

An underwater photograph showing a vibrant coral reef with numerous fish swimming around it. The water is clear and blue, and the coral is a mix of green and brown. The fish are mostly silver and grey, with some darker spots. The overall scene is a healthy marine ecosystem.

CURRENTS

October / November 2019

Rail to Reef

*Railroad ties show rapid
coral growth on the RGV reef*

CCA Texas Commitment to Nearshore Reefing Surpasses \$2.3 Million

By John Blaha

CCA Texas' Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT) and the Building Conservation Trust (BCT)— the national habitat program of CCA — recently approved another \$250,000 for nearshore reefing. With this new commitment, CCA Texas and BCT have now committed \$2.361 million to nearshore reefing along the Texas coast. This commitment is cemented by continued active fundraising to raise the necessary dollars for the deployment of more materials into current and future permitted sites along the Texas coast.

CCA Texas and BCT have been active partners in nine nearshore projects along the Texas coast in the last eight years. These projects include Sabine HI20 Reef; Galveston Big Man Reef; Galveston Kate's Reef; Freeport Vancouver; Matagorda; Port O'Connor Keeping It Wild; Corpus Christi / Packery Channel; Port Mansfield; and Rio Grande Valley Reef.

As CCA Texas's Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT) habitat initiative began to grow, one of the HTFT committee's goals was to see a permitted nearshore reefing site out of every Texas port. Some sites were already permitted by TPWD, and others were to still come. CCA Texas approached TPWD about permitting an area out of Port O'Connor and committed the funds to pay for the permitting process. As the permit process was progressing, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation's Keeping it Wild Campaign for Texas picked the Port O'Connor nearshore site as one of its project areas. Through the efforts of the TPWD Foundation, CCA, and BCT, \$1.0 million were raised to deploy 500 reefing pyramids into the site in early 2017. In addition, Shell Oil contributed the funds to deploy an additional 100 reefing pyramids within the site. **CCA Texas and BCT have contributed \$700,000 to the Port O'Connor Reefing Site.**

Freeport's Vancouver nearshore site was the first site CCA Texas was involved in.



Cover photo and this photo by Curtis Hayungs. Images capture the rapid coral growth on recently deployed concrete railroad ties.

CCA Texas contributed \$50,000 to the project and secured over 100 concrete culverts and catch basins of different sizes through donations from Old Castle Precast in Houston. In addition, 24 granite and limestone blocks ranging in weights from 2 to 16 tons were deployed as well. Since the material deployments by CCA Texas in August of 2010, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has deployed an additional 800 pyramids into the site. CCA Texas and BCT funded an additional \$10,000 in 2018 that was used to deploy 50 reefing pyramids that were donated by Atlantis Marine Habitats.

One of the HTFT committee's goals was to see a permitted nearshore reefing site out of every Texas port.

over 100 culverts and catch basins, and 470 reefing pyramids were deployed. In

Concrete railroad ties have been used to create a 500' long ridge that is 10' to 15' high throughout the length of the ridge and is located in the "CCA Corner." Additionally, a 32' tall "Mountain" has been built in the site from railroad ties as well.

The **Corpus Christi/Packery Channel nearshore site** began receiving materials in the spring of 2013 and

water Enhancement Association and CCA Texas.

The Lower Texas coast nearshore waters have benefited from the efforts of TPWD, CCA Texas, BCT, Friends of RGV Reef (FRGVR) and others with multiple deployments in the Port Mansfield and Rio Grande Valley Reef out of South Padre Island. CCA Texas and TPWD teamed up to deploy over 4,000 culverts into the Port Mansfield site. These culverts were donated by Alamo Concrete. These culverts provided immediate and close fishing opportunities for recreational anglers out of Port Mansfield and continue to provide angling opportunities.

The Rio Grande Valley site grew from a dream of local recreational anglers Gary Glick, Bob Glick, Daniel Bryant and others in the community for a 1,600-acre permitted

Continued on page 3

The barge Lil Mo deploying dozens of piles of concrete railroad ties at the RGV reef.





PROUD PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

7% of the proceeds from each CCA-branded item sold goes to support habitat restoration.



Academy
SPORTS+OUTDOORS





Pyramid reef and other concrete objects being readied for deployment.

reefing site. This site is the largest ever permitted in the state of Texas and FRGVR is setting the bar high in effort and the amount of materials that have been deployed into the site. To date the material deployments have been numerous and include 50 plus reefing pyramids, over 87,000 cinder blocks, low relief concrete rubble, and a shrimp boat and tugboat have been deployed into this reefing site. Concrete railroad ties have been used to create a 500' long ridge that is 10' to 15' high throughout the length of the ridge and is located in the "CCA Corner." Additionally, a 32' tall "Mountain" has been built in the site from railroad ties as well.

CCA Texas and BCT have committed an additional \$150,000 to the RGV Reef, bringing the total commitment to this site to \$611,000. These funds along with other capital raised by FRGVR will help grow the "Mountain" to 45', add 10 more 200-ton patch reefs from the concrete railroad ties that will be used to armor the new CCA nursery reef. This new nursery reef will be constructed from cinder blocks, which have shown to be very effective habitat for small juvenile fish.

FRGVR has laid the foundation of future nearshore reef habitat for the entire Texas coast by implementing varied forms of small, medium and high relief materials that ultimately create a life cycle reef for all age classes of fish.

The Upper Texas coast nearshore waters will begin seeing the benefits of the TPWD Nearshore Reefing Program in the fall of 2019. **CCA Texas and BCT contributed \$211,000 to the Sabine HI20 nearshore site** and these funds were used to deploy 200 granite and limestone blocks, and one barge into the Sabine HI20 site. **In July 2019, CCA Texas and BCT approved another \$100,000 in funding** to be used as matching funds with Cheniere Energy. CCA Texas and BCT are currently working with Cheniere Energy to deploy another load of materials in the near future. This new commitment further cements CCA Texas and BCT's commitment to reefing permitted sites along the entire Texas coast,

Photo by Lisa Laskowski

working with partners and Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Reefing in **Big Man's Reef** began in 2018 with the deployment of 180 reefing pyramids and the site will receive 180 low relief modules funded by TPWD. The modules are ready for deployment and should be deployed in the very near future. This combination of low relief and mid relief has proven to be effective in the RGV site and CCA Texas and BCT look forward to seeing this trend continue up and down the Texas coast. **CCA Texas, BCT and Shell Oil Company have committed \$329,000** to the Big Man Reef site, and are currently working with contractors to deploy reefing pyramids. Plans are to have these materials deployed in the winter of 2019/2020.

For more information about CCA Texas' and BCT habitat efforts along the Texas coast, please contact **John Blaha**, CCA Texas Director of Habitat, at jdblaha@ccatexas.org or Patrick Murray, Building Conservation Trust Executive Director, at pdmurray@joincca.org. Both may also be reached at (713) 626-4222.



Lisa always makes the extra effort to find the right spot to get the right photo.

Lisa Laskowski is a member of the Hill Country Chapter and an avid angler, along with her husband Michael Laskowski, Sr. Michael is a Past President of the Hill Country Chapter, and also sits on the CCA Texas State and Executive Boards, and the CCA Texas Parks and Wildlife Committee.

In addition to being an avid angler, Lisa also has a love of photography and has been the photographer for CCA Texas habitat projects since 2013. Lisa is always ready for a field trip at a moment's notice to capture the perfect photos that tell the story of CCA Texas' habitat work.

CCA Texas thanks Lisa and Michael for their dedicated efforts to the conservation of Texas's coastal resources. — **John Blaha**

Advocacy **CCA Texas** **Voices Concerns** **with Channel** **Deepening Project**

By Shane Bonnot

Citing concerns for the region's aquatic resources, CCA Texas recently voiced opposition to the Port of Corpus Christi's proposed Channel Deepening Project (CDP), permit application number SWG-2019-00067.

The location of the proposed project is an ecologically sensitive tidal inlet, connecting the Corpus Christi and Aransas Bay systems to the Gulf of Mexico. These major bay systems support the Nueces and Mission-Aransas Estuaries, home to numerous species of marine shrimp, crabs, finfish that utilize the varied habitat types offered including oyster reefs, seagrass beds, mud flats, hard structures, shoreline vegetation and unique intertidal mosaics of the aforementioned habitats. An abundance of economically and ecologically important species depend upon the inlet for migration, recruitment, spawning, and other vital life processes. Flatfish, penaeid shrimp, red drum, blue crabs, Atlantic tarpon, and numerous other aquatic species utilize this pass on a seasonal basis to fulfill biological requirements within their life history.

For example, swimming near the ocean floor, southern flounder utilize the pass annually during their fall migration to spawn in offshore waters, returning to the bays in late winter through early spring. Their offspring, also benthic-oriented, recruit into the bay systems through this pass in the spring as juveniles. Dredging operations can have detrimental effects on southern flounder stocks during these seasonal migrations.

Furthermore, the projected increase in Corpus Christi Bay salinities in model runs are as high as 0.53 parts per thousand (ppt) at various monitoring stations in the bay system. Of all the abiotic factors that can affect the biology on an estuarine organism such as *Crassostrea virginica* (oysters), the synergistic effects of temperature and salinity have the most profound effects, and long-term exposure to high salinities can be detrimental. While the projected amount in the model runs may seem insignificant, any additional increases in Corpus Christi Bay salinities have the potential to further hinder the production of oyster reefs by providing a favorable environment for predators (oyster drills), putting the oysters in an environment beyond their optimal salinity range (10-30ppt), or both.

Citing the reasons above, CCA Texas opposed the permit application SWG-2019-00067 and respectfully requests that the Port of Corpus Christi reconsider their analysis of Alternatives C

and D in their Purpose and Need Document. These alternatives would allow for the Very Large Crude Carriers (“VLCCs”) to be fully loaded offshore and eliminate the need to bring them into an ecologically sensitive region of the Gulf Coast.

Any disturbances in this ecological bottleneck can have significant impacts on numerous flora and fauna, so it is paramount that all direct and indirect impacts are fully understood.

Through the process of conducting public hearings and conducting an environmental impact statement, CCA Texas expects that the following impacts would be reviewed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before the project is given further consideration:

- Impacts of increased salinities in Corpus Christi Bay on sustainability of oyster reefs.

- Impacts of dredging on southern flounder during annual migration and seasonal larval recruitment.
- Timing of dredging in relationship to resident spawning populations of spotted seatrout and sheepshead.
- Impacts of dredging activities and increased channel depth on larval recruitment from offshore spawning populations of southern flounder, penaeid shrimp species, blue crabs, and red drum.
- Potential impacts of decreased flow through nearby inlets.

Be sure to check out the “News” section of our webpage for more information regarding this and other planned industrial activities in the Port Aransas area.



Angler to Advocate

Doug Boyd: A model for future generations of conservationists

By Shane Bonnot and Ted Venker

As an angler, on the water with a rod in our hand, we don’t give much thought to the resources and commitment required to maintain a voice for the fishery and the recreational fishing community. The advocate understands it well. The countless hours, the thousands of miles traveled, the time spent away from families and the responsibility – the commitment to work required in meetings to shape policy that will ensure sustainable fisheries for present and future generations. Many a CCA volunteer has answered the roll when their name was called, offered their talents and their gifts, for the benefit of our coastal resources. Serving with CCA at the chapter level, on a state board committee, on an executive committee, on an advisory committee, or serving in the fisheries management arena on a regional fishery council – the commitment for such activities is tremendous and we, as anglers, should take a moment to thank all of the advocates who have stepped up for the resource.

The angler advocate is often the lone voice in a crowded room, filled with eyes and ears keenly aware of every shift in body language or word spoken. For Texas anglers, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council), one of eight U.S. Regional Fishery Management Councils established by the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (Magnuson-Stevens Act or MSA), is where all the decisions are made that affect offshore fisheries.

The Gulf Council is composed of seventeen voting members. One seat is permanently held by the regional administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), five seats are held by state representatives from each Gulf state, and the remaining twelve seats are selected by the Department of Commerce from nomination lists provided by the governor of each state. Those appointed serve a three-year term and can be re-nominated to no more than three consecutive terms. Texas currently holds two of these seats. One held by Dr. Greg Stunz and the other by Troy Williamson, who recently replaced long time council member Doug Boyd.

“I say we can manage the resource in a way that works best for all commercial users and recreational users as well as the owners of the resource: the American people.” —Doug Boyd



Mark Ray, Doug Boyd and Robby Byers celebrate Doug Boyd’s successful nine years on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

Doug’s path to the Gulf Council, and his accomplishments while serving there, deserve our admiration and appreciation. He started, like a many of us, by immersing himself in the grassroots movement. As a weekend angler living in San Antonio, he wanted to do more to conserve the resources that have provided him with so many years of recreational enjoyment, so in 1981 he significantly stepped up his involvement with the San Antonio CCA Chapter. He continued that involvement for the next decade, serving at various positions within the chapter and in 1992 he was asked to serve on the CCA Texas Management Committee, working with Pat Murray who was the CCA Texas Executive Director at the time.

“Doug is one of a unique breed of conservationists who give to the cause on all possible levels,” said Pat Murray, CCA National president. “Doug has and continues to give his leadership, expertise, vision, time, resources and passion to our shared coastal marine resources. He is a true believer.”

Another decade passed and with it came another call to serve. This time Pat asked Doug to sit on the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (SFBPC), a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Advisory Committee that advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, on aquatic conservation endeavors that benefit recreational resources and recreational boating and that encourage partnerships among industry, the public, and the government. Doug answered the call and continues to serve on that council to this day, holding the Vice-Chair position. “I have made many good friends while serving on the SFBPC,” stated Boyd. “Having been reappointed every 2 years has given me the opportunity to remain engaged with our federal

partners and create some new programs for our fisheries, including the National Fish Habitat Initiative and its fundraising arm, Beyond the Pond."

Around that same time, Doug expressed an interest in serving on the Gulf Council and his resume with years of work on fisheries issues made him an excellent candidate. He was included on the governor's letter to the Department of Commerce for two nomination terms before being selected by the Department of Commerce in 2010.

"As one of the "Designated Recreational Members," my job was always to consider first, the health of the resource and second, the interests of the recreational fishing sector," stated Boyd. "It was an interesting, occasionally difficult and frustrating journey through the labyrinth of regulations needed to manage the vast wealth of the Gulf's critters."

At the end of his first year on the Gulf Council, Doug was asked if he would be willing to serve as Vice-Chair. Towards the end of his second year, he was nominated to be Chairman of the Council and served two consecutive years, the maximum allowed. During his nine years on the council, he spent a third of that time in a leadership position. From Doug's perspective, one of the more challenging aspects of the Gulf Council is obtaining adequate representation across all sectors.

"When the Department of Commerce looks at the nominations list, they say, we want to balance the council in votes, so that we're not a "lopsided" entity that would create a lopsided vote on anything," said Boyd. "They want representatives from each of what we call sectors. The recreational sector is divided between pure recreational fishermen, and charter-for-hire and head boat members. To me, the last two are what I would call the profit-making sector. Profit is not a bad word, but they are in it for business, and the recreational fishermen are engaged in fishing for enjoyment, outdoor recreation with the family as well as to catch fish for the table. Therefore, I say you automatically get a divided and very biased council that votes along a commercial agenda. It's just the way it is."

During most of my time on the Gulf Council, there would be only two representatives from the pure recreational sector (with no ties to industry), everyone else was either charter-for-hire, head boat or commercial. So, if you have 17 people voting on a proposal, the recreational sector doesn't get what they want in many cases."

Despite the obvious unbalanced voting blocks and obstacles along the way, Doug was instrumental in helping to guide the Gulf Council in leadership, cultural, and operational changes. Throughout his 9-year tenure Doug sought equitable solutions for numerous fisheries conflicts. He fought against any further privatization of public fisheries, helped to move management of the recreational red snapper fishery to the states, established a path for reallocation of red snapper and, perhaps most importantly, pushed NMFS to define what it required to change one of the most controversial subjects in our public fisheries - Catch Shares.

"The fish and the resource belong to the people of the United States. If you look at what happens with any other natural resource —be it timber, mining, offshore oil, the air waves—every one of those commodities have a cost to the industry which extracts them. The commercial red snapper fishery does not. The de minimis administrative fee they are required to pay isn't even enough to cover the costs of managing the program," said Boyd. "The Federal Government and the people of the United States should receive resource rent from the commercial harvest of red snapper. I say we can manage the resource in a way that works best for all commercial users and recreational users as well as the owners of the resource—the American people."

Doug continually sought changes with the Individ-

ual Fishing Quota (IFQ) system (or catch shares) and would often bring up the need for change during council meetings. Gulf Council members had been led to believe that to make any changes to the program that privatized commercial red snapper would require a referendum of those who had received the shares, making it virtually impossible to fix a program many have seen as deeply flawed since its implementation in 2007. Doug and others on the Council refused to believe that anyone had ever intended to essentially remove the Council's ability to manage the IFQ program and in 2017, over the objections of some council staff members, they sought a legal opinion from NMFS general counsel in Washington DC. That effort clarified once and for all that the referendum requirement applies only to when an IFQ program is created, not for subsequent adjustments. The ruling opened the door for a variety of tools that can be applied to make the red snapper fishery more fair and benefit the nation as a whole, rather than just a select group of share owners.

"This was instrumental in defining what is allowed in IFQ systems into the future," stated Boyd. "We now have a path forward to develop an auction within the IFQ system, for example, and return some of the wealth from this resource back to the public trust."

"The privatization of marine resources for the commercial sector is the single most controversial issue in federal fisheries management. Giving away hundreds of millions of dollars of public marine resources introduced a level of greed and manipulation to the Gulf Council that, quite frankly, the council system was never geared to handle," said Ted Venker, conservation director for CCA National. "It takes extraordinary courage and character for anyone to take a stand against such a biased system and demand meaningful change, and Doug has been one of the few willing to do it during his long tenure."

"It's a fun debate in a setting where making your argument is a tough sale," said Boyd. "NMFS is part of the Department of Commerce, a governmental body created to promote jobs, economic growth, and businesses. It's set up as a pro-business fishery management system, which at times, is not always the best for recreational sport fishing."

Despite that, Doug worked across the board with a full spectrum of constituents, no matter their alliances. Although they were sometimes diametrically opposed in their positions regarding fisheries management, he made friends with commercial fishermen and environmentalists. He got to know them as individuals —people with lives and families — and found they had more in common than not. Although he may be "term-limited" as a Gulf Council member, Doug very much wants to remain an advocate for the resource and the recreational angler.

"I would love to stay involved, be part of bringing recreational fisheries into NMFS on a broader front," said Boyd. "Recreational angling is an economic power and a force for conservation in all the Gulf states but particularly in Texas. I would like to keep working in some capacity to help federal managers recognize the untapped



Doug Boyd finds a copper spoon-hungry red near Port O'Connor. New Gulf Council member Troy Williamson takes a brief time out in Montana.



potential of the recreational sector and to look at us less as adversaries and more as partners."

While Doug's future in fisheries management isn't certain at this time, the impact he has had on others is evident.

Mark Ray, CCA Chairman of the Board said, "Any recreational angler that fishes the Gulf of Mexico owes Doug Boyd a debt of gratitude. Doug's dedication, wisdom and consummate leadership skills have benefitted the recreational fishing community enormously. These things, coupled with the tremendous personal sacrifice of time to the Gulf Council make Doug a total gamechanger in our space."

Troy Williamson, the current Gulf Council Member weighed in on Boyd's service. "I guess all of us in CCA fish, and some of y'all may even be good fishermen and fisherwomen," said Williamson. "But, all of us, in some manner, want to make a positive difference for the fish; the environment in which they live and the

ecosystem they share with other marine resources. Doug Boyd has made that positive impact in our recreational fishery and I believe he will continue to do so. If more of us took that next step and invested our time and energy the way Doug has over the past decade, there is no telling what we could accomplish for the proper conservation of our marine resources and anglers' access to them. If we are honest with ourselves, we would realize that we can have that positive impact. We all can become angler advocates."

Doug, thank you for answering the call, offering your talents and gifts. Thank you for leading the Gulf Council into a new era and encouraging others to follow your path from angler to advocate. —Shane Bonnot and Ted Venker, on behalf of all members of the Coastal Conservation Association



Functions of the Gulf Council

- Manages fishery resources in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico
- Prepares fishery management plans (FMPs) and makes recommendations by balancing competing interests
- Uses scientific advice from NOAA Fisheries and public opinion to inform FMP recommendations
- Aims to achieve the greatest overall benefit to the nation by sustaining and maintaining responsible fisheries management
- Stays consistent with the ten national standards laid out by the Magnuson Stevens Act
- Specifically manages reef fish, shrimp, spiny lobster, coastal migratory pelagics, corals, essential fish habitat, red drum, and aquaculture

The next Gulf Council meeting is October 21-24 at the Tremont House in Galveston. The meeting is open to the public with an opportunity to provide public comment on Wednesday October 23 at 2pm.

Suggestions for Future Angler Advocates

- Get involved with your local chapter as much as possible.
- Attend TPWD and Gulf Council public meetings and hearings.
- Express a willingness to serve on advisory panels, workgroups, and committees.
- Call or email Shane Bonnot (281-953-6612 or sbonnot@ccatexas.org) if you have any questions.

Caught Redhanded! Reports from TP&W Game Wardens

On August 15, wardens Vu Nguyen, Ross Sidman, Mack Chambers and Dan Castaneda were patrolling the Galveston channel. The wardens decided to inspect a vessel coming from offshore. When the vessel landed some of the occupants attempted to remove an ice chest and place it in a vehicle before game wardens could board.

During the inspection it was discovered that the ice chest contained 32 red snapper fillets. The occupants insisted they had caught a "state limit of snapper" and that bringing the fish in and filleting them at dock was "a hassle."

Ultimately, five citations were issued for heading and tailing fish before final destination. Cases are pending.



Photo courtesy of Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Wardens

Texas Game Wardens, Serving Texans since 1895



Law Enforcement Off the Pavement

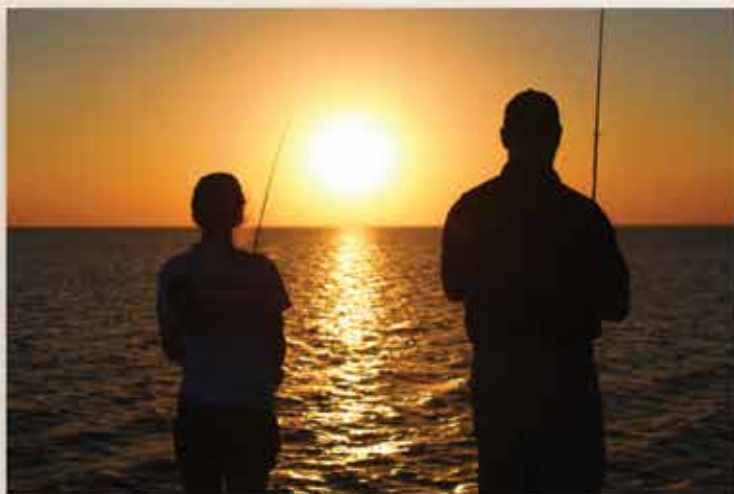
THE TEXAS GULF COAST INITIATIVE



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



Upper Coast

Capt. George Knighten

Cool weather, hot flounder run

Ahh, cooler temperatures at last! You have to love the fall. As October begins, the dog days of summer are finally giving away to cooler air and water temperatures. The changing patterns and lighter pressure on the bay set the stage for some great fishing. With those changes come migrating schools of shrimp and hard-charging birds and fishermen.

When hitting those frenzied schools of trout, remember the new limits on the upper coast and, in the excitement of trying to get back in the water for the next one, also keep in mind that the careful unhooking and release of those undersized trout will help insure next year's crop.

As October settles in and November approaches, another bonus for fall fishermen is the annual flounder migration. Shorelines leading to the passes will be the hot spot for traveling flatfish. A slow and low presentation can reward your patient efforts.

Wade fishing should also improve as falling water temperatures bring the fish back to the shorelines. Trout and redfish alike will aggressively hit artificial lures, whether on top or below the surface. That hard thump and those blow ups will feed the wade fisherman's addiction.

Fall fishing can be some of the best of the year. Keep in mind the new trout limits and November flounder limit. Our conservation efforts will be rewarded when our kids and grandkids have the same opportunity to enjoy what we have had. —**Capt. George Knighten**

832-310-9146 www.galvestonbayguideservice.net

Middle Coast

Capt. Scott Salyer

Check that chart for magic spots

Bay and flats fishing in October and November can be some of the best fishing of the year. Beginning in October, the top trout bite will be around structure such as rocks and wells. Shrimp will be a staple in the live well, fished under a popping cork or free lined around deep structure. Get a good chart and you can go straight to those deep spots.

For artificials in October and November my go-to lures are the Corkys in the mullet or pink colors. Red with a pink tail also works well. Clear, sparkly baits seem to produce well in fall conditions, so stock up early.

The redfish bite will generally be good in almost any sandy pot hole you can find. Check your charts—they can be a game changer when you pay attention and know where to start.

Got a cast net? Fresh cut mullet or shad tossed in pockets will produce a bite. Patience is key here. You may have to check several pot holes to find reds. And, charts again: be sure to check tide charts as tides are longer in October and November. Of course, moving water is much more productive so plan your trip accordingly.

Remember to be safe, wear your kill switch lanyard when under way: it's the law. Be patient and courteous at the boat ramp and out on the water. Be sure to safely release those big trout and reds as they are breeding stock, and will ensure a future with plenty of fish for everyone to enjoy. Good fishing and catching to all. —**Capt. Scott Salyer**

Redfish Runner Bay Guide Service
832-401-8244 Scottsalyer92@gmail.com

Lower Coast

Capt. Rene Hinojosa

The redfish rodeo starts now

As October kicks in, the reds of September will continue to bend rods and test knots all across the lower coast and Laguna Madre. Cool shallows are now where the action will heat up for those of us who have the wading habit. Or the drifting habit, depending on the wind. As our waters are now cooler after a scorching summer, the redfish rodeo will really kick in. Reds will not be everywhere, but there will be a lot of reds in the right places.

You'll watch for schooling activities of speckled trout as well as reds. That means slicks in deeper regions, and for you trophy trout hunters, try those shallow but boggy areas that are tough to wade but hold the bigger spotted mommas. You might want to start the morning with a topwater. My favorite has become the Super Spook Junior. I like the bone color, but the "Bozo Clown" has paid off lately. That's a lure with a red head and gold and silver sides. You can't go wrong with Norton lures. I especially like the sand eels, red and white—but keep that gold spoon handy.

As October fades to November, you may want to patch those waders or invest in a new pair. Wade fishers will see bigger trout, but with colder temps, the fish will look for deeper water, and so will you. Drifting or running, watch for telltale slicks and mullet "lines," concentrations of bait fish, because the predators are there as well.

Here on the lower coast, you'll be dealing with wind much of the time, but you can use wind to your advantage. With our clear water, drifting can put you on some classic sight casting moments. Keep that camera or cell phone handy and send a Great Action Photo to *CURRENTS*.

Remember to send the big spotted ladies back for further duty, release the slot reds you don't plan for dinner, keep your crew safe and watch for others who might need help.

—**Capt. Rene Hinojosa Jr.** 956-966-0719
shallowcharters@gmail.com

Redfish rodeo: Kathie Bassler took this fine red near Port Mansfield in late September. Do gold spoons work? Photo by Capt. Rene Hinojosa



Operating without a net: Van Sturdivant says he, Doug Hollingsworth and Roy Smith have been fishing together for over 40 years. Van says, "We got on these reds on our last wade of the day. We always keep only what we intend to eat for supper and release the rest."



CURRENTS is published six times a year by CCA Texas, a nonprofit state affiliate of the Coastal Conservation Association. This is the issue of October / November 2019
Vol. 37, Issue 6

Editor-in-Chief
Robby Byers

Editor
Sam Caldwell

Editorial Team
John Blaha, Shane Bonnot,
Liz Bosmans, Luke Giles

CCA Texas Staff
Drew Adams, Blake Burnside, Darbi
Dowell, Brian Meuth, Taylor Rieck,
Erich Schneider, Matt Still, Coleman
Todd, Brian Weaver

Alvin-Pearland
Rex Richards 281-923-3050
alvinpearlandcca@yahoo.com

Hopefully by the time you are reading this, the weather will have cooled down a bit and we will be transitioning into the "Fall Season" and a great time of year for fishing!

We would like to thank our August and September "Anglers' Night Out" speakers, Saltwater-Recon.com and Capt. Anthony Corder - "Hook South Charters." We always enjoy the presentations and the information shared! There are still two "Anglers' Night Out" events scheduled for 2019. **On October 8, we will be hosting Hunter Welch from "FishStix Rods" and on November 5 we will have our last Anglers' Night Out of the year.**

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

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

Our 20th Banquet was another record sold out banquet. Five in a row. This year's banquet was dedicated to our chapter founder **James Richard Fox**. He was instrumental in helping to establish what the CCA has become today, as well as being one of the founders of BABES ON THE BAY. His legacy will always be with us.

The Banquet was another success. Thanks to our Title Sponsor, **SALAMI'S ACE HARDWARE**, along with **STAR SPONSORS: POOR MAN'S COUNTRY CLUB, COASTAL INNOVATIONS, PROSPERITY BANK, PREMIER YAMAHA, FIRST COMMUNITY BANK, ACADEMY SPORTS + OUTDOORS** and **RON HOOVER**. **KEY SPONSORS: CANTERBURY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION, GSM INSURORS** and numerous table sponsors. A very special thanks to the **Staff at CAMP ARANZASU** for hosting our Banquet for the second year in a row. We also want to thank **L&F DISTRIBUTORS LTD**, Corpus Christi for furnishing beer for the banquet. Last, but not least, The Aransas Bay Chapter members that go above and beyond year after year to ensure that everything always runs smoothly.

A special THANK YOU to **Jay Watkins**, who spoke at our September "Angler's Night Out" and **Albert at Poor Man's Country Club** for hosting. We had a great turnout and Jay's wealth of knowledge

Chapter Updates

was appreciated by all our local anglers who joined us!

Planning has already begun for our **21st Annual Babes on the Bay Tournament** next **May 15-16, 2020**. Registration will open at the beginning of January. Updates will be on the "Babes on the Bay" Facebook Page and Instagram @babesonbay. Never too early to start booking your guides for next year, ladies!

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

It doesn't get any better than hunting and football seasons opening in September. And, now is one of my favorite times of the year to fish the Texas coast with lighter crowds and soon to be cooler weather. I am heading down to **Gary Boyd's camp, Majek Corner**, at the land cut soon to fish the 2019 President's Trip and I know we are going to have an outstanding time. Thanks for donating your camp again this year Gary and thanks to **Sonny Horton of BCS Concrete Structures** for buying it again! And a huge thanks to **Scott Sanderson** for hosting this with me again and for his help with this trip over the last four years!

I realize we are a long way out from the **2020 Austin Banquet, but mark your calendars now for May 7, 2020**. We are already preparing for it and I can assure you this year will have some fresh prizes and games that will have the room buzzing throughout the night.

We just held our last Anglers' Night Out will be held on **September 18, 2019 at Abel's on the Lake in Austin**. Our guest speakers were **Captain Josh Koenig, Special OPS Criminal Investigation Division, Texas Department of Parks & Wildlife** and **Dan McReynolds, Manager Environmental Crimes Unit, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**. With Texas waters and coastal environments increasingly under threat by major polluters, TDPW and TCEQ often work together in joint covert operations to gather evidence, investigate and bring charges against polluters who, left unchecked, can do and cause devastating and long-term harm to habitat and coastal sport fisheries that depend on clean estuaries, bays and waterways. Josh and Dan provided us with examples of their joint task force work undertaken every day to protect coastal and marine resources. Happy hunting, fishing and football seasons to all of you!

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

Brazoria
Kim Lamont 979-482-1456
Kklamont93@yahoo.com

We would love for you to join the CCA Texas Brazoria County Chapter at our next **Anglers' Night Out on October 8, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Sea Center Texas**. We will be hosting a local Game Warden to speak with our members about the new Texas laws for fishing/hunting and share some stories of interesting encounters. This will be a great evening and a chance to meet some of the CCA members in your area.

This is a **FREE EVENT**, but you **MUST RSVP** to **Drew Adams: dadams@ccatexas.org**. We will have

limited seating available, so please do not wait to RSVP. We look forward to seeing everyone!

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

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

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

Brush Country CCA
Annual Fish Fry & Banquet

November 6, 2019

JK Northway Exposition Center
Kingsville, TX
Doors Open at 6pm

Gun Raffle
Live & Silent Auction

Tickets:
\$40-adult/\$10-youth
Table Sponsorship-\$500

Catered by
Baffin Bay Seafood

Visit our chapter page on [CCATexas.org](https://www.CCATexas.org) to purchase tickets. To be a sponsor or to purchase a table please email us at brushcountrycca@gmail.com.

Come join the fun at our annual **Brush Country CCA Fish Fry Banquet on November 6, 2019**. Once again **Baffin Bay Seafood Co.** will be catering the event. This year it will be held at the **JK Northway Exposition Center**. Reserved tables and sponsorships are available. For more information, please contact us at brushcountrycca@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.

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

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



Central Houston's Sabine Skiff

The Central Houston Chapter is starting to prepare for its **44th Annual Banquet**. The banquet will be held on **April 30, 2020, at the Bayou City Event Center**. We hope to see you there! The Central Houston Chapter will be raffling a Sabine Skiff (www.sabine-skiffs.com) at its 2020 banquet. Stay tuned for details. If you're interested in getting involved in the Central Houston Chapter, please reach out to Todd Buster - tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com or Coleman Todd - coleman@ccatexas.org.

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

Greetings from the Colorado Valley! Just wanted to invite all to our **General Meeting** which will be held on **October 3 at the Fayette County Fairgrounds EH Kitchen** starting at **6:00 pm**. We are

honored to have **Jace Tunnell** as a speaker for the evening. Jace is the director of Mission Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve at Austin Marine Science Institute. It promises to be a really informative session so please join us if you can. There will be light refreshments, light snacks and a fun raffle so please come visit with your fellow fishermen and trade your fun experiences of the year.

Also, just to let everyone know that **our next banquet will be in La Grange at the KC Hall on March 26, 2020** and it will be our chapter's 20th anniversary so please make plans to join us. It promises to be another grand event.

Hope all your fishing adventures have been great but mostly fun and hope you have taken out some young folks. Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all!

Corpus Christi

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

Fall is about here in South Texas and hopefully some rain and cooler weather in the forecast. Most of our attention has been focused on our upcoming Babes on Baffin Ladies Fishing Tournament. Valerie Chilton, Kimberly Prowse and Jessica Arroyo have been leading our tournament committee and we are on schedule for another big turnout!

On October 11 and 12, Columbus Day Weekend, the Corpus Christi Chapter will be hosting Babes on Baffin Ladies Fishing Tournament. The event will be at Marker 37—same as last year—on North Padre Island. Two hundred and fifty lady anglers participated in last year's tournament and we are expecting a great turnout again this year! **Valerie Chilton**, Tournament Director, can be reached at 361-882-5199 regarding sponsorship opportunities and information. Registration is currently open, and you can access thru the CCA website, CCA Corpus Christi Facebook page or Babes on Baffin Facebook page.

Mark your calendar for **March 19, 2020 for our Annual CCA Banquet at American Bank Center**. If you would you like to get involved as a volunteer for one of our upcoming events, contact Cliff Johnstone at 361-816-7338 or email cjohnstone@higginbotham.net or Jay Gardner at jgardner@lja.com. Thanks again to all of our volunteers and sponsors who make all of our events possible. Hope to see you at our next event.

Dallas

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



CCA Dallas Chapter members at Beretta Gallery for the 2019 Dallas Hooked on Clays

The fourth annual CCA Dallas Hooked on Clays sporting clays shoot was held Sept. 20 at Dallas Gun Club. The event was a huge success with more than eighteen teams taking part in the shoot and barbecue lunch. Thanks to our Presenting Sponsor **Beretta Gallery** for donating a shotgun that was raffled off at the event, and to all our Station Sponsors, **Chama Chairs, Freedom Powersports, Infinity Fin and Whitehorse Steakhouse**, who helped make the shoot happen.

The fall general membership meeting was held Sept. 5 at the Beretta Gallery in Dallas. Several dozen

attendees heard from Beretta's **Dakotah Richardson** about the company's nearly 500-year history and were able to look at a 16th century rifle that is on display at the store.

To keep up with what is going on with the Dallas chapter, follow CCA Dallas on Facebook or Instagram.

East Texas

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

Fort Bend

Jim Black 979-240-5010
jimblack@nov.com

Summer is finally coming to a close and to recap, the fishing this year has been amazing. The group has been active on the water and we have made several fishing trips, despite the heat, and have not been disappointed. I have never seen or heard of such good



A few winners at Fort Bend's 2019 Lingerie on the Bay.

fish coming out of our bay systems. You can't go a week without someone talking about catching their personal best. It looks like the conservation plan is really starting to pay off and we look forward to seeing what this winter's fishing will have to offer!

We recently hosted our annual "Kidfish" tournament, which was a huge success. We had 115 kids come out and brave the heat to catch some fish and there were plenty caught! A special thanks to our sponsors whom without their help we could not make this event half of what it is today. I would also like to thank everyone that came out to help and all the people that brought out the kiddos, we look forward to next year's event. Hope to see you there!

The last event we had this summer was our LOTB "Lingerie on The Bay," our all-ladies fishing tournament, which was another huge success. This year 285 ladies entered and came out to show us guys how it's done and man, can they fish! The weigh-team had their hands full, that's for sure. Congratulations to all the winners and to everyone that fished. It was a great event, we thank you all and look forward to seeing you next year. Remember to keep the waterways clean and be respectful to your fellow anglers. Hope to see you on the water!

Fort Worth

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

Galveston

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

Golden Triangle

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

Greater Sugar Land

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

I hope that everyone has enjoyed another summer spent with family and friends on and off the water. I

was lucky enough to have both my daughters attend our final Kid Fish event before the much-anticipated new school year. The event was hosted by **Ms. Colene Cabezas**, acting Director of Parks and Recreation with Meadows Place. We had another strong



Greater Sugar Land: **Lynda Breland** catching a beautiful redfish. Below, chapter members enjoying the latest Kid Fish event.

showing of volunteers and the Mayor of Meadows Place, **Charles D. Jessup, IV**, stopped in to personally thank everyone involved.

We had children of all ages attend and everyone seemed to catch one species or another resulting in prizes going out to all who participated. Catches included catfish, largemouth bass and crappie ranging upwards to over 20 inches in length. 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, Derek Darilek and Neighbor, Gary Blanchette, Michael Lindley, John Wolf, Mike Anderson and Bob Hilliard.**

Congratulations to board member **Lynda Breland** on landing a beautiful redfish. The catch made her think twice about who she was going to keep—her husband or the fish. Please take a second to check out your chapter's page on the Texas CCA website for a list of upcoming events and meeting dates. Thank you, **Tara Jurica**, for all the continued updates and social media announcements such as our Facebook page: **CCA Texas Greater Sugar Land Chapter**. We hope to see everyone. Bring a friend, or crew, for our **upcoming Anglers' Night Out event October 2 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Enjoy the peace and quiet and we'll catch you on the next incoming tide!

Greater Woodlands

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

We successfully completed our 12th annual banquet on May 18! Thank you to our sponsors: **Academy, VCC, Capital Farm Credit, Texas Marine, Premier Yamaha Boating Center, Reddico Construction, Jeff Burton Insurance, Ameritex, Precision Tackle, Inc., Eldridge Roofing & Restoration, Inc., Ferguson, Harris Group, Ashton Saw & Drilling, Ryan Clarke, The Whiddon Group, Silver Eagle, and Titos.**

Each year we do a little better than the year before. We had extra contributions from Academy

Sports + Outdoors this year, allowing us to add some exciting new prize packages to our raffle ticket game. The newest game was a poker chip game with the prize of a Louis Vitton purse valued at over \$1,500! We even had a black lab puppy again. We heard that some people didn't get their postcard in time for our banquet this year, and we do apologize for that. So, mark your calendar to be on the look-out for our banquet coming in May 2020! Check our CCA Texas website, ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands, for any of our upcoming events. Don't wait until the banquet to come and see us. We'll have an Angler's Night Out posted soon! If you really want to hear from us, make sure we have your email address correct and check your spam folder, so you don't miss out. We'd like you to share in the fun year-round and bring your kids. We have great opportunities for anglers to meet other local anglers and plan a fishing trip.

I want to give a big shout-out to **Ryan Clarke of The Woodlands!** He came to our banquet with his Dad and brother, Will. He signed up for the CCA STAR tournament and is currently holding the 1st runner up title for the speckled trout division for Teens! Check our facebook page, facebook.com/CCAGreaterWoodlands, to see his results, and also the STAR tournament website to see all the leaders. I hope you reel it in Ryan! Tight lines and tan lines!

Guadalupe Valley **Adam Arroyo 361-350-0026** **Ctown75@aol.com**

Guadalupe Valley would like to thank all who showed up for the CCA Banquet held August 8. Congrats to all the silent auction, live auction and prize winners. We were pleased with the turn out and hope for an even bigger one in '20! A big thank you to the board members who helped with the set up and break down of the banquet, without you this banquet would be impossible to have.

All Guadalupe Valley members be on the lookout for the CCA email on the date of the next quarterly meeting. Our board meeting is coming up soon and we will finalize a date. Tight lines this fall!

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

Plans are well underway for the annual **Hays County CCA Banquet to be held November 13, 2019, at the VFW Hall in Wimberley. Doors open at 6 p.m.** followed by a great night of fun! Tickets are on sale now. Table sponsorships include seating for 8, a special CCA table gift, dinner and drinks, and CCA membership and a table gift for each person. In addition to individual tickets, we also have a couples ticket option available. We'll have door prizes, some great raffle items and a live auction. Tickets can be purchased online at ccatexas.org/events/2019-hays-county-banquet.

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Hays City Store in Driftwood. Meetings are open to all and are a great opportunity for you to learn more about our chapter and CCA. Please "Like" us on Facebook: facebook.com/ccahayscounty. If you have any questions about the banquet or our chapter, please send us an email at hayscountyycca@gmail.com or call Tim Young at (512)573-7939. From the full board at Hays County CCA, we look forward to seeing you all at our banquet and happy fishing!

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

Hope you were able to attend our banquet in September at Don Strange Ranch. We will have a full recap of the event in the next Currents. A special thanks to **FORD OF BOERNE** for being the title sponsor of our event!



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

CCA Helotes board members participated in the ICC tournament in June. They won second place stringer, largest red drum and largest other legal fish. The weekend was filled with great commodore and food that made long lasting memories between families and friends.

Our chapter will be holding board elections in October. Then, will immediately begin the planning for next year's banquet. Our date for our **2020 banquet has been picked to be Thursday, March 19, 2020**. With a sellout banquet last year, we anticipate yet another great night of fundraising fun. For more information on chapter events, like us on Facebook or contact us at ccahelotes@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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 Chapter represents the good people of Matagorda County and it seemed like they were all at our 11th annual banquet on August 2, 2019. We had the largest crown in the history of our event! All of our sponsor tables were full and we had a large number of folks walk up and purchase tickets at the door. Sponsors, Donors and Volunteers, old and new, stepped-up to make this a night to remember. It was a huge evening of bidding and winning while enjoying the delicious BBQ from the A&A folks in Bay City. **Salty Dog liquor, Tito's Handmade Vodka and our local purveyors of suds, Hartman and DelPapa distributors** kept thirsts quenched. Thanks to our Bar Maids for making sure we were all safe and sound at the end of the evening.

We especially want to thank our generous Platinum level sponsors, **W.D. Von Gotten, Alpine Services, H-E-B, Sunbelt Valve, Cribbs Concrete, Ace Hardware and Academy Sports + Outdoors**. Our thanks also go to the many returning and new Gold sponsors this year. **McCoys, Alpine Services, Alu-**

ma-Tech LLC, Capital Farm Credit, Full Stringer Realty, Phillips 66, Lyondell Basell, Ward Real Estate, Triangle Turf, Anthony's Auto Werx, Frankson & Griffin CPA's, Texas Trio Classic, Suez Water Treatment Services, McCada Drilling Fluids and Keating Nissan. We really appreciate the investment our Bronze level sponsors make to support our chapter. It was exciting to see so many new Bronze sponsors come on board this year: **Dependable Machine, Topical Maniac, Gasaway Inc., Mr. Ron Gavender, Serve Outdoors, WaterLights LLC, Shupak Manor, Matagorda Concrete LLC, Newpark Mat & Integrated Services, South Texas Corrugated Pipe, Lower Colorado Land Trust, Seifert Construction Inc., Stanley General Stores, Presley's Alternator Service, Texas Farm Bureau, Custom Auto Refinishers, Edward Jones Investment Advisors, International Bank of Commerce, Uno Mas Guide Service, Juliane Zapalac, PA-C, Austin Industrial and R&R/Saha Farms.** Our sponsors and donors were all tremendously gracious and open with their support and contributions. If you happen to meet these fine folks or use their services, please thank them for being CCA supporters.

Now that we have this year's banquet and fundraising auction out of the way, we can pursue the more competitive program for 2019, **the Guides Cup Tournament. There's been a lot of talk among the Captains and members of the Lower Colorado Chapter about who is best up for the challenge. The Captain's meeting will be on Oct. 7 starting at 6pm.** The Tournament will start from Matagorda Harbor the next day. It's been a windy and cold sendoff the past two years with the first Norther of winter blowing in right about the time the Captain's Meeting starts. We'll have to see what Mother Nature has in store for the Guides Cup this year. The Winning team with the heaviest stringer of two Specs and a Red will lay claim to the coveted Lower Colorado Texas CCA Tournament Cup for the next year and all the bragging rights that go with it.

Till next time, we wish you all smooth waters and tight lines from the Lower Colorado Chapter of TX CCA, the chapter that supports all of Matagorda County's Rivers, Creeks and Bays.

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

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

Matagorda Bays **Chris Bird 979-257-6508** **cbird1493@gmail.com**

A United States President once spoke passionately about conservation and stated, *"Conservation means development as much as it does protection. I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land; but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us."* President Theodore Roosevelt was one of the most influential conservationists this country has ever been privileged to know and our past Matagorda Bays Chapter Presidents are amongst those who also believe that conservation is a vital part of sustaining our natural resources. Without each of their service over the past 30 years, the Matagorda Bay complex would not be what it is today. We would like to recognize our past chapter presidents for their hard work and dedication to the CCA and conservation for future Texans. Your past Matagorda Bay Chapter Presidents: **Mike Allison (3yrs.), Wesley Smolik (15yrs.), Mike Prasek Jr. (8yrs.), Linc Lutrick (4yrs.), and Chad Hensley (4yrs.)**

I would also like to take the time to introduce to you your new Matagorda Bays Chapter Vice President, **Jason Beery**. Jason is 32 years old being born

and raised in El Campo, Texas. He is currently employed as a Measurement Technician at the Chevron Phillips Chemical Company, where he has worked for over 8 years. Fishing is a true passion for Jason more than a hobby and he has stepped up to the VP position viewing it as an opportunity to give back to the sport that he truly loves. From working the Lil' Salties for the kids, our annual chapter banquet, and the guides cup, Jason understands the big picture of how our chapter provides outreach and fundraising for Texas conservation and is a true conservationist and outdoorsman that our chapter is lucky to have on board.

For myself, **Chris Bird**, your new Matagorda Bays Chapter President, I am 34 years old and have called many places home. I graduated from Texas A&M University in 2006 with a degree in Ocean and Coastal Resources and shortly after attended the 52nd Texas Game Warden Academy. I was stationed in Wharton County in 2007 where I have since remained. I also serve as a member of the Texas Game Warden Special Operations Group and was named Game Warden of the Year in 2011 and 2015. I have a true passion for the outdoors and fishing, where becoming a member of the Matagorda Bays Chapter two years ago was another opportunity for me to contribute back to the natural resources, I have received so much enjoyment from. I look forward to all the hard work and memories that lie ahead as our Team of board members step into our next year for the Matagorda Bays Chapter!

Our final chapter event for 2019 is approaching fast and our guides have prepared all summer to compete for the **Jim Ehman Memorial Guides Cup**. The Guides Cup will be held at the beautiful **Matagorda Harbor on September 23 & 24 of 2019**. There will be a social gathering and meal on Monday evening with the Guides Cup on Tuesday followed by a meal and the prestigious awards ceremony. Our Guides Cup sponsors for 2019 are; **Duckett, Bouligny and Collins LLP., Harbor Bait**

Building Memories for Generations.

As the largest custom home builder in rural Texas, Tilson is proud to support CCA and provide members with this special thank you for fostering the love and respect of our coastal marine resources for generations to come.



\$1000

of **FREE** upgrades for **CCA** members

888-884-5766
Tilson-CCA.com

* Offer available for new contracts only. Not reproducible. Cannot be combined with any other offers. To qualify for discount, you must present the original ad and your current CCA membership card.

TILSON

CUSTOM HOME BUILDERS

Gulf Identification Guide



Tito's Handmade Vodka is a proud supporter of CCA Texas



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





tend hope to see you next year.

By the time this goes to press our next General Meeting will probably have passed. On Tuesday, October 1, 2019 we will host the owners of Double Donkey BBQ, Jerry Goss and Nicole Hill as our speakers for the evening.

At our **December 3, 2019 General Membership Meeting** we will have a representative from CCA Texas discuss the habitat projects that are currently underway along our Texas Coast. From near shore reefs to oyster reef restorations to shoreline protections, CCA Texas has funded more than \$6 million dollars in projects through 2018. And, of course, we will have our Christmas gift raffle items so please plan to attend! As usual it will be held at **Houston Distributing, 7100 High Life Drive off Cutten road in the Stein Room starting at 7:00 p.m.**

Orange County

Scott Bandy 409-988-3667

scottbandy77@yahoo.com

Orange County Chapter held its 11th Banquet and Fundraiser on August 8, 2019. We teamed up with **Granger Chevrolet** again as **Title Sponsor**, the event was sold out hours before the opening of the Doors. Big Thanks to **Granger Chevrolet, Total, Goodyear, Vincent Recycling, Golden Pass LNG, Fabricating Solutions, Philpot Ford Toyota, Brown Hearing Centers, LANMARK Staffing, Innovative Air Solutions, Spanky's Bar & Grill** and the numerous table sponsors. Without your generosity this event would never get off the ground. Not to overlook the community we have here, we can count on you to attend and participate. Thanks again.

Special thanks to all of the board members, great job guys. If you would like to be on the committee for the banquets, we meet the **2nd Monday of each month**. Keep up with us on our **Facebook Page (Orange County CCA Chapter)**

Port Lavaca

Eric Ellison 361-983-4690

fishingsalt@yahoo.com

Port O'Connor

Bill Moore 361-983-4690

wildbm@tisd.net

As summer comes to a close and we prepare to usher in the fall activities, it also signals the time to start planning for our annual banquet. **The 20th Annual POC CCA Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2020**. Be sure and pencil in this date on your calendar, which is to be held at the POC Community Center. Also, if you want to get involved in the banquet planning, this is a great time to join our group, enjoy great fellowship and talk conservation and fishing. So, if you are in the area enjoying the fall fishing or just kicking back, give us a call in POC. "Where it all began."

Prairie

Patricia Walters 979-885-7464

manager@wpprint.com

What a great day of fishing we had on August 3, 2019 when we held our 18th annual kid's fishing tournament at Walter's lake in Cat Spring. We had an awesome turn out: 45 kids registered to fish along with their parents and friends.

The event was opened to the public and everything was free including hot dogs, drinks and chips. **Thanks to Joey Pawlowski for preparing the meal.** Prizes were given to three age categories: 0-6, 7-15, and 16 and up. The winners in age 0-6 were: 1st place Hayes Switzer, 2nd place Jeff Avery and in 3rd place was Jaxson Toman. For the age category of 7-15: 1st place was Tyler Witt (who caught the largest fish), 2nd place Logan Schalla and in 3rd place was Presley Pfeffer. The winners in age group 16 and up: 1st place Drake Grigar, 2nd place Hunter



Above: Cleaning up Boggy Bayou Park in Port O'Connor. Mid Coast board members from left to right; Allan Berger, Rod Graci, Trey Edwards and Wade Harrell. Lower photo: State Representative Geanie Morrison addressing the Mid Coast Chapter.

Scarpa from Texas A&M Corpus Christi speak on the opportunities that are coming to Texas under our new oyster mariculture law. Our own State Representative **Geanie Morrison** provided opening remarks on recent legislative progress in regard to our state oyster fishery.

On August 23, five members from our Mid-Coast Chapter board assisted Dow USC-Seadrift in a shoreline cleanup along Boggy Bayou Park in Port O'Connor. Thanks to our Vice President **Rod Graci** for organizing the event, it was a great success! Always a positive when our local chapter partners with local industry to make our coastline a better place! (Picture in separate email)

Our board will be working fast and furious this month to prepare for our upcoming **18th Annual Speedy Stop Guides Cup Tournament in Port O'Connor on October 4**. Thanks to Danny & Chad Goyen for organizing an outstanding event and best of luck to all our guides and fishermen that are participating! The only way to be a part of this event is to buy a spot at our annual banquet auction, so consider joining us for our 2020 banquet--detail coming out soon!

Northeast Houston

Jason Law 713-898-8594

jlaw1899@yahoo.com

Save the Date: **The 2020 N.E. Houston Crawfish Boil & Fundraiser will be in early April at Walden on Lake Houston Golf and Country Club**. In preparation for this event that was sold out this past year, we are taking reservations for tables and tickets. If you would like more information about our banquet, or to go ahead and reserve a table contact Brian Weaver: bweaver@ccatexas.org or Jason Law: jlaw1899@yahoo.com.

Northwest Houston

Rob Sziy 832-971-1989

sziy@sbcglobal.net

First off, we would like to give a HUGE thank you to all our sponsors and supporters at our 29th Annual Banquet Fundraiser! It was again held at Shirley Acres on August the 8, 2019 and it was a spectacular night. Great food and fun was had by all and we want to thank our sponsors for all of their donations. A great job by all of the directors. If you didn't at-

and Tackle, and El Campo Sheet Metal. If you are interested in participating in the 2020 Guides Cup, the live auction event will be held at our next annual banquet, date pending. Be sure to look up and like our Facebook page for the Jim Ehman Memorial Guides Cup results after September 24th.

The Matagorda Bays Chapter wishes to thank each of our Matagorda Guides for their part in fundraising for conservation and participating in the Jim Ehman Memorial Guides Cup: **Capt. Rob Cummings, Capt. Caleb Rush, Capt. Charlie Paradoski, Capt. Cody Vacek, Capt. Floyd Ciruti, Capt. Glenn Ging, Capt. Jimmy Riddle, Capt. Kendall Kersh, Capt. Kenny Hauff Jr, Capt. Kenny Hauff III, Capt. Kevin Kosik, Capt. Kit Caston, Capt. Lee Warmke, Capt. Matt David, Capt. Jason Finley, Capt. Mike Kubecka, Capt. Nick Mosley, Capt. Ozzie Arnold, Capt. Stan Sloan and Capt. Tommy Alexander.**

To all our chapter members, donors, and board members... Thank you for all your outstanding contributions in making this another great year for the Matagorda Bays! If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact us at any time.

Mid Coast

Wade Harrell 361-935-1125

wcharrell@hotmail.com

Who is ready for our first cold front? I know our Mid-Coast Chapter is! Our chapter has had a fun-filled summer and we are looking forward to a busy fall. We had a great turnout from our local community on the evening of August 13 to hear **Dr. John**



Prairie Kidfishers: everyone is a winner.

Thieleman and 3rd place Grayson Brandes.

The winners in all the categories got their choice of a CCA rod and reel. Tyler Witt with catching the largest fish received the rod and reel along with a custom made CCA metal plaque.

We would like to thank **Don and Patricia** for the use of their Lake and thanks to **Brian Weaver** from CCA for the donations. And a big thanks to the board members for all the help that made this tournament a great success. The date of the 19th annual kid's fish will be announced later.

Redfish Bay

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

Rio Grande Valley

Boone Stutz 210-906-7676
riograndevalley@gmail.com

Sabine-Neches

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

Greetings from Southeast Texas! The dog days of summer have finally passed and all sights are set on the anticipated fall flounder run! Sabine Lake is slowly getting back in to shape after the year long run of fresh water.

We participated in the Anglers Night out in September, it was good to catch up with all of our members and there was a lot of good information regarding the reef program.

We are always looking for new members to join our board, if you would like to participate in our March 2020 Banquet let me know, the more the merrier! Tight lines to all!

Sam Houston

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

San Antonio

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

Finally....the dog days of summer are behind us. I encourage everyone to enjoy these cooler days by going

fishing. Please share your photos with us on our CCA San Antonio Facebook page.

Mark your calendars on March 20, 2020, for our 7th annual "Hooked on Clays" Sporting Clays Shoot, at the National Shooting Complex. For information on the shoot you may contact **Tricia Kocurek** at **hookedonclays@gmail.com**.

While you are marking your calendar, next year's **San Antonio Banquet will be held on April 30, 2020 at the Freeman Expo Halls.** Next year's event should be another record-breaking fundraiser for CCA Texas.

Our last general membership meeting of the year will be on **November 6, 2019.** This will again be held at the **Barn Door Restaurant** and the doors open at **5:30 p.m.** Our guest speaker for the evening is **Greg Stunz, Ph.D.** Greg is the endowed chair of fisheries and ocean health at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, along with being a professor of marine biology with Texas A&M University of Corpus Christi. Greg specializes in fisheries ecology and sort-fisheries. We will again have plenty of door prizes and raffle items for folks to go home with. 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 our Interchapter challenge in Matagorda on July 27 and 28. The weather cooperated and allowed the participants a great day to be on the water fishing. We commenced Friday at the **Klopsteck residence** for a team meeting and a rib eye steak dinner. Thank you to **Richard and Judy Domel** for always being there to take care of the meal and doing a great job. Jayson Zahradnik took the trophy for the 3rd time with a total stringer weight of 23.53 lbs. The stringer included the first and second place redfish. First place trout and trash fish went to Team Kutach, first place flounder to Team Wilcox along with second place stringer and trash fish. Second place trout was weighed-in by Team Domel/Klopsteck. The event concluded Saturday with all enjoying fried fish.

Additional thanks to **Bill, Joyce, Richie and Rodney.** Thanks to all the sponsors of the event, without you, these events would not be possible. Special thanks to **Mr. Billy and Mrs. Joyce** for allowing our chapter and its members into your home.

It seems like we just finished with our banquet, but here we are again gearing up for the **2020 Annual Fundraising Banquet on February 27, 2020 in East Bernard at Riverside Hall.** Give us a call to secure your raffle ticket and it's never too early to reserve your table for the banquet.

The Matagorda Bay system has been steadily producing solid trout in deeper than usual water. Don't be afraid to wade chest deep to get on them. Mid bay reefs have been producing on falling tides and fall redfish have fired up. Slow it down a little for that flounder bite that has been second to none. Be safe on the water and leave it better than you found it. If you love to fish, this organization is and will be a great way to dedicate your time to your passion. If you are interested in getting involved, the number is at the top. Hope to see everyone on the water and make sure to like us on Facebook and share your pictures and fishing experiences with us. Tight lines and safe travels.

San Gabriel

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

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

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

2019 was a record year for the Trinity Bay Chapter. Our 29th Annual Banquet was held at Nuevo Leon Events Center on August 23- we had an incredible turnout, our first time to sell out the event! A big thank you goes out to our dedicated Board of Directors and our supportive sponsors and donors.

This year, we raffled off a Piranha Raso P140 Skiff thanks to our good friends at **The Boat Yard located in Kemah.** This little skiff is a shallow back lake, redfishin' machine! **Tohatsu Motors** outfitted this rig with a 20hp motor. **Huge thank you to our Boat Raffle sponsors this year!** John Norris was our lucky winner of the boat. Congratulations John!

This year's event could not have been successful without the support of our incredible sponsors. A special thank you to our Platinum Sponsors: **Sunbelt Valve Services, Specialty Metal Products Supply, and Chastang Ford** - and to our Title Sponsor: **Lance Rentals.** With their support along with all of our table sponsors, we were able to put on the biggest and best banquet CCA Trinity Bay has thrown in 29 years!

With this year being a sellout, there were some sponsors that were not able to attend. Keep an eye out for next year's banquet - we will have an early bird sign up for sponsors that will be entered in a special raffle for those that sign up early!

As always, if you have any interest in joining up with the volunteer committee, please reach out to me. Thank you again to all our volunteers and sponsors!

Trinity Valley

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

West Houston

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

West Texas

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





Follow CCA Texas on Social Media!



/ccatexas



@ccatexas



@ccatexas



CCA Texas



HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

CCA Texas Projects

1.	Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough Restoration	\$1,600,000
2.	Oyster Restoration - East Galveston Bay	\$ 500,000
3.	** Nearshore Reefing - Rio Grande Valley Reef	\$ 611,000
4.	Nearshore Reefing—Port O'Connor	\$ 700,000
5.	** Nearshore Reefing - Sabine Pass	\$ 311,000
6.	Nearshore Reefing - Galveston / Big Man	\$ 250,000
7.	HRI Nearshore Reef Enhancement Study	\$ 250,000
8.	** Dagger Island Shoreline Protection & Marsh Restoration (Redfish Bay)	\$ 250,000
9.	Shoreline Stabilization - Oyster Lake (West Galveston Bay)	\$ 230,000
10.	** Oyster Restoration—Deep Reef Sabine Lake	\$ 215,000
11.	Nearshore Reefing - Matagorda	\$ 200,000
12.	Shoreline Stabilization - San Bernard NWR	\$ 200,000
13.	Marsh Restoration - Bird Island Cove (West Galveston Bay)	\$ 150,000
14.	Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation - Moses Lake (Galveston Bay)	\$ 138,000
15.	** Baffin Bay Serpulid Reef Habitat Conservation/Restoration Study	\$ 135,000
16.	** Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Shoreline Protection (San Antonio Bay)	\$ 125,000
17.	HRI Oyster Restoration Site Locator Mapping Study	\$ 120,000
18.	** Marsh Restoration - Dickinson Bayou	\$ 100,000
19.	Nearshore Reefing - Corpus Christi	\$ 100,000
20.	Bahia Grande Restoration (Port Isabel / Brownsville)	\$ 95,000
21.	Oyster Reef Creation - St. Charles Bay (Rockport)	\$ 75,000
22.	Oyster Reef Restoration - Aransas Bay (Rockport)	\$ 75,000
23.	Oyster Reef Restoration - Copano Bay (Rockport)	\$ 75,000
24.	Marsh Restoration - Egery Island (Copano Bay/Bayside)	\$ 70,000
25.	Marsh Restoration - Matagorda Island	\$ 70,000
26.	Nueces Bay Delta Water Management Gates	\$ 70,000
27.	Nearshore Reefing - Freeport / Vancouver	\$ 60,000
28.	Nueces Bay Demonstration Oyster Reef	\$ 60,000
29.	Marsh Restoration - Goose Island (Rockport)	\$ 50,000
30.	Nearshore Reefing - Port Mansfield	\$ 50,000
31.	Shoreline Stabilization - J. D. Murphree WMA	\$ 50,000
32.	Shoreline Stabilization - Cow Trap Lake (Brazoria County)	\$ 50,000
33.	** Dollar Bay Shoreline Protection and Marsh Restoration	\$ 50,000
34.	** Galveston Bay Foundation Headquarters Living Shoreline Restoration	\$ 50,000
35.	Marsh Restoration - Oxen & Gang's Bayou (Galveston)	\$ 42,000
36.	Trinity Bay Discovery Center Living Shoreline	\$ 40,000
37.	Marsh Restoration - Nueces Bay (Corpus Christi)	\$ 24,000
38.	Marsh Restoration - Snake Island Cover (West Galveston Bay)	\$ 20,000
39.	Weed Eradication for Water Flow Restoration (Guadalupe River Delta)	\$ 15,000
40.	Bay Debris Removal - Aransas Pass	\$ 5,600
41.	Building Conservation Trust's Texas Habitat Fund	\$ 114,066

** 2019 Projects

TOTAL FUNDED THROUGH 2019: 7,395,666

If you are interested in contributing to our Habitat program,
Contact John Blaha at jdblaha@ccatexas.org



Mata-Get down-Gorda Shrimp Ceviche

½ lb. Medium shrimp, peeled,
 de-veined and boiled
 1/3 Cup red onion, thinly
 sliced into 1" pieces
 1/3 Cup cucumber, diced
 1/3 Cup tomato, diced
 1/3 Cup cilantro, chopped
 ½ Jalapeno, diced
 Juice of ½ lemon
 2 Tablespoons olive oil
 Salt and Pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients and
 let chill in the fridge for at
 least an hour, stirring once or
 twice.
 Serve with tortilla chips or
 crackers.

Recipe and photos by Editor Liz Hewitt



SINFULLY SMOOTH WHISKEY



Forged From Greatness.

Devils River Whiskey owes its unique taste to our
 meticulous attention to detail. Made from naturally
 limestone-filtered water from the Devils River, our
 Sinfully Smooth Whiskey unmasks all the subtle
 nuances we work tirelessly to.



An Official Sponsor of:



Sin responsibly. Devils River Bourbon Whiskey, 90 proof, 45% Alc/Vol. Produced and Bottled by Devils River Whiskey, Dallas TX.



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



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

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

Credit Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

CVV _____

Please Choose ONE of the following Sizes:

☐ Small ☐ Large (9-11 foot)
☐ Medium ☐ Large (12-13 foot)
☐ X Large ☐ 2XL

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

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



30th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo

After over one hundred days of great fishing, the 30 Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament has come to a close.

It was another incredible year here at STAR. Over 51,000 Texas anglers of all ages wet a line in search of their prize-winning fish, a new record! A special thank you to the over 11,000 new CCA members, we hope that you will stick around as we continue our mission of marine conservation and making our great fisheries even better for generations to come! Please hook up with your local chapter folks.

Texas anglers landed eleven of the tagged redfish released for the tournament with some incredible stories from the anglers. Tales of perseverance, second chances, and just plain good fortune. As always, there were many Texas anglers who missed their chance at a driveway-sized prize by fishing without being registered for the tournament, many saying something along the lines of, "I never thought I'd catch one, but I dang sure will be registered now!" A simple \$25 STAR entry fee and a CCA membership could have had them fishing in style out of a new Haynie Bigfoot pulled by their new Ford F-150 instead of simply enjoying a fresh redfish dinner.

We have already opened STAR 2020 online registration. Get yourself, the kids and anyone else you can think of registered now so that you don't become one of the many heartbroken anglers who would have won!

2019 State of Texas Anglers Rodeo Round-up

This year we were once again able to offer 124 prizes in the STAR Tournament, ranging from boat and truck combos, boats, UTV's, \$50,000 scholarships, and Academy Sports + Outdoors gift cards. With high tagged redfish claims, we will be giving away twenty-four top prizes on October 9 at the CCA Texas STAR Awards Banquet at Bayou City Event Center, including \$325,000 in college scholarships! Everybody is welcome at the banquet with purchase of a ticket. Without further ado, we present to you the 2019 CCA Texas STAR Tournament final winners!

STARKids Scholarship Division

The STARKids Scholarship Division will provide three young anglers (ages 6-10) with a \$50,000 college scholarship after entering for free with their \$10 CCA membership. Through the years, this division has empowered many children to further their education who otherwise may not have been able to attend college.

Flounder- Cain Todd, age 10, Needville, 5 lbs. 11oz.

Sheepshead- Jace Ponder, age 9, Mont Belvieu, 8 lbs. 3oz.

Gafftop- Mia Jones, age 6, Richwood, 8 lbs. 2 oz.

Academy Sports + Outdoors STARTeens Scholarship Trout Division

The Academy Sports + Outdoors STARTeens Scholarship Trout Division was open to all STAR entrants ages 11-17 for free with their \$10 CCA membership. These young anglers with the heaviest speckled trout in each region (upper, middle, and lower coast), will be awarded a \$25,000 college scholarship to help further their education:

Upper Coast- Buck Warren, age 12, Galveston, 7 lbs. 0 oz.

Middle Coast- Max Garner, age 17, Pearland, 8 lbs. 5 oz.

Lower Coast- Alyssa Allen, age 12, Port Isabel, 7 lbs. 15oz.

STARTeens Inshore Scholarship Division

The STARTeens Inshore Division was open to all STAR entrants ages 11-17 for free with their \$10 CCA membership. These young anglers with the heaviest flounder, sheepshead, or gafftop will be awarded a \$25,000 college scholarship to help further their education:

Flounder- Tanner White, age 12, Sweeney, 6 lbs. 9 oz.

Sheepshead- Hudson Richard, age 14, Anahuac, 10 lbs. 11 oz.

Gafftop- Jake Carlin, age 14, Orange, 6 lbs. 11 oz.

Youth Scholarship Drawing

On top of the nine scholarships listed above, STAR also awards one youth entrant (ages 6-17) with a \$25,000 scholarship simply for entering the tournament for free with their \$10 CCA membership.

Being able to award \$325,000 in college scholarships again this year is the highlight of the STAR Tournament for many involved. What better way to entice kids away from the electronics and on the water enjoying the resource that we all love so dearly? Not to mention providing the opportunity to better their education. These youth are the future in protecting the vitality of our precious marine resources for many years to come. Take a kid fishing today! To date we have awarded over \$6.5 MILLION in free college to Texas youth! This year's lucky winner is Trenton 'T-Bone' Garrett, of Dickenson, TX. Congratulations to Trenton!

Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division

The first five winners will be towing home a brand new 23' Haynie Bigfoot powered by Mercury Marine on top of a new Coastline trailer. To tow this new setup home they will also be using their brand new Ford F-150 Texas Edition!

1 Winner- Dominik Lopez, Corpus Christi

2 Winner- Luis Deleon, Corpus Christi

3 Winner- Fernando Diaz Gutierrez, Chula Vista, California

4 Winner- Jerry Smith, Port Aransas

5 Winner- James Johnston, Texas City

Trout Division

These registered anglers weighed in the heaviest trout for the Upper, Middle, and Lower coast divisions. They will each be taking home a Mowdy 22'V, powered by a 150 hp Evinrude E-TEC G2 set on a Coastline trailer:

Upper Coast- James Malone, Clute, 8 lbs. 3 oz.

Middle Coast- Michael Roghair, Wadsworth, 8 lbs. 15 oz.

Lower Coast- Jesse Cantu, Brownsville, 9 lbs. 0 oz.

Inshore Division

These Inshore Division winners will take home a Shoalwater 19' Cat with a 115hp Mercury motor and McClain trailer for weighing in the heaviest flounder, sheepshead, and gafftop:

Flounder- Mark Gonzales Sr, Shoreacres, 7 lbs. 4 oz.

Sheepshead- Lawrence Richard, Anahuac, 11 lbs. 14 oz.

Gafftop- Derrick Jones, Richwood, 8 lbs. 5 oz.

Offshore Division

In the Offshore Division, the following anglers weighed in the heaviest kingfish, dorado, and ling. Each angler will be leaving the banquet with a brand-new Polaris Ranger Crew 570EFI in Polaris Pursuit Camo each on a Big Tex trailer courtesy of Hoffpauir Polaris:

Kingfish- John Bullock, Surf City, NC, 66 lbs. 8 oz.

Dorado- Wayne Brock, Corpus Christi, 50 lbs. 11 oz.

Ling- Braden Sherron, Corpus Christi, 73 lbs. 12 oz.



Upper Coast winner- Buck Warren



Kingfish Winner- John Bullock

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

CCA Texas Guides Division

The CCA Texas Guides Division debuted last year to great success and has grown even larger this year. At creation, the hope of the division would be for 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 the division this year will be taking home a Mowdy 26' CAT, 250 hp outboard, and custom Coastline trailer. Be on the lookout for the winner soon!

Early Bird Grand Prize Drawing

Every 2019 STAR entrant (21 and up) who registered prior to April 26th went into this special drawing for a chance to win a sweet new Dargel 210 Skout, Evinrude motor, and McClain trailer package. This year's lucky winner is Jeremy Shimek of Columbus, Texas! Congratulations to Jeremy.

Member Bonus Drawing

For everybody who did not win a grand prize, you were automatically entered into our Member Bonus drawing for the same new Dargel 210 Skout, Evinrude motor, and McClain trailer package. This year's lucky winner is Ty Yates, of Beaumont, Texas! Congratulations to Jeremy.

CCA Texas and STAR would like to thank our fine sponsors, weigh stations, ticket stations, and the countless volunteers for their hard work and dedication in not only helping to enhance our marine resources but helping these lucky kids with their education.

Without you, the CCA member, there would be no CCA or STAR, and we want to thank every single one of you for all that you do for our great resource. We especially thank those getting kids out on the water to ensure that future generations can enjoy the same things we do!

One often overlooked area of STAR, is the critical role that our great weigh stations serve. For all of your hard work this year we thank:

SGS Causeway in Port Arthur, Sportsman Supply in Sabine Pass, Stingaree Marina in Crystal Beach, Marburger's Sporting Goods in Seabrook, Pelican Rest marina in Galveston, GYB Bait & Tackle in Galveston, West End Marina in Galveston, Surfside Marina in Surfside Beach, Harbor Bait & Tackle in Matagorda, Indianola Fishing Marina in Indianola, The Fishing Center in Port O'Connor, Terry's Seaworthy Maine Supply in Fulton, Woody's Sport's Center in Port Aransas, Roy's Bait & Tackle in Corpus Christi, Westican Outdoors in Kingsville, Harbor Bait & Tackle in Port Mansfield, and South Shore Bait & Tackle in Port Isabel.

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

Ford X-Plan Pricing- CCA Texas members will again have the great honor from Texas Ford Dealers of using X-Plan pricing. For just a \$35 membership any CCA member can purchase (or lease) a Ford vehicle at Ford employee pricing! Depending on your chosen vehicle, this could save you \$100's or \$1,000's! Our Ford Partner Code # is CCA61; go to www.fordpartner.com, if you are considering a purchase.

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



azine" is again offering a FREE one-year (12 issues) online subscription to all 2020 CCA Texas STAR participants. This subscription gives you access to the latest and most in-depth outdoors information anywhere. Whether you are lying in bed or sitting in the office, you will always have access. So be sure to include your email address on your registration form to receive your free subscription! If you prefer the print version don't worry! You can still receive a print version, along with online access, for only \$8 a year (vs. \$17.99). Be on the lookout in your email or mailbox for details on how to activate this offer! If you have any questions regarding your past or current subscriptions, please call (800) 725-1134 or email subscriptions@fishgame.com.

TILSON HOMES \$1,000 in FREE UPGRADES!

- Every CCA Texas member who purchases a Tilson Home is eligible for \$1,000 in free upgrades such as ceramic tile, hardwood floors, cabinets and more.

See their ad in the CCA Texas

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



Evinrude- Keep your eyes peeled on our social media pages for your boat power needs.



Mustang CAT- As a tip of the hat for all of the hard work CCA members do, Mustang Cat is also giving a reward back to you when you purchase Cat compact

construction equipment. Purchase any qualifying equipment by November 30, and Mustang Cat will put \$500 dollars back in CCA member pockets to help with diesel....or a new fishing rod. If you're not in the market at the moment, you can still make \$500 just by referring a friend who decides to purchase compact construction equipment from Mustang Cat.



CCA Texas STAR Platinum Print Membership Package, Series X- This year's featured artist, Anastasia Musick, sold out in record time! So, we will be bringing her back again for the upcoming tournament! Along with being an incredibly talented artist, Anastasia has supported CCA efforts across many states in huge ways. We hope you will love this print as much as we do! Your CCA Texas Platinum package includes your CCA membership (new or renewal), your 2020 CCA Texas STAR entry, plus one signed, limited-edition print created exclusively for STAR, all for only \$135! This one-of-a-kind-print is worth the price alone. If you are considering one, or several, of these limited edition packages, go to: www.startournament.org for more details or to place your order with the STAR Dept. call (713) 626-4222.

Thank you to our tremendous 2019 sponsors who allow us to host this great event:

Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Home Corporation, Capital Farm Credit, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, Mustang CAT, Mercury Marine, Hoffpauir Polaris, Shiner Bock, Evinrude BRP, Shoalwater Boats, Haynie Boats, Mowdy Boats, Dargel Boats, Texas Fish & Game Magazine, Coastline Trailers, McClain Trailers, KTRK-abc13, Costa and Chris's Marine.

For more information, go to www.startournament.org

Thank you for another great year of support for CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament!



**PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR
CONSERVATION EFFORTS**



SEAGLASS

WINE COMPANY

One of a kind coastal wines



Proud Supporter of



SEAGLASSWINECO.COM

Great Photos 2019

Categories: **Best In Show / Action / Scenic / Humor
Kids / Wildlife / CPR**

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.

Left: Levi Antoine, six years old and in safety gear hoists his first 28" red. Photo by James Barbree. Below: Craig Furr captured this Rockport sunrise. The CURRENTS photo editor said the small island made the photo a Great Scenic Winner.



 **Columbia**
PFG

WHAT SUN?



OMNI-SHADE SUN DEFLECTOR™

TECHNOLOGY USES HUNDREDS OF TINY SUN-DEFLECTING DOTS ON THE FABRIC TO REPEL HARMFUL RAYS, KEEPING YOU COOLER, PROTECTED AND OUTSIDE LONGER.





WHEN THE SUN DISAPPEARS
**THE FISH
WON'T**

COSTA
580[®]
TECHNOLOGY

NEW SUNRISE SILVER MIRRORS

This advancement of our color-enhancing 580 lens technology allows you to see more with less light. The yellow-based polarized lenses allow high light transmission while still providing maximum protection and deliver sharper contrast for sunrise, sunset, and a sun that wants to hide behind the clouds all day. Find your pair by using the dealer locator at costadelmar.com.


COSTA
SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE[®]



**CATCH 'EM.
RELEASE 'EM.
PASS IT ON.**

ENGEL®
PROUD CONSERVATION
PARTNER OF



COASTAL
CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION

888-272-9838 | ENGELCOOLERS.COM | 900 Jupiter Park Drive | Jupiter, FL 33458 | info@engelcoolers.com **ENGEL®**

*National
honors for
The Trip:*

*First Place
Outdoor
Book*

*First Place
Outdoor
Painting*

Gift a favorite outdoor friend with a five-star ebook on Kindle. Or, own a first edition paperback. Drop by the Caldwell website for full information. While you're there, browse through old, middle-aged and brand-new Caldwell paintings.



www.samcaldwell.com

Texas State Artist 2004

DU State Artist 2010-2011

Dallas CCA Conservationist 2015

2016 Perry R. Bass Wall of Fame

281-455-9390

**LARGEST
POLARIS DEALER
IN TEXAS**



POLARIS

www.hpolaris.com | 866.522.8793

2114 Hwy. 84 • Goldthwaite, TX 76844

Store Hours: Monday-Friday: 8a - 6p

Saturday: 8a - 5p

Sunday: Closed



Hoffpauir
Outdoor Superstore





Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Drive, Suite 100 Houston, TX 77024

CURRENTS NEWSLETTER

October / November 2019

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HOUSTON, TEXAS
PERMIT 2532



*From rail to reef:
Nearshore habitat in the new
"CCA Corner" employs
concrete railroad ties*

U.S. Coast Guard Air & Sea Rescue

National Response Center: 800-874-2143
Port Isabel: 956-761-2668
Corpus Christi / Marine Safety Office:
boating emergencies, chemical and
oil spills: 361-888-3162
Port Aransas: 361-749-5217
Port O'Connor: 361-983-2616
Freeport: 979-233-3801
Houston, Galveston: 409-766-5620
Sabine: 409-971-2195

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

Visit www.tpwd.texas.gov
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



COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (including STAR Entry)

Name _____ Phone _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWAL _____ (Member ID for renewing members only) _____ EMAIL _____

Method of payment
___ Check/Money order
___ Charge to my:
___ MASTERCARD
___ VISA
___ AMEX
___ DISCOVER

MEMBER: \$35 ___ Membership card, decal, bumper sticker, Texas CURRENTS newsletter & TIDE magazine.
ASSOCIATE: \$15 ___ Per each family member. All membership privileges except TIDE and CURRENTS.
PRINT MEMBER: \$100 ___ All of the above plus CCA Texas print of your choice.
LIFE MEMBER: \$1000 ___ CCA Life Membership piece, print, plus member gifts. Payable in four \$250 installments. Additional \$25 for shipping.
STAR ENTRY FEE: \$25 ___ Tournament entry fee. Must be a current CCA member.
NEW TIDE: \$10 ___ TIDE newsletter, decal. Includes STAR Tournament entry, for members 17 and under.

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

Credit card number _____ Signature _____

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