised on the Gulf Coast and resides with his wife, Kim, and their two sons in Lake Jackson, Texas.

Bonnen told *CURRENTS*: "As a lifelong resident of the Gulf Coast and a Life Member of the Coastal Conservation Association, I want to thank CCA for their outstanding education and advocacy efforts on behalf of the Texas coastal region and its marine resources this session. Because of their hard work, the State of Texas will soon experience a new era of economic growth as a result of passing legislation to start a brand new oyster mariculture program and put an end to commercial oyster fishing loopholes. It has been a pleasure working with CCA over the years, and I look forward to continuing our partnership as we work toward a stronger and healthier Gulf Coast."



Billy Phenix, CCA Texas Executive Director Robby Byers, Rep. Dennis Bonnen, Joey Park and Shane Bonnot. The CCA Hero of Conservation Award presentation was made at Sea Center Texas.

CCA Texas and BCT Commit \$525,000 to Habitat Year to Date in 2019

By John Blaha

Photos by Lisa Laskowski Photography

CCA Texas habitat initiative, Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT), and Building Conservation Trust (BCT), CCA's national habitat program, have committed \$525,000 to five habitat projects year to date in 2019. The year to date commitment pushes CCA Texas and BCT's commitment to habitat to over \$7.25 million and forty-two projects since the inception of the HTFT initiative in December of 2009.

Projects approved in 2019 include habitat research in Baffin Bay, shoreline protection and marsh restoration efforts in the Galveston Bay System, shoreline protection and marsh restoration efforts in Redfish Bay (Aransas Pass), and continued commitment to oyster restoration efforts in Sabine Lake.

Serpulid Reef Study in Baffin Bay – \$75,000

CCA Texas and BCT funded an initial study of Baffin Bay's serpulid reefs for \$60,000 in 2018. This initial study focused on three areas: assessment of invertebrate reef communities including density, diversity, and biomass at several reef sites; linking changes in reef communities to seasonal and/or water quality changes; and conducting dietary analyses of fisheries species to assess the importance of reef communities as prey resources. Despite what was learned in the initial study and what is still being learned about the value of this unique habitat, a simple fact has not been addressed: Serpulid reefs in Baffin Bay have degraded compared to historic levels, with



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

many areas already reduced to rubble. This newly funded study will evaluate the efficacy of using alternative substrates for restoration of serpulid reef habitats in Baffin Bay. Specifically, the study will: Compare the colonization of serpulid worms on restoration substrates with those on natural serpulid reef habitat; compare the colonization of restoration substrates by mobile and sessile invertebrate species (prey resources) with those found on natural serpulid reef habitat; and calculate and compare ben-

efit-cost ratios for each substrate type to guide future restoration planning. The Harte Research Institute (HRI) has successfully conducted numerous restoration projects in Texas targeting oysters as the primary reef builder, including studies using alternative substrates to restore habitat and reef-resident organisms. Identifying substrates that fulfill similar ecosystem functions to natural serpulid worm reefs will provide conservation benefits to remaining reefs and is critical toward future restoration of this unique habitat. CCA

Texas and BCT are excited to see the results of this groundbreaking study that will set in motion the future restoration of these rare, historic, and unique habitats found in the Baffin Bay System.

Sabine Lake Oyster Restoration - \$100,000

The Sabine Lake Oyster Restoration effort is an ongoing project that will restore oyster habitat within the remaining area of the 27.7 acres, where 22.3 acres were initially restored in 2015. The project will add to a network of small patch reefs that were

Moses Lake breakwater area, protecting shoreline grass.



Warning buoy marking an oyster restoration area.





Harte Research Institute researchers at St. Charles Big Tree reef.



Placing shell on new reef site in St. Charles Bay

strategically placed to supplement the nearby natural and historical Sabine Lake reefs. CCA Texas and BCT originally funded \$100,000 in 2018 for this effort and has now approved an additional \$100,000. These funds will be added to \$500,000 that Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has secured from Hurricane Harvey relief funds, for a total of \$700,000. This project is expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

Dollar Bay Shoreline Protection and Wetland Restoration - \$50,000

CCA Texas and BCT have partnered with Galveston Bay Foundation on numerous projects in the past. These projects typically have several partners and those included in the Dollar Bay Shoreline Protection and Wetland Restoration project

Shoreline project on Cow Trap Lakes: breakwater protecting shoreline areas.



include: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Ducks Unlimited, and Texas General Land Office (TX GLO).

This project proposes to implement shoreline protection measures that will protect up to 1,500 feet of shoreline and restore 72 acres of intertidal wetland habitat within Dollar Bay. CCA Texas and BCT funds will be used to help with construction or the plant of smooth cordgrass once construction is completed via volunteer and/or contractor efforts.

Galveston Bay Foundation Kemah Headquarters Habitat Protection and Restoration - \$50,000

The new Galveston Bay Foundation Headquarters in Kemah will not only provide a home of the GBF staff, but the property boundary shoreline will provide an excellent opportunity for local community schools, and citizens to see firsthand a healthy shoreline eco-system.


The long-term goal is to complete several demonstration habitat restoration projects on the property in addition to the living shorelines. This is to include, oyster reefs, freshwater wetlands, and prairie restoration. CCA Texas and BCT funds will be utilized for the construction of the breakwater, cleanup of debris on shoreline and associated with derelict bulkhead and pier structures, and support marsh vegetation planting efforts. CCA Texas and BCT strongly believe that public education is essential for the future health of our coastal resources. This project will provide many educational opportunities for the general public once completed.

Dagger and Ransom Island Shoreline Protection Project - \$250,000

The Dagger and Ransom Island Shoreline Protection Project is a wide-ranging project with the ultimate goal to eliminate or drastically reduce the rate of shoreline erosion and island migration. Three different types of shoreline protection (shoreline revetment, beneficial use, and offshore breakwaters) will be used at three priority areas. Once completed, the project will protect more than 5,000 acres and create more than 40 acres of wetlands.

The islands form a protective barrier between the Corpus Christi Ship Channel and approximately 14,000 acres of valuable seagrass beds and other sensitive habitats. These islands once formed a nearly continuous, narrow landform separating Corpus Christi Bay and Redfish Bay. Island degradation and shoreline erosion have significantly decreased the size of the islands, as well as the functions and values they provide to this bay system. Protecting shallow aquatic habitat, submerged aquatic vegetation, intertidal habitat, oyster reefs, emergent marsh, mangrove marsh, tidal flats, benthic life and associated uplands are important for the health of the entire bay ecosystem. This project will create low and high marsh habitats and enhance seagrass beds critical for water quality in the bays and for sustaining a range of vertebrate and invertebrate species, many of economic and recreational importance. Construction on this project is expected to begin in 2019.

The Future

CCA Texas and BCT continue to explore funding opportunities up and down the entire Texas coast, and welcome opportunities to partner with like organizations, academia, and governmental agencies. If you or your company are interested in helping fund this critical work, please contact John Blaha at jdblaha@ccatexas.org or Patrick Murray at pdmurray@joincca.org. 

Moses Lake shoreline protection project.



Caught Redhanded! Reports from TP&W Game Wardens

During the period of April 2 – 8, Game Wardens in Aransas and Calhoun counties engaged in a multi-agency enforcement operation regarding oystering in the waters of these two counties. As a result, approximately 36 boats, with captain and crew, received 95 citations and 27 warnings for Parks and Wildlife Code violations relating primarily to commercial oyster harvest.

These numbers mostly include the possession of undersized oysters and oystering in a TPWD closed area (within 300 feet from the shoreline). On a couple of the boats one captain and crew received a citation for being in possession of cargo of oysters that were 45% undersized and the other boat captain received his 5th citation on the year for the possession of undersized oysters.

Additionally, one weapon was seized, 50 pounds of marijuana was recovered washed up on Matagorda Island. Arrest is pending for two individuals hunting without consent of the landowner, and four people were arrested for oyster violations.

U.S. Coast Guard boarding officers also identified a total of 35 violations. These violations were related to vessel crew and safety requirements.



D1 & D2 just wrapped up Operation Reef Safeguard I. It proved to be an overall success with Texas Game Wardens, federal and local agencies working together to accomplish the operational mission.

During the operation there were 107 citations issued with 94 of them being oyster related citations, as well as 20 various warnings, 14 arrests and 9 UDAs detained.

The USCG cited 24 vessels for the 75/25 rule and 3 vessels for Non-US Masters on a USCG documented vessel. Over all, all agencies performed above and beyond their duties.

Texas Game Wardens, Serving Texans since 1895



Photos courtesy of Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Wardens

Law Enforcement Off the Pavement

Troy Williamson steps in for Doug Boyd

Forceful Presence Maintained in Gulf Council

In late June, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross announced the 2019 Gulf of Mexico Regional Management Council (Gulf Council) appointments and we are pleased to announce that Troy Williamson (Corpus Christi) was selected to serve in the Texas recreational/obligatory seat.

A true recreational angler and legend in marine conservation circles, Troy Williamson has extensive experience in the fisheries management arena, including serving on several Gulf Council advisory panels; the Executive Committee of Harte Research Institute, and formerly representing the State of Texas on the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

He will be replacing the seat held by Doug Boyd (San Antonio) for nine years. During his service on the Gulf

Council, Doug was chair for one term and vice-chair for another.

"I have some very big shoes to fill," said Troy Williamson. "Doug is the consummate facilitator and negotiator; he built bridges between the recreational and commercial council representatives that resulted in favorable fisheries management

decisions that benefited both sectors. Doug Boyd represents the very best of CCA's grass-roots volunteers."

We would like to thank Doug Boyd for his dedicated service for the past nine years and congratulations to Troy Williamson for his appointment to this important fishery management council. Full speed ahead! 



Doug Boyd and a trophy brown on the Provo River. On right, Troy Williamson and Bello, the Wonder Dog.



Upper Coast

Capt. Glenn Hammond

Fishing the Tri-Bay Area

August: fish pre-dawn till 10:30 am or set up a night fishing trip. Fishing early, we use a variety of baits including small top waters as the sun gets up, then go to soft plastics. A light Southeast wind pushes clean currents through the Surfside/Freeport jetties and the San Luis pass area and influxes West Bay, Christmas, Bastrop, and Chocolate bay. Sand bars, oyster reefs and obstruction allow great fishing with live bait.

Late summer, I highly recommend a night fishing trip. The equipment you'll need is a portable generator, green lights, and LED lights to create your own fishing environment. Carry a cast net, dip net and catch your own bait. Very important to remember that the bait that swims into the light is what trout are feeding on. When the trout show up they will put on a show. Guaranteed no sun burn!

As September approaches, early cool fronts drop water temperatures. Run the bay and watch for seagulls working over bait. Be sure to have a rod rigged with a 1/8oz to 1/4oz jig-head, tipped with a soft plastic lure as in Down South Lures or Bob Norton Lures. Match the hatch: glow chartreuse with a chartreuse tail mimics white shrimp that are migrating from bay to gulf. Fast action and lots of small fish are in the schools, so practice care in releasing our future resources: a wet towel works. Watch large schools feeding, identified as an area of water called "Mud Boils."

Catch my fishing reports on the Outdoor Fishing Show 610AM, every Friday and Sunday mornings 4-4:15am or you can podcast the show (sports radio 610.radio.com). Thanks, Tight lines and heavy stringers — **Capt. Glenn Hammond**
713-208-0683

Middle Coast

Capt. Stephen Boriskie

Dog days: a great time of the year

August means we are deep in the heart of summer heat, giving way to lower water levels and hotter water temperatures. The fish are going deep around our passes and in spite of the dog days, there are opportunities to catch a fish of a lifetime. Watch for calmer winds in the mornings and days, patterns more consistent with green waters close to the jetties, even blue water at times. With that come larger fish more common to offshore waters than shallow bays.

The bay: catching fish during August and September can be traced to the moon and how it relates to tidal movement and volume— but also to the fact that the fish have been "sweating it out" and keeping cooler by going deeper in the bay, gathering around natural and man-made bottom structures like artificial reefs, shell pads of oil and gas rigs, natural breaks in the bottom of the bay and their proximity to the barge canals and the intracoastal waterway.

There are other considerations: are you fishing over a hard sand bottom or soft sand? The content of the bottom: is there anything to help hide bait like oyster reefs, scattered shell pads, patchy grass? Deep grass with soft mud below that? Targeted species may be lumbering low in grass, keeping cool and ambushing bait drawn to the same environment.

This is a great time of the year: return to school, football and volleyball, the dove season opener, efforts to get hunting leases in order. Remember that saltwater is waiting. So, get down here and enjoy the calmer conditions and the Autumn bite that's sure to keep you coming back time and again. — **Capt Stephen Boriskie**
Bay Flats Lodge Seadrift Texas, 888-677-4868

Lower Coast

Capt. Bryan Robinson

Tie on Gold and silver!

Hope you have been able to experience the wonderful back yard that is the Lower Laguna Madre. Our bay system is in great shape and the heavy rains we received in late June brought some needed fresh water to the LLM. August should be great. Kids in school, dove season around the corner and quiet on the bay. Water temperatures will still be high and gamefish will be hunting shallow water in the mornings and afternoons but look for them deep mid-day.

Because of our gin clear water, I prefer to hunt redfish from a poling skiff with a fly rod in hand. Crab flies in natural colors are choice in the mornings. Make sure you take it slow and keep an eye out for subtle movements. Fish might be just under the surface looking for something to grub on. A weighted clouser in natural colors (tan and white) works well in the deeper water, come noon. Don't be scared to toss a fly with some bright colors also, just to get their attention.

Work plastic lures through potholes in the deeper water. Make sure to use a weed guard on them. There will still be plenty of floating grass that make working lure baits difficult. It is also a good idea to change out the treble hooks on top water lures to a single hook. Don't forget to tie on a spoon— gold and silver can be money! Remember to respect our beloved bay system, It's the only one we have for now and future generations! Practice catch and release and be respectful of other fisher people. — **Capt. Bryan Robinson** 956-241-5520

bryanrobinson@yahoo.com www.flyfishspi.com

Captain Bryan is a longtime CCA member, a past President of the RGV chapter, and has served on the CCA State Board of Directors.

They're Blowing up on topwaters! Great Action Photo by Dan Stephens.



CCA Texas STAR Kudos and Hot Tips

By Bill Kinney and Dylan Sassman

As we enter the last month of our STAR tournament, we'd like to mention our special appreciation to our Texas saltwater fishing guides. Often, this is the first introduction many would-be anglers have to the "speck-tacular" delights of fishing the bountiful opportunities of the 600 miles of awesome Texas coastline our members enjoy.

Without a guide, many sportsmen would never know what lurks in Texas saltwater. This is one reason why CCA Texas is grateful that guides can make novices much better CCA anglers. We are delighted to honor the guides with their own division. Now in the second year, more and more of these "seasoned salts" are entering the CCA Texas Guides Division. And why not?!—the harder they work to help their customers win STAR, the more chances they get to win their own Grand Prize...a brand-new Mowdy 26' Cat with a 225HP engine and Coastline custom trailer!

Remember, guides also invest heavily in the future of our precious marine fisheries by donating valuable trips to many CCA banquets. Such proceeds from sale at these chapter events go to fund various CCA conservation projects coastwide. More and better habitat means more fish. More fishing means more catching. We all win! Kudos to our Texas guides that give back to our coastal resources.

How do I catch a tagged redfish?

This is probably the most common question we hear from our members. Well, of course you know the best way to catch one is by going fishing! The better question is, where to fish? While we can't tell you exactly where they are released,

we thought in honor of our 30th Anniversary we'd share with you a few hints that may help you in your pursuit.

The most important thing to remember is that the fish are not hidden, and we want you to catch them! We will highlight this point by providing you with some regional scenarios.

The first area we're going to focus on is Port O'Connor. If you head west in Saluria Bayou, then hang a left through the Second Oil Well Cut into Mule Slough, you may have a chance of catching a winning trout or flounder, but probably not a tagged red. If you had kept going from Saluria Bayou over to Contee Lake, your chances are about the same. However, somewhere between the boat ramp and Saluria Bayou, chances are you ran past at least one tagged redfish.

Now, if you fish up the coast around Galveston you're in luck. If you launch off the Texas City Dike, head west down the ICW to the Causeway, be vigilant. This time of year, there is some good trout to be caught, even if it's not your best chance at catching a tagged redfish. However, in the process of getting there you have passed a handful of tagged reds.

If you fish the spoil islands south of Port Mansfield you have a good chance of putting a trout on the leaderboard but you may want to move around a little to the east or west to get on your winning tagged redfish.

If you fish out of any other port on the Texas coast, chances are pretty good that you drive by a tagged redfish somewhere in your daily travels, from the Sabine River complex to the Rio Grande. At the time of writing, we have only TWO certified winners, and two others caught. That means there are 57 tagged redfish still out there swimming, just waiting for you to catch them! CCA Texas STAR has already paid for the first five tagged redfish boats and we want you to win one. Get out there to wet a line and best of luck!



No boat? Win one.

STAR Member Dom Lopez was wadefishing with his Grandpa when he located this tagged Redfish, worth a Ford F-150 Texas Edition truck, Haynie 23 Bigfoot, rigged with a 150 hp Mercury ProXS OptiMax sitting on a Coastline trailer.

5 Hot Tips To Improve Your Odds

Hot Tip #1: In the thirty years of STAR tagged redfish catches, the vast majority of fish are recaptured within 800 yards of where they were released. If you know, or suspect, where one was placed, he's probably still in the area.

Hot Tip #2: STAR tagged redfish are released at well-known fishing locations up and down the coast. If you're way up in the back lakes, you're hurting your chances. A lot of anglers up and down the coast run right by a tagged red in search of a secret honey hole. "Well-known" is not too secret.

Hot Tip #3: We try to make the tagged redfish division fair for all levels of anglers the best that we can. With that, your chances are just as good fishing from a boat, kayak, pier, jetty, or hopping out of the truck into the water. Just ask our first 2019 redfish winner Dom Lopez, who was wade fishing.

Hot Tip #4: In 2018 20% of all tagged redfish catches were from anglers with no other means of reaching their fishing spot than their own two feet. If you do have a boat, you can likely access these same areas.

Hot Tip #5: While there are some minor year-to-year changes on tagged redfish release locations, we typically release in the same historic spots. Yes, even that one you're thinking of.

Another tip many anglers don't know—it is legal for anglers (not guides) to fish in the regular divisions of STAR (not Guides Division) if you have a Captain's license. Obtaining a US Coast Guard "six-pack" license is a great way to become a better mariner. The skills taught in this course include in-depth knowledge about navigation and water safety. Learn the bays with confidence while improving your fishing skills in STAR!



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On behalf of our Board of Directors, we want to thank everyone who attended our 2019 Annual Fundraising Banquet in June. We had another fantastic event, with plenty of awesome food, beverages, and fun. Our auctions, games and raffles had some fantastic offerings and did very well! We had a great time and we hope you did too!

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

Our post banquet season is now in full swing with our **"Angler's Night Out" events held on the first Tuesday of the month at Spring Creek BBQ in Pearland. The dates are August 6, September 3, October 8 and November 5.** We meet at 7 p.m. and have some great speakers scheduled to come out! Mark your calendars now and plan to attend!

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

Aransas Bay
Bud Kittle 210-279-7309
ernestkittle@gmail.com

Aransas Bay members, **we are all looking forward to our 20th Annual Aransas Bay Chapter Banquet coming up on August 10 at beautiful Camp Aranzazu!** Purchase your tickets, tables and mark your calendar! We are hoping to make this year's banquet bigger and better than ever! Make sure you plan early, last year was sold out! We will have many great auction & raffle items, including YETI, Academy products, guns, hunting trips, fishing trips, Babes on the Bay, artwork, Louis Vuitton & more! CCA would love to have you join our chapter meetings, which occur the second Tuesday of every month at Poor Man's Country Club at 6:30 pm. For

Chapter Updates

Banquet tickets/tables you can call Carrie Cox at 432-230-9069 or John Blaha at 979-709-1085 or jdblaha@ccatexas.org. The sun is out and the fish are biting, so don't forget to plan your summer trip to beautiful Rockport/Fulton!

CCA Texas Inter-Chapter Challenge is a wrap this year and we enjoyed seeing all of our fellow CCA Board members from across the state in Aransas Pass for the event. We had luck on our side this year and Aransas Bay brought home the win for the top team trophy.

The date has been set for Babes on the Bay 2020! Mark your calendars for May 15-16, 2020! Registration will open in January! Don't forget to follow **@babesonbay** on Instagram for updates all year long!



Aransas Bay brought home the win for the top team trophy.

Austin
Josh Cook 512-656-2964
josh@ccretx.com

The 40th annual Austin Chapter Banquet is officially in the record books. Because of your generosity, we were able to top the \$1.2 million revenue number again this year. We had over 1700 people in attendance, the entertainment was outstanding and it took us all of about 28 minutes to sell 175 Yeti Coolers. To our extensive list of sponsors and generous patrons, thank you for all that you did to help us accomplish this monumental task!

Please visit us at ccaaustin.org to see a list of all the sponsors who helped make this happen, as space constraints don't allow us to acknowledge all of them in this letter. From the who's who in the Austin culinary world to corporate powerhouses in the Austin business scene, we have the best group of sponsors in the state.

Congratulations to **Brian Murphy who won the SCB S22 by Shallow Sport!** And congratulations to all the winners from our stellar live auction and our vast array of other stand-alone games. We truly couldn't do this event without all of you and cannot wait to see you again next year. Check out our website at ccaaustin.org for upcoming Anglers' Night Out (ANO) dates. ANOs are held at 6 p.m. at Abel's on the Lake, which is located at 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., Austin, TX 78703. Get out there and go fishing this summer. We look forward to seeing all of you at the next ANO soon!

Bay Area
Curtis Anderson
832-435-0257
cla1965@att.net

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

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

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



Brush Country's 2019 Dean Ash Memorial Baffin Bay Shootout Winners

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

On May 2 we held our annual Dean Ash Memorial Baffin Bay Shootout. The tournament was a huge success! The following are the winners in each category: **Noe Robles - First Place Trout, George Benitez - Second Place Trout, Pablo Lara - Third Place Trout, David Perales - First Place Redfish, Steve Cavazos - Second Place Redfish, Gray Scoggins - Third Place Redfish, Steven Riser - First & Second Place Black Drum, Lee Vela - Third Place Black Drum.** Thank you to everyone who volunteered and to our donors.

We are already busy planning our **Annual Fish Fry Banquet, November 6, 2019.** Hope to see you there! To keep up with our events please follow our Facebook page - CCA Texas Brush Country Chapter.

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

Central Houston
Todd Buster 713-545-189
tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com

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

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

Our chapter participated in the first Corpus Christi Hooks baseball team Coastal Conservation Weekend from June 20-22. Many other conservation organizations in the Coastal Bend area participated in this sold out event. We set up a marketing table displaying Star Tournament, membership and conservation information. Thank you to our CCA board members and volunteers who provided services to our attendees: **Valerie Chilton, Patience Cannon, Trey Wiggins, Kimberly Prowse, John McCain, Angie Leister, Cliff Johnstone and Courtney Johnstone.** The Corpus Christi Hooks auctioned the jerseys worn by players. The Hooks will be donating \$1,500 from the auction! Thank you Corpus Christi Hooks — what a great partnership!

On October 11-12 our Babes on Baffin Ladies Fishing Tournament will be held at Marker

37. Babes on Baffin is an all-women's tournament that has been in existence since 2004. The tournament is hosted and run by the CCA Texas Corpus Christi Chapter. The tournament was created to give women who love to fish another opportunity to fish and compete against their fellow lady anglers. The tournament has since evolved into a bay fishing tournament only with over 300 lady anglers competing annually. The tournament is held on Columbus Day weekend in October of each year to give ladies from across the state the opportunity to enjoy a long weekend of fishing on beautiful Upper Laguna Madre. This year, Jessica Arroyo and Kimberly Prowse will be the leaders for our BOB tournament. Look for more information soon on our Facebook page and CCA website.



CCA Corpus Christi Volunteers: Patience Cannon, Kimberly Prowse and Courtney Johnstone

We are in the process of scheduling a CCA Anglers Night Out event this fall. More information to follow. If you would like to volunteer for an event or become more involved as a board member, please give me a call or email. See you on the water!

Dallas

Greg Resnansky 214-356-9995
ccadallasboard@gmail.com

CCA Dallas Board Members and their families celebrated the 4th of July at the Park Cities Parade. The kids tossed over 80 pounds of candy to Highland Park and University Park parade attendees while promoting CCA and our 4th Annual Hooked on Clays Tournament which will be held September 20th. Be sure and check our website and sign up! ccatexas.org/dallas



Young CCA Dallas members celebrating July 4th in the Park Cities Parade

East Texas

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

Fort Bend

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

Hello all! Summer recap so far: our Fort Bend Chapter participated in the CCA's Inter Chapter Challenge Tournament (ICC Tournament). The team was made up of a good mix of members and some great fishermen. However, we didn't have the good fortune to place this year. Congratulations to the winners, there were some good fish weighed in that day. We would also like to thank the CCA Texas staff for hosting the

tournament again this year, it was a ton of fun and we really appreciate it!

The fishing this summer has been amazing. Many of us in the group, including myself, have made several trips and we have not been disappointed. Plastics, top waters or bait, it hasn't mattered. We even had a trip at the end of June where we fished under working birds the entire time. So, the next chance you get, head down to your local waterway and wet a line. At the very least you will get to enjoy the time out and have a story or two to tell.

Coming up next is our "Lingerie on The Bay" all ladies fishing tournament September 6-7. This event usually has upwards of 250 ladies participate and let me tell you they can fish! We hope to see you there. Information on the event can be found at ccatexas.org/fort-bend/ or on Matagordabay.com.

Side note, we had a member recently catch a slot red and when he got it to the cleaning table he found a plastic water bottle inside the fish! So please remember to respect the water and pickup your trash, it is easy for things to blow out of boats when we're not looking. Hope to see you on the water!

Fort Worth

Brad Wallace 817-988-8926

brad@northtexasmarine.com

To the greatest chapter members of all of CCA – we hope this note finds you all well and spending copious amounts of time on the water; whether it be in swimming pools, a stream or the open water. There just isn't a better place to be! It has been a relatively quiet summer for the FW chapter but we have thoroughly enjoyed hearing from you and sharing in your fish stories. Please keep those coming to our inbox and social media.

Be on the lookout for our next update once we start planning for the fall General Membership fish fry so you can make plans to attend. As always, we are looking for interested volunteers to step up and help-out at the board level – great experience with some great new friends. Please touch base if you are interested. Enjoy the rest of your Wet Hot American Summer and since I am writing this on July 2- GO 'MURICA!

Galveston

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

Golden Triangle

Kevin Picard 409-658-5246
kevinjpicaard@yahoo.com

Greater Sugar Land

Mike Bracikowski 291-928-3128
m.bracikowski@tritool.com

As the summer months are upon us, the Greater Sugar Land Chapter basks in the shining glory of their most recent Kid Fish event. The event was hosted by Ms. Julia Thompson and Mr. Adam Lofters with Missouri City Parks and Recreation and was well attended by 275 plus children and event coordinators from our proud chapter.

The Kid Fish trailer was taxed to the brim with tackle, bait, prizes and plenty of support for the age groups ranging from 3 to 5, 6 to 10, 11 to 13 and 14 to 16. I would like to recognize the following individuals who volunteered their time to spread the love of outdoors and conservation to our local youth: Buford Jurica, Weems Turner, Robert Bailey, Paul Lawson, Fred Howard, Mike Spero, John Breland, Lynda Breland, Mike Anderson, John Wolf and Sherry Wolf.



Greater Sugar Land Kid Fish event

We would like to recognize **Robert Bailey** for his flawless tenure as our newly retired President. Bob, we thank you for your years of service and continued support and belief from which this chapter was founded. We also say goodbye to two 30 plus year members that contributed greatly to our kid fishes over the years, **Judy Kveton and Bob Nipper**, we wish you the best and appreciate your contributions.

As we bite our nails in anticipation for the next Star Tournament tagged redfish to be caught, we look to our chapter members to stay tuned to the upcoming social media announcements on our Facebook page: CCA Texas Greater Sugar Land Chapter. We will be promoting our upcoming scheduled guest speakers for our general meetings as well as looking for participation for our upcoming Angler's Night Out event. We encourage everyone within our chapter to reach out to someone who would like to take part in becoming an active voice or just meet some like-minded individuals. We are actively focusing in on a fun location that is family friendly and easily accessible for our members. We will be finalizing things soon, but please mark your calendar for September 3 or 4 and October 1. Enjoy the heat and we'll catch you on the next incoming tide!

Greater Woodlands

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

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

We have been staying busy in the Heart of the Hills! In June our team fished in the CCA Inter-Chapter Challenge tournament in Aransas Pass. We didn't place, but everyone had a great time and caught some trout.

We are also planning our annual banquet to be held on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at Don Strange Ranch. Hungry Horse will be catering the meal and we will have plenty of drinks. Come prepared for an outstanding live auction, silent auction and plenty of raffles. For ticket or table information, call **Kelly Parks** at 210-669-3732 or **Brian Weaver** at 713-626-4222. See you at the banquet!

Helotes

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



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Hill Country
Miles Engelke 210-260-8968

engelke@pe-svcs.com

Hill Country Chapter will be holding our annual banquet on Thursday August 15, 2019 at the Civic Center in New Braunfels Texas beginning at 6:00 p.m. (Please note that this will be the 3rd Thursday of August). For ticket information call Todd Thetford at (830) 660-8825 or Miles Engelke at (210) 260-8968.

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

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

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

The Lower Colorado River Chapter has been meeting monthly this year to begin the planning for our upcoming events. At our first meeting in January, Stephen Zapalac called for leadership elections for the new year. Stephen Zapalac was elected President by acclamation. On the position of Treasurer, Ronnie Bosie was elected. **The date was set for the 11th Annual Lower Colorado Chapter CCA Banquet as customary, the 1st Friday in August. August 2, 2019 at the Bay City Civic Center. October 8, 2019 will be the date for the Guide's Cup Tournament with the evening of October 7 for Dinner and Captain's Meeting.**

We encourage anyone reading this report to mark your calendars now for our banquet. We expect to sell out this year since we were only a few seats from a sell out in 2018.

It was agreed that the very successful raffle of 15 prizes vs. 1 continue in 2019. We sold out of the 1000 raffle tickets we had for 2018 and had 15 very happy winners. We selected over \$10,000 in prizes for the 2019 raffle and will again limit the number of tickets to 1000. Tickets will again sell for \$20 each or 6 for \$100.

There will again be a 1 in 66.6666 chance of

winning one of the following:

Bergara B-14 Timber 6.5 Creedmoor Rifle / 123 Qt Engel Cooler / Waterloo Rod with Lews Team Light LFS Speed Spool Reel / Remington Versa Max 12 Gauge Shotgun / 80 Qt Engel Cooler / Waterloo Rod with Shimano Chronarch Reel / Glock 19 Gen 5 9mm Pistol / Beretta A300 Outlander 12 Gauge Shotgun / 65 Qt Engel Cooler / Waterloo Rod with Concept Z Reel / Remington 700 SPS .22-250 Rifle / 50 Qt Engel Cooler / Waterloo Rod with Shimano Curado Reel / Sig Sauer P320 M17 9mm Pistol / 45 Qt Engel Cooler

The reserved tables for our August 2 banquet will again find the premium position in the banquet hall filled with Platinum Tables at \$2,500 each, next Gold going for \$1000 then the ever-popular Bronze at \$500. Each table will seat 8. There are special gifts on each of these to show our chapters appreciation.

Contact a Lower Colorado Chapter member or **Blake Burnside** at the CCA office to reserve your banquet table and purchase raffle tickets before they're gone and continue watching this space for more news of happenings in the Lower Colorado Chapter that represents all of Matagorda County fishing.

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

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

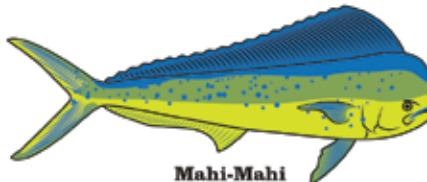
Gulf Identification Guide



Grouper



Tito's All-Time Favorite



Mahi-Mahi



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Tito's Salty Dog



Flounder



Tito's
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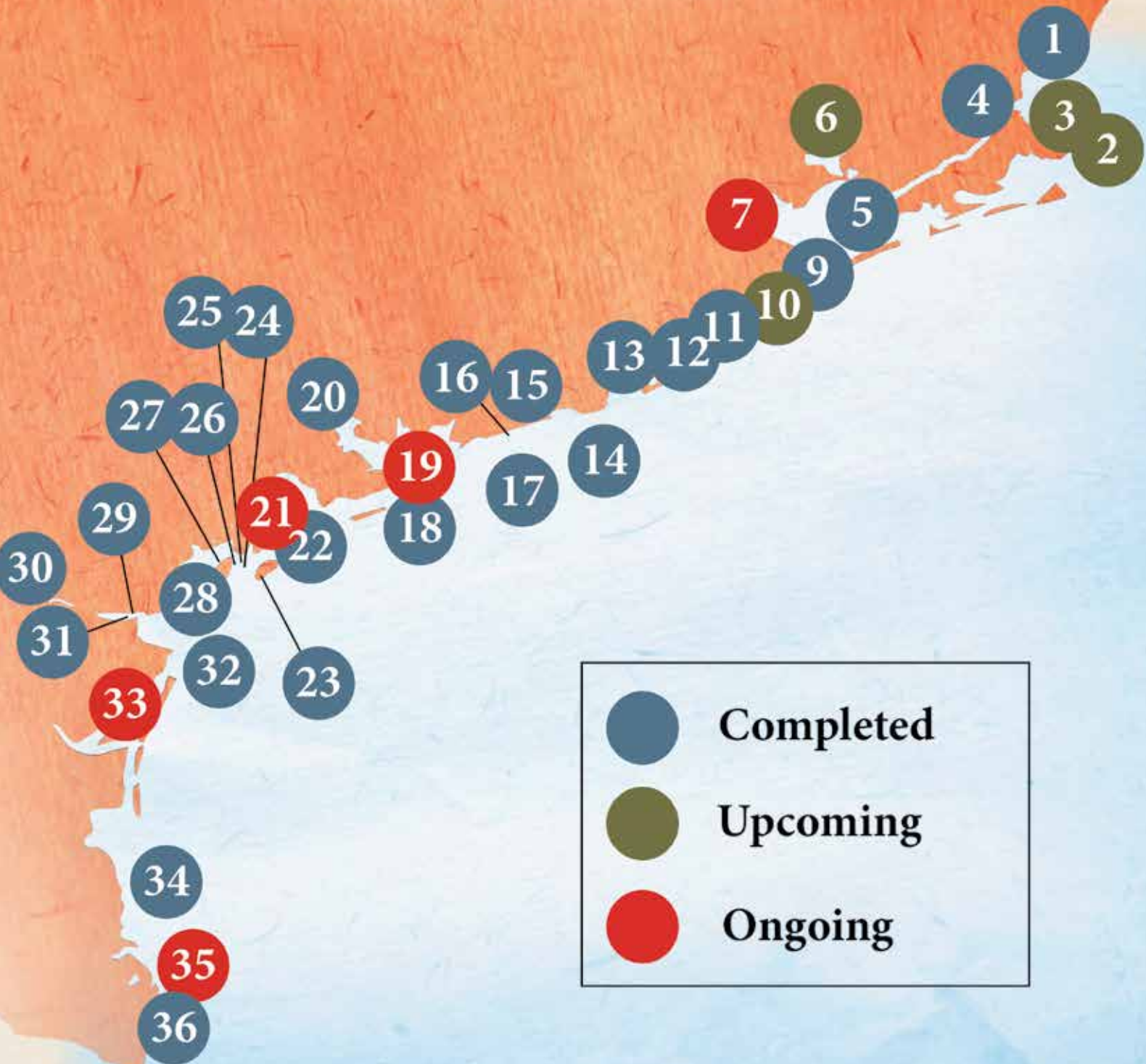
HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

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





Matagorda Bays 2019 Raffle Boat Winner—18 month old Bennett Green from Kyle, Texas along with the chapter directors.

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

SOLD OUT AGAIN. The El Campo Civic Center 34th Annual Matagorda Bays Chapter Banquet; the 11th year in a row that the banquet has sold out. All of this could not be possible without the continued support from the generous donors and members of our chapter. Banquet guests enjoyed a fun filled evening with chances to win on the pick of the litter cap raffle sponsored by **Prasek's Hillje Smokehouse, Prosperity Bank and Polasek Construction**. A koozie raffle sponsored by **First State Bank and Quality Hot Mix** and a tumbler raffle sponsored by **Weise Crop Insurance and Energy Construction Inc.** Another great ribeye steak meal with all the trimmings was prepared served by board member **Slade Stary** and his top notch cooking crew. The live auction sponsored by **Full Auto Firearms, Rod Insurance Group and Gulf Coast Lease Service** was full of great items that ranged from fishing and hunting trips from around the world, to guided fishing trips right here on the Texas coast.

The **Jim Ehman Memorial Guides Cup** trips where once again a big hit among buyers. This tournament sponsored by **Duckett Bouligny & Collins, LLP, Harbor Bait and Tackle and Multi Fab Metals** is held every year in September in Matagorda and can only be entered by purchasing a trip in our live auction.

The fully digital silent auction was again a great hit this year allowing bidders to use their smart phones to place bids from their tables. The highlight at the end of a long of evening was the drawing for the fully loaded **25' Haynie Magnum** rigged out by **Haynie Boats and Chris's Marine**. The boat was sponsored **Polasek Construction and Sutton Wealth Management**. A big thanks goes out to these guys for their continued support. This year's lucky winner was 18-month old Bennett Green from Kyle, Texas.

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

Once again thanks to all the members of our great chapter, and I look forward to seeing all the guides cup buyers in Matagorda September 23 and 24.

On a side note, we elected new officers at our last meeting. **Taking the wheel as chapter President will be Chris Bird with his Vice President being Jason Beery.** I would like to personally thank all the donors and supporters of our chapter. Without the continued support our chapter would not be where it is today. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the chapter.



Mid Coast Chapter Board members and guests at InterChapter Challenge Tournament Friday night dinner

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

Hello from the Mid Coast Chapter! Hope you are staying cool out there and catching a few fish! Our chapter hosted a CCA night at the Victoria Generals baseball game on the evening of May 30, recruiting several new members and talking with our community about all the good work CCA is doing. **Chelsea Bailey**, Calhoun County game warden who frequently appears on Lone Star Law, provided the opening welcome. **Congratulations to new CCA member Jordan Brown** for winning a fishing trip with board member **Ty Goyen!**

We had one of our year's best in the CCA Inter Chapter Challenge tournament on June 6, with board member **Rod Graci taking first place Trout at 5.18 lbs. and our team taking 3rd place Stringer at 19.22 lbs.** Thanks to all our team members who participated and CCA Texas for putting on another great event!

Everyone is invited to come out on the evening of **August 13 to Frances Marie's restaurant in Victoria at 6:30 to enjoy a presentation on upcoming oyster mariculture opportunities in Texas after the recent passage of TX House Bill 1300.** Dr John Scarpa, professor from Texas A&M Corpus Christi, will be sharing his experiences with oyster farming around the Gulf and what the new legislation means for Texas. **Dinner and a drink will be served during the presentation for \$25. Please RSVP to Cheryl Guthrie at crick-et3342@gmail.com or (361) 935 3342.**

Our next big event is the 18th annual Speedy Stop Guides Cup tournament on October 4 in Port O'Connor. We are looking forward to hosting the guides and the fisherman who purchased trips at our annual banquet this past May.

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

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

Our August General Meeting will be held on August 6, our guest speaker TBA. So please come and join us as we will have our usual raffle items. It will be held as usual at **Houston Distributing, 7100 High Life Drive off Cutten road in the Stein Room starting at 7:00 PM.**

And just two days later on August 9 will be our 30th Annual Northwest Houston Chapter Banquet and Fundraiser. It will be held at Shirley Acres, located at 217 Woerner Road. Doors open at 6:00PM. Please join us for a night of dinner, drinks, auctions, raffles and good old fundraising fun! To purchase your Table and Tickets please contact Drew Adams: dadams@ccatexas.org, 713.626.4222. We also have raffle tickets available for sale so please see a Director or contact Drew to purchase yours today.

Mark your calendars coming up for our next General Meeting on October 1st, will be 2

of our own Directors Jerry Goss and Nicole Hill. Jerry grew up in San Antonio but had family ties in Louisiana, where someone was always in the kitchen cooking and he loved helping and learning. The family grill consisted of a grate on cinderblocks over a firepit but produced some of the best bbq around. His early days had him making bbq for the family, church groups and other events. As time has progressed, he has upgraded his equipment, and now has a myriad of grills and smokers that he uses to make his wonderful ribs, brisket, pork and other goodies. Nicole's previous experience included being a catering manager at an upscale restaurant in Pennsylvania and owning/operating a successful Bed & Breakfast in Cypress, TX.

They will be going over the different cuts of meat, different approaches to preparing them, as well as types of grills/smokers and recipe ideas. They cater various events as well as ship their food all over the country for others to enjoy thru their company **Double Donkey BBQ: Double-DonkeyBBQ.com**. So please come to the meeting on the 1st at **Houston Distributing, 7100 High Life Drive off Cutten road in the Stein Room starting at 7:00 PM.** There will be beer on tap and as usual our great raffle items.

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

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

CCA Port Lavaca Chapter Banquet, Friday, August 9 at 6 p.m. at the Bauer Community Center. Join us for a dinner, drinks, auctions, Sportsman's Raffle and good old fundraising fun! Individual Tickets \$50.00 or Youth tickets (6-17) \$35. Reserve your table for 8: Bull Red Table \$1000, Trout Table \$750 or Flounder Table \$500. Get tickets or table now at ccatexas.org/events/2019-port-lavaca-banquet or tickets at the door. Join us in supporting the Coastal Conservation Association. See you there!

Port O'Connor
Bill Moore 361-983-4690
wilbmd@tisd.net

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

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

Redfish Bay Chapter has one major event left for 2019, and it is a great one! **The Beeville Fish Fry is tentatively scheduled for September 12 at May Ranch.** Look for emails and mail outs to confirm as we get closer to the date. The fish fry is always a fun event with great fish, potato salad, beans, hush puppies, beer and soft drinks, raffle, silent auction and live auction. Join us for this evening of family fun. We hope to see you there.

We will also have a couple of general membership meetings in Aransas Pass before the end of the year. They will be announced by email and

mail outs. Our Chapter has had a very successful year so far, and we want to thank our board, CCA Texas support staff (especially **John Blaha**), members and supporters. We cannot do it without all of you - hats off to each of you! If you would like to join us in our conservation efforts, call me on the number above.

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

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

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

Wow, summer heat is here. I hope everyone is enjoying this Texas heat. I have heard a lot of fish stories the past couple months. Please don't forget to share on our Facebook page. Our chapter board participated in the annual Inter Chapter Challenge fishing tournament again this year. We had a great time as we met with other chapters and were able to catch some nice fish in the mix.

The board is gearing up for another great banquet. **It will be held Thursday, September 5, 2019 at the Walker County Fairgrounds.** This will be another chance to gather with friends and show your support for our great organization. As always there will be a great meal and plenty of cold beverages. We will also have live/silent auctions and plenty of chances to win coolers, guns, rods/reels and some great trips. Please contact us for tickets and sponsorship opportunities. Happy fishing!



Sam Houston Chapter members at the 2019 InterChapter Challenge

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

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer and taking some time to go fishing. And if you have any photos you would like to share, go to CCA Texas San Antonio Chapter page on Facebook and like us. We look forward to seeing how y'all did.

Mark your calendar for August 7 for our next general membership meeting at the Barn Door Restaurant, the meeting will start at 6 p.m. Our speaker will be **Capt. Chris Bush**. Now that you have liked our Facebook page, keep an eye out for our next Social Happy Hour event and meet up with folks outside of our general membership meetings.

Mark your calendar again for our October general membership meeting to be held on October 9, 6 p.m. at the Barn Door Restaurant. We will have two speakers for the evening: **Capt. Clint Smith with Come N' Take It Outfitters** will be our guide speaker and a **Texas Game Warden from Lone Star Law** as our second speaker. As always, we will raffle off a guided trip with **Capt. Smith**, along with having numerous other

raffle prizes.

Our Banquet Committee will soon be having meetings. If you'd like to get involved, you can reach out to me, or simply look at our Facebook page. Lastly, remember to wet-a-line with your family and friends!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tri-County
Justin Putz 210-585-0401
putz.stx@gmail.com

Trinity Bay



Trinity Bay's 2019 Piranha P140C skiff

Gerald Payne 281-728-6278
rockin_g_payne@yahoo.com

Please mark your calendar for our annual banquet which will take place on August 23 in Baytown, Texas at the Nuevo Leon Events Center. The Grand Prize this year for our raffle will be a fully rigged Piranha P140C skiff, powered with a 20 hp Tohatsu Motor & aluminum trailer. All made possible through sponsorships by Tohatsu & The Boat Yard: 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: ccatexas.org/trinity-bay

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



Ruben Delgadillo shoots selfie with Brad Marsh at the 2019 West Houston Banquet

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

The West Houston Chapter held their annual banquet on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at the Omni Houston Hotel Westside. Special thanks go out to all of our table sponsors, contributors, members and guest. Planning for our annual banquet is an ongoing process as we look for ways to improve the experience for our members and guest.

Our chapter is always looking for new members and active leaders to help with the conservation and restoration of coastal marine resources. If you are interested in joining our chapter or serving on our board, please contact **Branon Pesnell** at 713-231-1587 or branon.pesnell@transwestern.com. Stay up to date with our latest chapter events on our chapter website at ccatexas.org/west-houston/. We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events!

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



In the category of "Leave It Better Than You Found it:" June 1, 2019, the 11th annual Beach & East Cut Cleanup: 220 people, many of them CCA members / 33 boats / 20 tons of trash picked up in the Mansfield Channel, Port Mansfield Jetties North and South and about two miles of PINS beach. Special shout out to the many professional charter fishing captains that give up a day's revenue to volunteer and help us. Thanks to you for your continued support! —**Kathie Bassler**





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
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TOTAL DOLLARS COMMITTED: \$895,000

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A Natural Partnership



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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.

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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.)

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Recipe Editor Liz Hewitt

Saturday Beach Shrimp Cheese Ball

1 pound boiled shrimp, minced
2 8oz. packages cream cheese at room temperature
1 cup finely chopped green onion (white and green parts)
½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
2 teaspoon granulated garlic
½ teaspoon Salt
½ cup grated sharp cheddar cheese
½ cup pecans, roasted and chopped
¼ cup chopped parsley

Mix first 7 ingredients together until well combined. Roll into a ball and place onto a sheet of saran wrap, folding until ball is completely covered. Chill for 1 hour.
Remove ball from plastic wrap and roll in chopped pecans and parsley, pressing slightly. Place ball on serving plate and enjoy with crackers or sliced vegetables.



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THE TEXAS GULF COAST NEEDS YOU NOW.

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

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



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

BUILDING
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CCA's National Habitat Program



30th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo

The Door is Wide Open

This time last year during the STAR tournament, anglers were left with only boats left to win after all of the tagged redfish F-150's were claimed. However, a new year brings new opportunities. At the time of writing, we here at the STAR office are BEGGING YOU to get out on the water and catch some of these tagged redfish! We only have two tagged redfish claims, with only five total being caught. Contrary to popular belief, having low tagged redfish catches does not help STAR at all. The truth is we do the best that we can in order to make sure that anglers catch these fish! With so many tagged redfish still out swimming and prizes in waiting, this is the year to get entered and hit the water. The door is wide open, now it's up to you to walk through it and into a new F-150.

While this year's Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division got off to a slow start, these first two winners were stories for the ages. We will start with the amazing story of our very first winner, Dom Lopez of Corpus Christi.

Pitching and Persistence: The Story of Dom Lopez

Those of you who keep a close watch on Texas high school baseball may remember Dom's name from his time as a star pitcher at Moody High School in Corpus Christi. When he isn't perfecting his baseball skills, Dom can usually be found wading a shoreline in search of fish. He actually has a little prior experience with STAR tagged redfish.



Dom Lopez

We'll let Dom take the story from here!

When I was 8 years old my father caught a tagged redfish while wadefishing. Sadly, my dad was not a STAR member, not able to receive the truck and boat package. Ever since, we've been members of CCA and the STAR tournament. And, on June 7, 2019 my luck changed. I decided to take my grandpa out on a little wade fishing trip. My first cast and I hook up on a nice red. I looked to see if he was "the one,"

but no tag. I look over to my Grandpa and he is hooked up on a nice redfish that was about 26 inches. Two casts later I hook up on a nice redfish. As I'm fighting the redfish and saw that tag, my whole body just went numb and I slowly netted the fish. I walked over to my grandpa and said, "We have to go home." I showed him the fish. He shouted and gave me a big hug. It was an accomplishment of a lifetime. My father and I have talked about it for years and finally I did it!

Talk about a great story of persistence, trying to catch a tagged redfish in the same spot that your father did eleven years ago! If you read the STAR feature article in this issue of *Currents* magazine, then you know that redfish are typically released in the same historic release locations, and this is a perfect example of that. The story of our second winner, Luis Deleon, speaks even more so to this point.

'Two' Good to be True: The Story of Luis Deleon
Let's take a quick detour back to July 1, 2018. Luis Deleon will



Luis Deleon

certainly remember the range of emotions he experienced that day. Cleaning the last redfish that he planned for his Dad's dinner, he saw the tag, what thousands of angler's search for tirelessly. Unfortunately, although Luis caught this tagged redfish fair and square, he wasn't entered.

Now fast forward to nearly a year to the day. Back in the same spot throwing his favorite lure, Luis gets a hit and it feels like a redfish. As he lands the fish, he sees the tag! As Luis told us, he "couldn't even fill out the paper, I was shaking so badly," and "is still shaking." Catching a tagged redfish is considered by many as a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence, but to catch two in the same spot, almost sounds too good to be true.

Tagged redfish catches may have been a little slow so far, but I think you'll agree that the two winners have made for some incredible stories.

On top of slow redfish catches, this year's STAR tournament kickoff was certainly an interesting one. Between a barge spill and tropical storm force winds it was not what many think of as a



Frank Cavazos, Lower Coast Trout Division winner in his new Mowdy 22' V boat 150 HP Evinrude motor and Coastline trailer



Offshore Division: The Polaris Ranger Crew 570 EPS UTV for heaviest kingfish, dorado, and ling.



Inshore Division: heaviest flounder, gafftop and sheepshead drive into the sunset pulling a Shalwater 19' Cat boat with a 115 HP motor, on top of a McClain trailer

great time to fish. Well, the spill has long since been cleaned up and the tagged redfish are now growing fat in each of their usual haunts all over the coast.

Let's take a look at what you could have in your driveway this fall! Remember though, even if you don't win a prize, you still qualify for some awesome opportunities provided by our sponsors; such as Ford X-plan pricing, a free online subscription to Texas Fish & Game magazine, Academy gift card.



Mike Varnado- Tagged Redfish Division Winner with his 2019 Ford F-150 Texas Edition truck, Haynie 23 Bigfoot, rigged with a 150 hp Mercury ProXS OptiMax sitting on a Coastline trailer.

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

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 UTV in Polaris Pursuit Camo on top of a Big Tex 35sa trailer to cruise around in when you're back onshore!

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

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

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

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

Sheepshead Division- \$50,000 scholarship for heaviest sheepshead!



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!

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 in this division!** 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 public part of the tournament.



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!

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



Kids with fish are always great entries. Left, Rubin Flores sent this heart-warming image of daughter Ryleigh Flores.



Blade Bassler with his son, Pierson Blade in Port Mansfield. On his first "big boy" trip for Pierson with his dad, they take a 30-plus Jack. Great Kid Photo by Miller Bassler.

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

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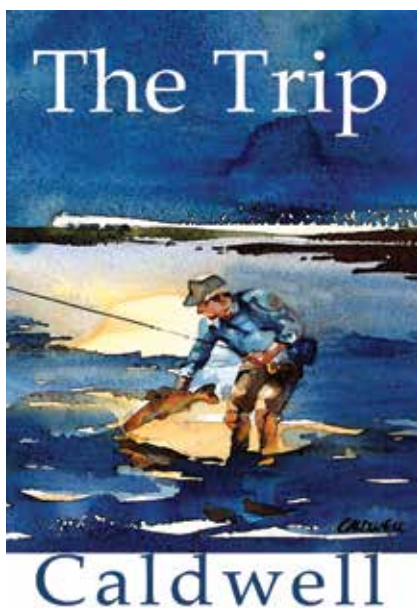
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August / September 2019

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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

*Operation
Game Thief*



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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STAR ENTRY FEE: \$25 ___ Tournament entry fee. Must be a current CCA member.
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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.

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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