

e-current function Sector Sect

John Ben Strother enjoys the company of three whooping cranes—at social distancing, of course. Photo by Randy Boenigk. Both are members of the Brazos Valley CCA.

# Staying in touch with the CCA family

hen we finished 2019 with records in nearly all aspects of CCA Texas' operations, I don't think anyone could have imagined that a few months later we would be scrambling to move every spring and early summer event and banquet to the late summer and fall in response to a global



pandemic. But even with all of the problems and distractions this crisis has caused, CCA Texas' important work continues.

As this crisis became clearer, we quickly reduced and cut expenses through our operations while working with local chapter leaders to find new dates for the more than 50 banquets. The main question that now faces us in this process is what size of events local and state authorities will allow. We continue to coordinate with the Governor's office through our Austin lobbyists in determining when and to what degree group gatherings will be safe and viable. The safety and comfort of our

We have all seen the incredible interest in coastal fishing that has picked up recently.

members, volunteers, supporters and staff are of foremost importance, but we also are hearing regularly from our members and chapter leaders that CCA members are ready to get back to supporting the important work of CCA.

We have all seen the incredible interest in coastal fishing that has picked up recently. After weeks of sheltering-in-place, the angling public was ready to go fish. The Texas STAR Tournament has kicked off with strong registrations and people are ready to get back to the coast.

The work of conservation and habitat continues. We are working with our partners and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in ensuring that the critical conservation work of our State fisheries managers and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission continue to focus on some of the important fisheries and habitat issues we all face, including southern flounder management, oyster harvest controls and habitat restoration. Although many projects and initiatives are on hold through this crisis, this work will resume shortly and CCA Texas will be helping lead the conservation efforts that make this State's fisheries and habitat so healthy and strong. Thank you to all CCA Texas members for everything you are doing to keep our mission moving forward. **–Robby Byers** 

#### A great way to enjoy indoor time and stay in touch with the outdoors the CCA website is at your service.

You'll find news and information about chapter events, advocacy and breaking news, plus 21 videos of the progress we're making along the Texas coast. Need a guide? Want to enjoy a *CUR-RENTS* feature from years back? Check in with the STAR program?

Go to <u>ccatexas.org</u> and bookmark it now.



# June Advocacy Update

Shane Bonnot

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission moved to adopt changes in southern flounder regulations, making slight modifications to the proposed rule change.

Effective September 2020, the minimum size will be increased from 14 to 15 inches. The proposed 45 day fall closure to allow the spawning females to migrate to the Gulf was also approved but will not take effect until 2021, citing consideration of economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Commission also directed staff to: 1) move towards real-time reporting of commercial landings to ensure that all flounder landed under a commercial finfish license are reported to the department, and 2) further study a potential slot limit for the fishery to increase spawning biomass.

In closing discussions, Vice-Chairman Arch H. "Beaver" Aplin of Lake Jackson provided supportive comments on the continued need to provide some relief to the fishery thorough the flounder stock enhancement program.

Shane Bonnot, CCA Texas Advocacy Director, provided comments to the commission citing concerns for the continued declines and need for action to conserve southern flounder.

"CCA Texas appreciates the Commission taking action that considers what is best for the resource while remaining sensitive to the economic impacts that the current pandemic has had on recreation-

al fishing guides, anglers and businesses supportive of the recreational fishing industry," stated Bonnot. "Over the past 15 years our membership has donated over \$1 million to support larval research and flounder stock enhancement. We are committed to continuing efforts that will improve this fishery and provide opportunities for the recreational angler." Based off online



public comment and verbal comment during the meeting, there was overwhelming support from both recreational and commercial fishers to support some form of regulation change that would increase the spawning stock biomass of southern flounder — roughly 1/3 of the comments provided online were in opposition of any regulation change.

"I love to fish for flounder and want them to rebound so that we have more for future generations," said Marisol De Le Garza, CCA Texas-Rio Grande Valley Board Member. "I want to do my part to conserve the fish and give the female flounder a chance to spawn."

"CCA Texas appreciates the efforts of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission to develop and adopt these regulation changes," stated Rocky Chase, Chairman of the CCA Texas Government Affairs Committee. "Combining these efforts with additional management tools such as stock enhancement, angler engagement and fisheries research is a logical path forward as we continue to unpack the complexities within this struggling fishery."

A place of their own... the CCA Texas flounder Building at Sea Center Texas was designed to fit the special needs of flounder stock enhancement.



Vice-Chairman Aplin's pledge for the department to ramp up stocking efforts of southern flounder should come to fruition in late 2020. The CCA Texas flounder building at Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson is nearing completion and the sister building in Corpus Christi is already online. With the two new buildings, Texas Parks and Wildlife staff will be capable of expanding their flounder spawning and fingerling grow-out into warmer months, giving them two rounds of production.

"CCA Texas continues to be a proud partner of the stock enhancement program," said Robby Byers, executive director of CCA Texas. "Our hope is that with increased production capabilities, stock enhancement can aid in the recovery of the flounder fishery. TPWD has repeatedly expressed grave concern for the status of flounder stocks and we want be a part of the solution by supporting the department and raising awareness among our membership."

Over the past 15 years, CCA Texas has donated more than \$1 million to support flounder research and stock enhancement projects:

• \$740,000 to the University of Texas Marine Science Institute for facilities and equipment to support larvae research.

• \$14,000 to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for a skiff to aid in flounder broodstock collection.

• \$40,000 to the Sea Center Texas Hatchery in Lake Jackson for flounder larvae culture equipment.

• \$325,000 to the Sea Center Texas Hatchery for a flounder culture larvae culture building.



# <u>HTFT</u> CCA Texas Update and Happenings John Blaha

s this edition of Texas Saltwater Fishing hits the newsstands, we hope Texas and many other states are moving forward into the next phase of opening our communities and economies. CCA Texas is weathering these unprecedented times well thanks to the incredible success of our local chapters the last several years. This success is a direct result of the dedicated efforts of our volunteers at the local and leadership levels, and our staff. Thank you all for putting the organization in a strong position to deal with times like this.

The strong success of CCA Texas's local chapters has allowed CCA Texas to contribute over \$7.8 million to 40 habitat projects up and down the Texas coast since the inception of Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT). The local success has allowed CCA Texas to lead the way in critical advocacy issues such as oyster management, fresh water inflow, and fishery management issues. CCA members and volunteers are critical to the advocacy process by taking an active role, whether it is active roles on committees, commenting at public hearings, or sending in their



comments to the appropriate governmental agency for any one specific issue. The common thread to all of CCA Texas remains to be successful local chapters and dedicated volunteers.

#### Habitat

Nueces Bay Oyster Project - Habitat creation and protection projects have contin-

ued to move forward through pandemic crisis. The Nueces Bay oyster reef project was recently completed under the leadership of Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP). 200 tons of 3" x 5" bull rock were placed within protected area of shoreline protection project in Nueces Bay. This rock along with a 20' X 200' strip of crushed oyster shell will provide a good



baseline for the potential success of oyster restoration in this part of Nueces Bay. CB-BEP and Harte Research Institute (HRI) will monitor the area to track the success of any oyster growth.

#### **Dagger Island Shoreline Protection and**

Marsh Restoration - CCA Texas partnered with Ducks Unlimited to create critical shoreline protection in Redfish Bay along Dagger Island. The Dagger and Ransom Island Shoreline Protection Project is a wide ranging project with the ultimate goal to eliminate or drastically reduce the rate of shoreline erosion and island migration. Three different types of shoreline protection (shoreline revetment, beneficial use, and offshore breakwaters) are being used at three priority areas. Once completed, the project will protect more than 5,000 acres marsh and wetlands, and create more than 40 acres. Work is ongoing and the breakwaters are now complete. The contractors are also stacking material for the containment levees, and the next phase to begin shaping the material on the levees should begin mid to late May.

#### Lone Star Beer Contributes \$150,000 to CCA Texas for Habitat Restoration and Creation

Lone Star beer recently committed \$150,000 to CCA Texas for habitat restoration and creation along the Texas coast as part of their Hurricane Harvey Relief Giving. Lone Star has been a great partner to CCA Texas, and especially the Austin Chapter.

These funds have been designated for habitat work in the Coastal Bend, and CCA Texas and Lone Star are currently working with partners to identify potential projects. "As the National Beer of Texas, we deeply value the land and waters of the Lone Star State," commented Troy Moldenhauer, RGM South Texas. Moldenhauer continued, "For us, working with the CCA to protect the beauty of our state for future generations to enjoy, especially with a beer in hand, was an absolute must. We look forward to this friendship for many more years to come."







# PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Your gun must be picked up from an FFL dealer. Please expect 6-8 weeks for delivery. Guns will ONLY be shipped to addresses in Texas.

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

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CCA Texas | 6919 Portwest Dr., Suite 100 Houston, TX 77024 | Ibosmans@ccatexas.org | 713.626.4222



Drop by the Coastal Conservation website for complete information on the coastal outdoors: ccatexas.org

## LIKE and FOLLOW CCA Texas on Social Media

The BEST way to stay informed on the latest with CCA Texas is by connecting with us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. We regularly post photo and video updates on our 50+ local chapters, conservation projects, advocacy efforts, and news catered to keep you informed and engaged.

On Facebook, CCA Texas has been giving away **26-oz YETI Ramblers** to healthcare professionals who are making a difference in our communities during this time of uncertainty as nominated by their friends and family. If you're on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter, LIKE and FOLLOW CCA Texas to keep up with how we are engaging with our angling community!

# Below are some of our favorite recent posts, check them out and give them a like!



CCA Texas Friday at A:30 PM · @ Tight lines 🚑 to everyone taking part in the CCA Texas

STAR Tournament this #MemorialDay weekend!





cca\_texas



cca\_texas At CCA Texas we are proud to continue our work of ensuring the health and conservation of our marine resources and anglers' access to them. # JoinCCA ccatexas\_rransabay /wesome pic!! Engage with us TODAY! Kevin Hickson Communications Director Coastal Conservation Association Email: khickson@joincca.org



CCA Texas @CCA\_Texas

On #EarthDay , we're proud to carry out our mission to conserve, promote and enhance the present and future availability of our coastal resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public. #JoinCCA

📾 : Shane Bonnot



4:00 PM - 4/22/20 - Twitter Web App

4 Retweets 11 Likes



Like many, your CCA Texas STAR team is furiously trying to wrestle through the challenges we've all been facing. Two things become obvious- like the pioneers of old, the undaunted spirit of Texans refusing to surrender and our remarkable appreciation for our members and the fraternal bond that makes CCA great. With so many volunteers who have come forward to lend a hand, this charity has been blessed to actually launch the STAR kickoff and on time. You can bet that those who care most about our mission together, our outstanding sponsors... actually they're partners, have banded together to make sure this fun wholesome family event goes forward. You'll notice below that every single one of them stands strong to ensure Texas Of course, that is only one of the 19 boats, five anglers will have a summer to enjoy the memories of time with family and friends.

Yes, in spite of the virus, the feature event of the summer will go on!

tag.ret

/tah-gret/ noun

#### **ATTENTION GUIDES:**

We are about to enter year three of the CCA Texas Guides Division. When the idea was first brought to the attention of the STAR Tournament committee, it was designed as a way to not only reward Texas saltwater guides who support CCA's mission with their very own division in STAR, but to incentivize them to get their clients involved in conservation as well. At the advice of TPWD officials, STAR decided to take a different approach to this division due to laws concerning guides keeping fish on charter trips. Captains don't win based off of their personal catch, but their ability to put other people on big fish! If a captain puts someone on a division winning fish, they earn five chances in the drawing for a 26' Mowdy Cat, 225 hp motor, and custom Coastline trailer combo. From there, the guides chances in the drawing goes in descending order from five for a division winner, down to one chance for a fifth place fish. Captain's Charlie Buchen and Hunter Saha claimed the first two titles, will you be next? Checkout all of the rules at www.startournament.org.

And STAR is On! Many thanks to all of you who have signed up already. We need it. With no congregate sports or MLB going on, we hope others will discover the magic of fishing for the first time. For you seasoned "salts", please don't let any newbies that join you on the water experience the feeling of tagret, that condition of dreadful remorse when you catch a tagged redfish and have not entered STAR. To miss claiming a brand-new Ford F-150 connected to a Haynie 23' Bigfoot and Coastline trailer is unsettling, at best.

trucks, three Polaris UTVs...not counting Runner-Up prizes, offered during this 106-day event all summer! Special thanks to Centerpoint volunteers for making sure the 2020 STAR had enough

The feeling that comes over anglers who catch a tagged redfish but aren't registered in the STAR Tournament. A feeling of sadness, repentance, or disappointment over something that could have



redfish to fill out the needs of the Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division. We appreciate your effort to make this happen!







\$6.825 million in college scholarships to youth from all over Texas

Drop by the STAR website for full information: *www.startournament.org*/



# Caught Redhanded! 🗶 Reports from TP&W Game Wardens

Brazoria County Game Wardens Jennings, VanDyke, Richers, Rangel and Crawford conducted a saturation patrol into the early hours of August 18th on the coast. In total, 25 tickets, including a gill net, undersized/oversized fish and drug paraphernalia were discovered and the violators cited. Cases and citations are pending.



Texas Game Wardens, Serving Texans since 1895

Law Enforcement Off the Pavement

# 2020 chapter raffle prizes

Corpus Christi: June 25 / Two big items 2020 Corpus Bull Red Raffle Boat prize sponsored by Andrews Distributing 2020 Corpus Sow Trout Raffle prize sponsored by L&F Distributors





Fort Bend: July 30 / Raffle Grand Prize



San Antonio: August 27 / Raffle Grand Prize Classic 1996 Ford Bronco



# CCA Texas Spring Banquet Rescheduling Updates

Due to the recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to postpone in-person events that consist of 50 or more people, local CCA Texas Chapters have been rescheduling Banquets and events. Below are all the rescheduled local Chapter Banquets and events. Go to the CCA Texas website-<u>CCAtexas.org</u> to click on a specific chapter to be redirected to their page and learn more.

## July

Laredo Chapter Banquet – Thursday, July 16th, 2020 Greater Sugar Land Chapter Banquet – Thursday, July 23rd, 2020 Prairie Chapter Banquet – Thursday, July 23rd, 2020 Fort Bend Chapter Banquet – Thursday, July 30th, 2020 Bay Area Chapter Banquet – Friday, July 31st, 2020

## August

Central Houston Chapter Banquet – Wednesday, August 5th, 2020 Golden Triangle Chapter Banquet – Thursday, August 6th, 2020 Corpus Christi Chapter Banquet – Thursday, August 6th, 2020 East Texas Chapter Banquet – Friday, August 14th, 2020 Brazoria County Chapter Banquet – Friday, August 14th, 2020 Northeast Houston Chapter Banquet – Saturday, August 15th, 2020 Centex Chapter Banquet – Thursday, August 20th, 2020 Austin Chapter Banquet – Tuesday, August 25th, 2020 Colorado Valley Chapter Banquet – Thursday, August 27th, 2020 West Houston Chapter Banquet – Thursday, August 27th, 2020 San Antonio Chapter Banquet – Thursday, August 27th, 2020 Redfish Bay Chapter Banquet – Saturday, August 29th, 2020

# September

Matagorda Bays Banquet – Thursday, September 3rd, 2020 Helotes Chapter Banquet – Thursday, September 3rd, 2020 Mainland Chapter Banquet – Friday, September 4th, 2020 Mid Coast Chapter Banquet – Thursday, September 10th, 2020 Dallas Chapter Banquet – Wednesday, September 16th, 2020 Alvin/Pearland Chapter Banquet – Thursday, September 17th, 2020 Katy Chapter Banquet – Thursday, September 17th, 2020 Fort Worth Chapter Banquet – Thursday, September 17th, 2020 Tri-County Chapter Banquet – Friday, September 18th, 2020 Port O'Connor Chapter Banquet – Saturday, September 19th, 2020 Greater Woodlands Chapter Banquet – Thursday, September 24th, 2020

# October

Texas A&M Chapter Banquet – Friday, October 9th, 2020 Brenham Chapter Banquet – Thursday, October 22nd, 2020

#### To Be Determined Houston Homebuilding Chapter Banquet West Texas Chapter Banquet

Please note that these dates are subject to change based on new recommendations from local, state, or federal officials.

#### CURRENTS is published six times a year by CCA Texas, a nonprofit state affiliate of the Coastal Conservation Association. This is the issue of June/ July 2020 Vol. 38, Issue 4 Editor-in-Chief Robby Byers

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# Chapter Updates

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

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

We hope you and yours are staying safe and healthy through all life has brought us recently! We are happy to announce that **Babes on the Bay 2020 has been rescheduled for August 21 and 22nd, 2020 at Paws** & Taws - Fulton Convention center in

**Rockport-Fulton.** The captains meeting will be at 8:00 p.m. sharp on Friday evening, the check in will start at 5:30 p.m. You must be in line to weigh in by 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. As things are changing, please follow our Facebook page and our Instagram page @babesonbay for updates! We have an amazing group of sponsors this year including Waterloo Rod Company, Rockport Tackle Town, Yeti, Huk Fishing Gear, Rockport Rigger, Big Tree Realty, Foreverlast, The Reserve at St Charles Bay, Anastasia Musick Art Corp, Poor Man's Country Club, Chris's Marine, Power Pole and many more!! The prizes are going to be off the hook! Please make sure you change your reservations and update your guides ASAP and please feel free to call Jen with any questions at (361) 205-0182 or email ccababes@gmail.com. Mark your calendars for the Annual Aransas Bay CCA Banquet which will be held on Saturday, August 8, 2020 at Paws & Taws in Fulton.

See a fine redfish catch by Elaine Dailey on the Great Photos page 17. Hoping we

can resume our chapter meetings soon! Tight lines!

#### Austin Jeff Beck 512-656-2964 ccaauspres@gmail.com

Hello CCA Austin members, I hope this finds y'all healthy, happy and fish on your line. Remember though, "a fish is not a fish until it's on the bank", (The Old Farmer's Almanac).

Our new date for the 2020 Austin banquet is Tuesday, August 25. We will continue to monitor the current situation and will provide updates as we have them. We have boat tickets for sale, please contact Cheryl Smith at (512) 221-7057 or **cherylccaaustin@gmail.com**. Please take a minute and check out the complete list of sponsors at **ccaaustin.org**. These folks support the mission of CCA and as members of CCA please support their businesses as often as possible.

We will resume Angler's Night Out as soon as possible. If you would like to put some good work into a great organization, we would love to have you join our Austin board. We will announce our next meeting as soon as we are able. Please contact me if you are interested.

Be sure to follow the CCA Austin on Facebook and Instagram and spread the word. Thank you for the support of CCA and the Austin Chapter.

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

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

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

While I sit here, eating one of my favorite snacks, sesame sticks; wishing I was out on the water fishing, I am pondering about the change in our world. This pause may have been good for a reset of life, values, and goals. Hope all will find something positive with this new way of life.

Like a lot of chapters, we had to cancel a couple of monthly meetings but with the new phase of freedom implemented, we are getting together Tuesday, June 9, for a fish fry. Location: Brazos Center Pavilion in Bryan, Texas at 6 pm. Hope to see you there.

Looking forward to the camaraderie and sharing a few fish tales. Until then, stay safe and healthy. And if you can wet a line with family or friend even if at 6 ft distancing.

Brenham Brandon Marth 979-277-0151 brenhamironworks@sbcglobal.net Brush County Brenda Ballard 361-296-4037 brendagballard@hotmail.com

Centex Si Hanna 254-723-1922 shanna@rdoequipment.com

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

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

Our chapter is certainly wishing that everyone is well and finding some time to get out on the water. We were certainly geared up for having our banquet in March but are very disappointed with the postponement. **Our new date is August 27, 2020** so please keep this date in your calendar. Individual tickets and Sportsman raffle tickets are still available. Contact a board member or go to **ccatexas.org/lower-colorado** for more information. Please stay safe in all your endeavors. Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all!

Corpus Christi Clifford Johnstone 361-816-7338 cjohnstone@higginbotham.net The Corpus Christi Chapter Banquet has had to be rescheduled once again to August 6, 2020. This decision was made after consulting with the management of the American Bank Center and after closely following the guidelines for the opening of Texas once again for business. We all realize these are challenging times for everyone and we are working to make this process as smooth as possible for you.

The following guidelines are being put in place so that membership is taken care of for you in each case:

- 2019 Banquet Attendees – All memberships for 2019 Banquet attendees are being extended until August 6, 2020.

- 2020 Corpus Christi Banquet Table buyers: please remind your guest that they must have the banquet ticket with the membership stub in hand in order to enter the banquet on August 6.

- 2020 Corpus Christi Banquet Individual Ticket Buyers: please remember that you must have your banquet ticket with the membership stub in hand in order to enter the banquet on August 6.

- Boat and Custom Golf Cart Raffle Tickets still available!

- Our Bull Red Raffle, sponsored by Andrews Distributing, features a 2020 Majek 22.6 ft Illusion M2 with a 200 HP Yamaha Four Stroke and Coastline trailer. The boat tickets are \$50 each and only 1,500 are available for purchase. Boat tickets may be purchased by calling Courtney at 361-882-5199 or at the banquet. You do not need to



Dallas chapter kids training for the bay on largemouth bass





be present to win!

Our Sow Trout Raffle, sponsored by L&F Distributors, features a custom 2019 Yamaha 6 seat golf cart with a 12-ft diamond C bi-fold ramp gate trailer. The custom Yamaha golf cart tickets are \$20 and only 1,500 are available for purchase. You may purchase your raffle tickets by calling Courtney at 361-882-5199 or during the banquet. You do not need to be present to win!

If you have any questions about the Corpus Christi banquet, please contact us at **ccacorpuschristi@gmail.com** or (361) 882-5199. Don't forget, the 2020 STAR starts on May 23, 2020! Good luck and we look forward to seeing our 2020 Banquet Attendees on August 6, 2020. See you on the water!

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

CCA Dallas members have been busy taking our son's bass fishing during the shutdown. We can't wait to head down to the coast for redfish and trout.

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

#### Fort Bend Jim Black 979-240-5010 jimblack@nov.com

I hope you all are well and staying safe, things are a little crazy out there but hopefully this will all be over soon. On behalf of the Fort Bend CCA our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone that has been affected during these trying times. Just remember that we are all in this together and together we will get through this.

Banquet and Boat Raffle update: if you have not already heard, **our 34th annual banquet has been rescheduled for July 30, 2020** and as of right now the executive board members and I are moving forward and are excited about the upcoming event.

Raffle tickets for the grand prize, a 2020 JH Performance Outlaw 185x with an Evinrude 115hp ETEC and a Coastline single axle aluminum trailer, are still up for sell, \$50 per ticket. There will also be four other chances to win some fishing gear so be sure and get your tickets! For tickets please contact Jim Black (979) 240-5010.

This banquet we'll also have a live and silent auction, bucket raffle, games, a great meal, plenty of beverages and much more. So, it's time to get the friends and family out for some fun! The banquet will be held at the American Legion Hall in Rosenberg, TX. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. to preview auction items and begin silent auction bids, dinner is served around 7:00 p.m. Contact Jim Black or Blake Tumlinson (979) 332-2236, our Banquet Chairman, for banquet details.

For tickets and table reservations you can contact Troy Burditt (281) 725-8569 or you can purchase them online at our website. Can't wait to see you all there!

I'd like to give a special thanks to Sport Marine in Richmond for all they did for us on this year's raffle, it is a beautiful boat and we can't thank them enough for supporting us. Another huge thank you to all our donors and sponsors. We are fortunate to have the support from so many good people; this event wouldn't be the same without it. Thank you all very much!

Finally, some dates for other upcoming events; CCA Kidfish will be July 25, 2020 and the "Ladies Only" fishing tournament, The Lingerie on The Bay, both held in Matagorda TX, will be September 11 & 12, 2020. Flyers and Entry forms will be posted at <u>matagordabay.com</u> and <u>ccatexas.org/</u> <u>fort-bend</u> so be on the lookout for these events.

For news and information about the banquet and other events please see our website. 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

We hope you have all found some time to wet a line lately! I can't think of a better way to "social distance" than on the water. We still plan on having our annual banquet on August 8, 2020 so be on the lookout for more information soon on how to get your tickets and tables. Stay safe and we'll see you soon!

#### Golden Triangle David Thompson 409-273-9233 David6340@gmail.com

Greetings from the Golden Triangle Chapter! We hope that you and your families have stayed healthy and safe during the past few months. Our team sends our best wishes to everyone who has been affected due to Covid-19.

Moving forward, we have decided to move our **annual banquet to a new date of August 6, 2020.** The location is remaining the same; it will take place in downtown Beaumont at the Civic Center. Come join us for a fun night out and help support your local CCA Chapter. Cheers!

#### Greater Sugar Land Mike Bracikowski 291-928-3128 m.bracikowski@tritool.com

It's that time of year again to let your **STAR** shine bright! If there was ever a time to get out of the house and on the water with family, that time is now. Why not take the opportunity to try and win a boat and trailer combo while social distancing?

We pray that all our members have remained safe and sound. Our board members are anxiously awaiting the op-



CCA Greater Sugar Land President Mike Bracikowski and daughter Lilyann training for 2020 STAR

portunity to re-schedule our proposed Kid Fish schedule, so keep your eyes peeled for updates.

Please be sure to mark your calendar with our new banquet date of **Thursday**, **July 23, 2020.** We are working hand in hand with the Stafford Centre to prepare for the safest environment possible as restrictions are carefully being lifted week by week.

There may be a change in the meal plan due to end of crawfish season, but we are working hard to make this year's event the best yet.

We will forward all updates as received to everyone on our email list and please look for additional information on our Facebook page: CCA Texas Greater Sugar Land Chapter. We look forward to seeing you out on the water and we'll catch you on the next incoming tide!

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

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

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

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

Hope everyone has been doing well through these difficult times. We are in the planning stages for our annual banquet and looking at dates in mid-September. Check the next CURRENTS or the CCA Texas website for updates.

#### Helotes Johnny Rayburg 210-535-6810 jrayburg@sbcglobal.net

The Helotes Chapter is gearing up to begin our banquet planning meetings again starting July 20, 2020. We will post updates on our Facebook page and send out an email to all our members to remind you.

Remember, if you have tickets to the banquet that was originally scheduled in March, you will use that same ticket for the banquet's new date on September 3, 2020. We hope to see you there.

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

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

Houston Real Estate Kirk Laguarta 713-515-3830 KLaguarta@landadvisors.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 taylorkotrla@hotmail.com

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

Like everyone else in the US, the members of the Lower Colorado Chapter of the Texas CCA have been playing it safe and put in-person meetings on hold temporarily. We continue to communicate and work electronically. Our members have found

each other by meeting in their boats or on their docks, shorelines and beach during the beautiful weather we have been enjoying in Matagorda County.

Unfortunately, as with many CCA events, the plans for the Lower Colorado Chapter's Kids Fish have been put on hold until it's completely safe to have the large group of kids and supporting adults come together to enjoy this event. Keep an eye out for this, it will happen.

# Our annual banquet and auction are still on for Friday, August, the 7,

**2020.** We're hoping we'll all be safely out of harm's way to enjoy a fun evening in support of CCA and the Lower Colorado Chapter. We're looking forward to another delicious dinner and rowdy evening of bidding on a huge selection of live and silent auction items. Tickets for the raffle will be on sale soon.

Catch up with your nearest chapter board member or contact Stephen Zapalac at (979) 244-6633 or **szapalac@ykc.com** or Blake Burnside at (713) 626-4222 or **bburnside@ccatexs.org** for ticket and table info for the banquet and for raffle tickets. It will be a "Really Big Show" so put August 7, 2020 at 6:30pm on your calendars to show up at the Bay City Civic Center. It will be a fabulous time for us to come together and show our support for the CCA. As always, the Lower Colorado Chapter supporting 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

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

We still have raffle tickets for our brand new 2020 21' Haynie SuperCat raffle boat. Also, on the raffle is a Kimber 9mm pistol, Waterloo custom rod combo and a CCA 65 Qt. Engel cooler.

Big thanks again to our raffle sponsors Waterloo Rods, Chris's Marine, Compadres and Momentum Rentals this year. If you would like to purchase raffle tickets, please contact Mike Brawner, our raffle chair, at (281) 787-1671 or Cheryl Guthrie, at (361) 935-3342. We only sell 1200 tickets and they are already going fast at only \$50 each!



Mid Coast's Mike Brawner, board raffle chair setting up boat and booth.

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

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

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

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

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

I hope you all are staying safe and well in this unusual time. Hopefully you have found some time to get out on the water and fish in your spare time.

We are anxiously awaiting our rescheduled banquet that will take place on Saturday, September 19, 2020 at the POC Community Center Pavilion. All tables and tickets purchased for the original date in March will be carried over to the September date. If you have any questions about tickets, please reach out to our Assistant Director, **Taylor Rieck** at the main office and he can answer them. In the meantime, come down to POC and show our generous banquet sponsors your support of pick up some raffle tickets for our Polaris Ranger raffle. See you soon in POC "where it all began."

Redfish Bay Norman Oates 361-758-0266 noates@cableone.net Our annual Redfish Bay Chapter Banquet is now scheduled for August 29, 2020. We are sorry for the change, but safety of staff and participants is always our first concern. As always, we will do everything in our power to make it a fun and enjoyable family event.

Mark your calendars! You should receive emails and snail mail info on the event; if not, please go to **ccatexas.org/redfish-bay** to get info and sign up. If you have trouble on the website, please call me. Note: we sold out in 2019; so, get your tickets early from a board member or online.

We had to cancel the Take-a-Kid-Fishing event that was scheduled for the first weekend in June. Plan on bringing the young fisher persons to this great "tournament" event the first week of June in 2021. They will enjoy it!

If history rules, we will have our annual Beeville Fish Fry this fall the Thursday before dove season. More information to follow later.

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

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

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

Saltgrass Buck Stobart 409-782-7934 stobartbuck@yahoo.com

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

#### San Antonio Robert Lozano 210-632-4246

robertolozano129@yahoo.com On behalf of San Antonio chapter, we hope you have weathered the stay at home orders by doing a little fishing, even if it was just watching the YouTube videos of your favorite fishing spot.

There's a lot of hard work going on by

the banquet committee and co-chairs Tom Akins and Byron Buzzini for the **August banquet on Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Joe Freeman Expo Hall.** This is a great time to purchase, or perhaps win, fall hunting or fishing trips and do a little early Christmas shopping for great experiences and gifts.

We are taking reservations via telephone or email to reserve your table and tickets now for the 41st Annual San Antonio Chapter 2020 Banquet. For table reservations please contact Ruth Eaton at (210) 599-3690 or at

**reaton@eatoncontracting.com**. "Early Bird" table purchasers: announcements will be posted on Facebook. Receive one entry for a Yeti Tundra 65-Quart drawing per table purchase.

Don't forget about the Grand Prize raffle: Classic restored 1996 Ford Bronco 4x4, thank you Jordan Ford, Mike Davis and Maximum Altitude. View this Grand Prize as well as others on CCATexas.org and CCA San Antonio Facebook page. Don Strange Catering and premium bar will be as great as ever.

After the last few months, the kids could really use one of the "Take a Kid Hunting and Fishing" day trips being offered at reasonable cost. For information and purchase see our booth at the banquet in Exhibit Hall A and thank Tom "Capt Catfish" Akin for spearheading this pet project.

2020 CCA San Antonio Fiesta Medal

Attention San Antonio Fiesta Medal

collectors: our medal is entered into Best Medal competition! 2020 limited edition Fiesta Medals are available now for purchase and just in time for the 129th San Antonio FIESTA 2020, now scheduled in November. Contact Roberto Lozano at **robertolozano129@yahoo.com** to support us by purchasing and displaying medals.

A big thank you to San Antonio chapter members and volunteers for your loyalty and support to CCA Texas. For questions, donations, sponsorships and volunteer opportunities contact me or your friends on the committee. Remember to keep those lines taut and take a kid fishing and hunting. Don't forget to share those family at home photos from this month, or fishing ones from last year with us on our CCA San Antonio Facebook Page and check our Facebook page for little entertaining suggestions and videos. Cheers from "Burnt-O" and Hook'em. San Bernard Ross Kutach 281-330-0135 rosskutach@yahoo.com

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

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

#### TAMU Aaron Richter 361-876-0524 aaronrichter@tamu.edu

I hope that everyone has been staying healthy and making the most of quarantine. We will be taking a break from meetings for the summer but are planning on getting started as soon as the fall semester starts.

Our 2020 banquet date has been moved. Start your weekend early with our the CCA Texas A&M chapter banquet on Friday, October 9, 2020 and join the Aggies as we BTHO Fresno State at the home game on Saturday. Follow our Instagram and Facebook for chapter updates. Looking forward to seeing y'all in the fall!

#### 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

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





# **Great Photos 2020** 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.



Ladies go Fishing and releasing



The Naranjo family gears up for the surf. —Melissa Naranjo

Rockport Local Elane Dailey with a beautiful Aransas Bay Redfish.



Padre Island National seashore: I land what is now my personal best bull red measuring 42 inches! And I'm eternally grateful that I got to share this experience with some of my favorite people on one of the most beautiful places on earth! Camped out on a reef In Rockport

Camped out on a reef In Rockport with my fellow Oath Shark fishing team members, hosting groups of veterans. Fishing was pretty slow, until Sunday morning. Walked about a mile in deep mud, saw a spot that looked good. Within seconds I was hooked up. Second cast, a 26 inch red and 3rd cast a 25 inch red. An amazing weekend spent with some great people with the icing on the cake being quality fish! P.S.: I ended up releasing my 28 inch red along with several others. –Nina Garrett

Left to right: Dai Yu Lange with a 36" redfish. Note the broken rod held by Chris Smisek. Vizi Lange Caldwell boated and released this 25.5 speckled trout, as Chester looked on. Little Miss Naranjo heads for the surf.









# **Ceviche ala Camo**

Paula Smisek served this simple delight to applause from several starving fisherpeople near Decro's Point.

# INGREDIENTS

цJ

One-half good sized red onion Two vine-ripened tomatoes and an assortment of freshly picked tomatoes, if possible One medium jalapeno Six or seven juicy limes One pound, or half-again more fresh fish than you think you'll need Two clumps or so of Cilantro—you cannot have too much cilantro Season with Tony's, or your personal favorite seasoning Salt and pepper to taste

BLEND gently. Chill for at least four hours while the lime juice does its work. It's better the next day. You can provide fancy and expensive crackers, but it's best with plain old Saltines. —Chris 'Capt. Camo' Smisek.

The Editor crisped some corn tortillas when he created Camo's Ceviche. The crackers were just as good.









# **Upper Coast** Capt. George Knighten *Find structure, find fish*

With the advent of June heat, higher water temperatures will push many fish towards the middle and deeper parts of the bay. Finding the right structure there can be the key to success. In most bay systems that means oyster shell, but could also be well pads, rocks, or drop offs. These types of structures are where the food chain begins. Small fish, crabs, eels and worms hide in these structures and its the grocery store of the bay for predator's.

Whether using live bait or artificial, presenting your bait around these types of structures can increase your chances of success. Use your depth finder to locate structure. It could be your new best friend. Some good examples are the mid-bay reefs in East and West Bays. The A Lease wells in the middle of Galveston Bay and Trinity Bay, and most years the so-called spoil banks along and close to the Houston ship channel can be a big payoff.

As always, put as many factors in your favor as you can. A moving tide, the presence of bait, staying away from boat traffic are a few. Salinity is another consideration. Know if the water you are fishing is salty enough. Fresh water runoff will effect where fish are and where they are not.

Wade fishing can still be a successful venture this time of year, but the earlier the better. Once the shallow water starts to warm up most fish will move out to deeper water. Many days I may start out wading and then go out and drift the reefs.

As June heat fades into hotter July heat, prepare for that summer heat and sun. Stay hydrated, be considerate of other fishermen and practice conservation, take care of your crew and your catch, but most of all have fun. — Capt. George Knighten 832-310-9146 <u>gtkphoto@yahoo.com</u>

## Middle Coast Capt.Tommy Countz

#### **Options**, options, options

We've got plenty of options for June/July fishing in Matagorda. In June the water temperature is still pretty moderate while in July the temperatures get a notch warmer. My favorite fishing method is wading the grass beds in West Matagorda Bay. I'm looking for bait activity as a clue to where I might find fish. We have a lot of guts running through these beds that are deeper with slightly cooler water. Trout often use these guts to move from deeper water into the flats or from the flats to deeper water.

I usually start the morning tossing Topwaters or LeLe's. If I get some action with these baits, I'll stick with them. If not, I'll switch to soft plastics. My plastic of preference is a Mirrolure Lil John or a Norton Sandeel Jr. rigged on a 1/16 or 1/32 ounce leadhead. I like the light heads because they don't sink fast and you can work them slower through the grass.

When the water is hot in July, the fish are sluggish so slowing down your retrieve works better. Normally I use dark colors like Black Magic or Chicken on a Chain. If I'm fishing from the boat, I'll probably be drifting in East Matagorda Bay either on the west end working over scattered shell or on the east end drifting big mud flats. Most of my customers prefer drifting using live shrimp under a popping cork. I like to rig their rods with a Midcoast cork and a three foot leader.

The surf is always an option in June and July. Anytime the beach front is flat and green, you will find me there. In Matagorda we have over 20 miles of beach front from the Colorado Jetties to Mitchell's Cut near Sargent and over 20 miles to the south from our jetties to the Port O'Connor jetties. As you can see we've got plenty of options for fishing June and July in Matagorda. To book a trip call or text me at 281-450-4037, or email me at <u>tcountz@sbcglobal.net</u>. -Capt. Tommy Countz

A huge jack crevalle has been tamed by the father-son team of Blade and Pierson Bassler. Photo by Miller Bassler.



### Lower Coast Capt.Rene Hinojosa

#### Sight casting for that trophy CPR

What a Way to Start 2020. WOW! This world pandemic has us "all tied up in knots." Due to the local restrictions placed in our area, guided trips for March and April ceased to exist. Here we are at the end of May and the phases of reopening have slowly but steadily brought back the feeling of tight lines and clientele bookings.

With that I am grateful to report that fishing in May for redfish and trout was outstanding. Fishing along grass lines and deeper water has been good for fishing. Norton's chicken on a chain and the strawberry white tail sand eel lures have been slaying the trout. If in doubt, whip out a topwater and give a greedy trout trophy an opportunity to get photographed for the CCA CURRENTS n ewsletter. Of course, you will send those really large spotted ladies back for further duty.

As June moves along into July heat, I recommend locating bait activity along the shorelines and casting your topwater to reel in a nice redfish and/or trout. July brings warmer waters and has always been a good month for sight casting those elusive giant trout and reds on the clear sandy/grass flats. Again, Norton lures are my choice of artificial bait, however Kelly Wigglers can also hook you onto those big fish. Of course, you will be concerned for the saftey of your crew and the health of our precious resource. Be sure you and your crew are protected from this Texas heat.

If that once in a lifetime speckled trout chooses to give you an exciting ten minuites, consider the option of sending her back to provide quality to the gene pool. That is, after a photo and a gentle release.

Everybody stay safe and embrace this "new normal" the best you can. Don't forget to practice and promote the importance of catch and release. Tight lines everyone! – **Capt. Rene Hinojosa Jr.** 956-966-0719 <u>shallowcharters@gmail.com</u>

# Photographer Lisa Laskowski returns a beautiful speck. Photo by John Blaha





### e-CURRENTS NEWSLETTER June / July 2020



## The 2020 STAR is on! Friends don't let friends fish without a STAR membership.

#### 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)

Check/Money order  ASSOCIATE:  \$20 Per each family member. All membership privileges except TIDE and CURRENTS.   Charge to my:  PRINT MEMBER:  \$100 All of the above plus CCA Texas print of your choice.   MASTERCARD  LIFE MEMBER:  \$100 CCA Life Membership piece, print, plus member gifts. Payable in four \$250 installments.   VISA  STAR ENTRY FEE:  \$25 Tournament entry fee. Must be a current CCA member.   AMEX  YOUTH:  \$10 TIDE newsletter, decal. Includes STAR Tournament entry, for members 17 and under.	Name		Phone	Date _	Date	
Meeter of payment  ASSOCIATE:  \$20 Per each family member. All membership privileges except TIDE and CURRENTS.    Check/Money order  PRINT MEMBER:  \$100 All of the above plus CCA Texas print of your choice.    MASTERCARD  LIFE MEMBER:  \$100 CCA Life Membership piece, print, plus member gifts. Payable in four \$250 installments.    VISA  STAR ENTRY FEE:  \$25 Tournament entry fee.    AMEX  YOUTH:  10 TIDE newsletter, decal. Includes STAR Tournament entry, for members 17 and under.    DISCOVER  CONSERVATION MEMBER:  \$50 A portion of the proceeds go toward CCA's National Habitat Program, Building Conservation Trust. Includes		RENEWAL (Member ID for renewi			Zip	
	Check/Money order Charge to my: MASTERCARD VISA AMEX	ASSOCIATE: \$2 PRINT MEMBER: \$10 LIFE MEMBER: \$100 STAR ENTRY FEE: \$25 YOUTH: \$10	0  Per each family member. All membership pr    0  All of the above plus CCA Texas print of you    0  CCA Life Membership piece, print, plus mer    i  Tournament entry fee. Must be a current CCA    0  TIDE newsletter, decal. Includes STAR Tourn    Age:  Date of birth:    0  A portion of the proceeds go toward CCA's N	ivileges except TIDE and CURRE r choice. nber gifts. Payable in four \$250 in A member. iament entry, for members 17 and - vational Habitat Program, Buildin	NTS. stallments. under. 19 Conservation Trust. Includes	

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