

CURRENTS

December 2020 / January 2021



Christmas treat: Lauren Sponsler releases a beautiful redfish in Aransas Bay. Photo by Jay Watkins.

CURRENTS IS NOW INTERACTIVE!

This issue is equipped with clickable links. Try clicking one to open it in your browser.

Advocacy

Shane Bonnot

Wow, what a year! While 2020 has certainly been a year to remember, or perhaps forget, it's important to reflect on the continued efforts by CCA Texas to conserve our coastal resources and ensure public access to them. A significant part of those conservation efforts occur off the water, in public hearings, Zoom meetings, council meetings, etc. All are made possible by the Advocacy Team and support from CCA Texas volunteers. Here are a few initiatives and efforts in which CCA Texas has been involved this past year.

Oyster Mariculture

The CCA Texas Advocacy Team supported Texas Cultivated Oyster Mariculture (TCOM) throughout the entire development process, from the initial conversations in 2016 all the way through rulemaking with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) in May 2020. TCOM addresses concerns of the angling community, redefines the Texas half-shell market, and puts more oysters in our waters to benefit the coastal ecosystem. A tremendous amount of time went into this process and CCA Texas was instrumental in establishing the law to create this new program (House Bill 1300). You can learn more about oyster mariculture by reading the article "A Better Bivalve" in this year's April/May edition of Currents, which can be found on the [CCA Texas website](#).

TPWD recently created a new website for the TCOM program and the application packet is available for download. Any applicant interested in applying for a TCOM Permit should coordinate with the department and review any proposed site through the Spatial Planning Tool that will identify elements, such as sensitive habitat features, that could conflict with mariculture activities. Local contacts are identified on the web site who are available to review your proposed site utilizing this tool.

Flounder Regulations and Hatchery Efforts

In May, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (TPWC) passed a suite of regulations to increase the spawning stock biomass of southern flounder, including raising the minimum size to 15-inches.

Effective this past September, the minimum size was increased from 14 to 15 inches. Why does the size increase matter? Most female flounder won't reach sexual maturity until they are greater than 14 inches. TPWD estimates that at 14 inches, less than 50% of the females are sexually mature and at 15 inches, nearly all southern flounder are sexually mature. The increase in size will allow females to reach two years of age and spawn at least once in their lifetime. This simple measure should provide the stock with a 9.4% increase in spawning stock biomass.

A 45-day fall closure, to allow the spawning females to migrate to the Gulf, was also approved but will not take effect until November 2021. A "flounder migration closure" is a management strategy already applied in Alabama and currently being considered by other coastal states.

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 through the flounder stock enhancement program.

The TPWD southern flounder stock enhancement program began in the 2007 and since that time, spawning and fingerling production has been restricted to the "off season" when it is too cold for red drum and spotted seatrout production. With the completed construction of two flounder buildings, one in Corpus Christi and the other in Lake Jackson, TPWD can now produce southern flounder at any time of their choosing and with increased focus on southern flounder management, they recently ramped up their efforts to enhance the southern flounder fishery. And, with that....drum roll please....for the first time ever, the TPWD stock enhancement program has stocked summer-produced southern flounder.



Those who understand the strict temperature requirements for flounder larvae realize what a monumental effort this was by department staff. CCA members should take pride in knowing they have supported southern flounder enhancement efforts since the early 2000's and all told have donated over \$1 million to support southern flounder research and enhancement. Want to learn more about southern flounder? Check out the CCA Texas Website – [Southern Flounder Information and Resources](#). Also, be sure to check out [this neat video of southern flounder larvae](#) provided by TPWD.

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.

Public Oyster Fishery

In late February 2020, CCA Texas provided testimony to the House Committee on Culture, Recreation and Tourism (CRT). The primary focus of the interim meeting was to discuss the effectiveness of House Bill 2321 (HB2321) – Penalties for oyster fishing violations. If you'll recall we wrote an article in 2019, prior to passage of HB2321, highlighting the commercial oyster fishing industry's disregard for fishery closures, harvesting illegal-sized oysters and sundry other common violations in the fishery. The desire of the CRT is to ensure that the current laws, including HB2321, have been effective at curtailing illegal activities by the fishery. In our testimony, CCA Texas provided a few suggestions for the committee members to consider.

Repeatedly issuing Class C misdemeanors is not a deterrent for oyster fishing violations and the mindset of the fishermen is that the risk is well worth the reward. (\$40-\$50 dock-side price for a sack of oysters...5 sacks will pay for your fine). Time and time again the commercial oyster fishermen have demonstrated they have difficulty self-regulating and the current risks are worth the reward. The question remains, what can we do to help this fishery become sustainable and accountable?

There are certainly a few individuals in the fishery that are consistent and repeat violators. These fishers should be restricted from par-



ticipating in the fishery. This is not an uncommon practice as we routinely see revocation of recreational hunting/fishing licenses for individuals with egregious violations. Another possible alternative is to apply penalties to the commercial oyster fishing license (or boat license) and that license goes into a "time out" period for repeat violations committed under that license.

The 2020-2021 public oyster season will provide TPWD and lawmakers with a good opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of current oyster fishing regulations. The sustainability of the public reef oyster fishery is dependent upon all the participants playing by the rules and holding themselves accountable.

Corpus Christi Ship Channel Deepening Project and Harbor Island

CCA Texas remains engaged in various permits submitted by the Port of Corpus Christi Authority (POCCA) to further deepen the Corpus Christi Ship Channel, construct an oil export terminal capable of fully loading Very Large Crude Carriers, and establish a desalination plant capable of discharging 95 million gallons of brine per day into the channel. Our concerns for all development projects on Harbor Island center around its proximity to the Redfish Bay State Scientific Area, coastal habitat, and continued recruitment of larval fish and invertebrates that utilize this pass for their life cycle.

Atta Boy, CCA Texas volunteers!

Thank you for your active participation in public hearings and comment opportunities for conservation efforts this past year. Whether in person or virtual, your input was valued and had tremendous power in shaping policy and ensured that our coastal resources will be available for the enjoyment by current and future generations. We are, after all, a grassroots organization. Effectiveness of individual and chapter-level efforts are confirmed year after year, and yes, even during one such as 2020. Thank you.



Habitat Today for Fishing Tomorrow

CCA Texas 2020 Habitat Review

By John Blaha

2020 has been a year of many challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic introduced challenges to CCA Texas on every level of operation. In the end, CCA Texas has remained strong and successful because of the diligent efforts of volunteer and staff leadership, the efforts of local chapters, and the continued support of members and sponsors. CCA Texas staff has worked tirelessly with local chapters to host online auctions and other virtual events. The response from membership and sponsors has been overwhelming and the support has been beyond what anyone could expect in these trying times. Habitat restoration and creation has continued and, to date, CCA Texas and Building Conservation Trust (BCT) have contributed over \$7.525 million to over 40+ projects since 2009.

Partnerships are crucial in habitat restoration and creation projects. CCA Texas works diligently with partners from all arenas including governmental, non-governmental organizations, academic, industry and private foundations to make habitat projects a reality.

CCA Texas and BCT are proud to work closely with these partners including: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD); Texas General Land Office (TXGLO); Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF); Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP); Friends of Rio Grande Valley Reef (FRGVR); Friends of Sabine Reefs (FSR); Texas A&M & Harte Research Institute (HRI); Shell Oil Company; Sempra Energy; Cheniere Energy; Valero; Phillips 66; Motiva; Yamaha; CCA Music City Chapter; and others. This list alone shows the diverse partnerships needed to make habitat projects a reality.



The Capt. Berry headed out for deployment into the Rio Grande Valley Reef site. Friends of RGV Reef have led the effort to reef the largest and most complex nearshore reef along the Texas coast. Photo courtesy of Curtis Hayungs / Friends of RGV Reef.



Contractors placing cultch materials on Sabine Lake Deep Reef. Photo by John Blaha

CCA Texas and BCT support helped bring ten habitat projects to reality in 2020. These projects included nearshore reefing efforts, marsh restoration and oyster restoration.

Nearshore Reefing

Rio Grande Valley Nearshore Reef – Under the continued leadership of Friends of Rio Grande Valley Reef (FRGVR), this 1,600 acre nearshore site continues to receive materials for habitat creation. In March 2020, concrete railroad ties and broken concrete were deployed in low-patch relief areas of the “CCA Texas” corner. This effort deployed 10,000 tons of materials in the 400-acre nursery area called the CCA Nursery. The deployment consisted of 54 low-relief durable nursery reef patches. Each patch is made up with 25 tons of concrete railroad ties, 25 tons of broken concrete and 6 pallets (420 blocks) of cinderblocks. In addition, 16 patch reefs made up of 250 tons of concrete railroad ties each were deployed in a line north of the reef to provide protection to the nursery reef. Capping it off, another 1,500 tons of material was placed in the SE corner of the reef site known as the CCA corner. In October, FRGVR sank the EMR - Capt. Berry, a 96' steel shrimp boat. This effort was followed up in November when a 78' retired shrimp boat was sunk as the Genco Energy Services/Murray Meggison reef. Plans included sinking two more steel vessels and adding more materials into the RGV reef site. To date, CCA Texas and BCT have contributed \$861,000 to the Rio Grande Valley nearshore reef site.

[Click Here for a video of the Genco Energy Services/Murray Meggison reef deployment.](#)

Corpus Christi MU775 Reef Site (Packery Channel) –

In March 2020, 800 tons of durable nursery patch reefs were deployed within the MU775 reef site. CCA Texas/BCT contributions paid for 400 tons and Friends of RGV Reef donated 400 tons for this deployment. This project was made possible by CCA Texas funding to the RGV Reef site and in turn, FRGV matched the material tonnage for the deployment.

Sabine Pass Nearshore Reef –

Habitat Today For Fish Tomorrow (HTFT) / BCT have committed \$230,000 to the Sabine HI20 site. This will deploy 150 pyramids into the site and be part of the much larger TPWD project in the Galveston Big Man and Kate's Reef sites. The \$230,000 in funding comes from: CCA Texas/BCT - \$100,000; Sempra Energy - \$100,000; and Cheniere Energy - \$30,000. This project was recently awarded and the contractors are currently setting up their construction plant to begin construction of the pyramids. Deployment is expected to be completed in the second and third quarter of 2021.

CCA Texas and BCT worked with Forterra Pipe and Precast to secure 543 pieces of off-spec concrete pipe for reefing materials.



Contractors planted 40,000 smooth cordgrass plants covering 8 acres of marsh in October 2020. This project has shown great success in restoring the Egery Flats area in a short period of time. Photo by John Blaha

Through a \$50,000 contribution secured by BCT, CCA Texas coordinated the shipment and receipt of this material. Eldridge Construction in Sabine Pass has provided dock-side storage for the materials. CCA Texas is currently working with Friends of Sabine Reefs and local recreational fishermen to deploy the materials in the second and third quarter of 2021.

Big Man / Kate's Reef Site –

CCA Texas, BCT and Shell Oil Company are providing \$329,000 in funding for reefing efforts in the Galveston Big Man and Kate's Reef areas that will provide an additional 155 pyramids and 75 additional low-relief modules. This additional funding will supplement a \$1.5 million effort by TPWD that will deploy 845 pyramids and 180 low



Contractors planting smooth cordgrass in the Egery Flats project area. Photo by John Blaha

relief modules in these two sites. This project was recently awarded and the contractors are currently setting up their construction plant to begin construction of the pyramids. Deployment is expected to be completed in the second and third quarter of 2021.

Marsh Restoration

Dagger Island Shoreline Protection and Marsh Restoration – CCA Texas / BCT partnered with Ducks Unlimited to create critical shoreline protection and marsh restoration along Dagger Island in Redfish Bay. This project enhances 557 acres of continuous seagrass beds, intertidal wetlands and coastal islands in the Redfish Bay State Scientific Area through the use of a half-mile break water and beneficial use materials. The construction was completed in August 2020. Funding for this project is provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, CCA Texas, BCT and Ducks Unlimited. [Click Here for a project overview video.](#)

Egery Island Marsh Restoration -

The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program (CBBEP) received a grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund for the project. The project replaced the old 30-inch round culverts with three 3' x 6' box culverts at each of the two locations. These new culverts have increased water flow greatly and restored critical hydrology. This restored hydrology had immediate effects as salinity levels in the area began to drop, and the water quality began to improve for more than 600 acres of emergent marsh, submerged vegetation, and tidal flats at Egery Flats. Prior to the start of construction, CBBEP worked with Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve (MANERR) at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute and TPWD to collect valuable preconstruction data, including water salinity and vegetation monitoring. This data will be valuable in the evaluation of future projects. The evaluation and ongoing data collection will last for 3 years beginning with the completion of the project.

In early October, contractors harvested and planted 40,000 plus native cordgrass plants that cover approximately 8 acres. As the planted cordgrass takes hold and grows, it will then naturally expand, collect sedimentation, and restore acres of critical emergent marsh. This portion of the project is being funded in large part through \$70,000 in funding provided by CCA Texas and Building Conserva-



Harte Research Institute has led the effort to create oyster habitat and provide shoreline protection along the Big Tree Unit of Goose Island State Park. The recent phase of the project added more segmented reefs offshore of the prior phase completed in August of 2017. CCA Texas contributed \$50,000 to the effort through a grant from Lone Star Beer's Hurricane Relief Fund. Photo by John Blaha

tion Trust.

[Click here for project photos](#)

Galveston Bay Foundation Headquarters Living Shoreline Restoration -

HTFT / BCT funded \$50,000 to this effort from funds through Shell Oil Company. This project restores and creates a living shoreline of habitat adjacent to the new Galveston Bay Foundation Headquarters. This project will not only restore and create habitat, but provide excellent community outreach for surrounding community students to better understand the local marine ecosystems. Project work and construction was completed at the end of August.

Dollar Bay Shoreline Protection and Marsh Restoration -

HTFT / BCT funded \$50,000 to this effort from funds through Shell Oil Company. This project is ready for construction. Galveston Bay Foundation has received all bids and awarded the project to move forward.

Oyster Restoration

St. Charles Big Tree Unit Reef Expansion

CCA Texas and BCT originally funded \$75,000 in 2017 for an oyster restoration effort with Harte Research Institute to protect and eroding shoreline along the Big Tree Unit of Goose Island State Park. This early project, completed just prior to the arrival of Hurricane Harvey, was a great success and HRI moved forward with plans to expand the reef site.

CCA Texas contributed an additional \$50,000 through a contribution from Lone Star Beer's Hurricane Harvey Relief Program that was used to expand restoration

of 4,800 square yards of shallow oyster reef habitat along the shoreline in St. Charles Bay, part of the Mission-Aransas Estuary. This area has been federally designated (USFWS) as Whooping Crane critical habitat and currently experiences high erosion rates (2 acres in 20 Years). The restored oyster reef will protect shorelines in this area and reduce erosion in lower-energy environments through enhancement or restoration of the coastal habitat. The project will have additional benefits of habitat creation for oysters, fishes and crustaceans and support for recreational fishing. Post-restoration, HRI is conducting seasonal monitoring to measure oyster population structure and restored reef development.

[Click here for project photos and video](#)

Sabine Lake Deep Reef Oyster Restoration -

CCA Texas and BCT have contributed \$200,000 to the restoration efforts of Deep Reef, located in the southwest portion of Sabine Lake. CCA and BCT's funds were included with \$500,000 that TPWD received from Hurricane Harvey Relief funds to deploy 3,706 cubic yards of limestone

ranging between ½ and 4 inches. This material produced 926 mounds, roughly 4 cubic yards per mound, with approximately 2 feet of vertical relief. These mounds were placed on 25' centers and construction will be completed by the end of November 2020.

[Click here for project photos and video](#)

Thank you!

CCA Texas and Building Conservation Trust are committed to creating a vibrant and thriving coastal habitat along the Texas coast. These efforts are not possible without the continued support of members, volunteer grass roots fundraising efforts, and the support of government and industry partners. CCA Texas and BCT wish to thank every partner and contributor that helps make this vital work possible.

For more information about CCA Texas and BCT efforts, and how you can help, please contact John Blaha at jdblaha@ccatexas.org or Pat Murray at pdmurray@joincca.org.



Recently planted smooth cord grass plants in Egery Island. Photo by John Blaha

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 | \$ 861,000 |
| 4. Nearshore Reefing—Port O'Connor | \$ 700,000 |
| 5. Nearshore Reefing - Sabine Pass | \$ 441,000 |
| 6. Nearshore Reefing - Galveston / Big Man & Kate's Reef | \$ 329,000 |
| 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. Oyster Restoration—Pepper Grove / Galveston (BCT) | \$ 130,000 |
| 17. Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Shoreline Protection (San Antonio Bay) | \$ 125,000 |
| 18. ** Oyster Reef Creation - St. Charles Bay (Rockport) | \$ 125,000 |
| 19. HRI Oyster Restoration Site Locator Mapping Study | \$ 120,000 |
| 20. Marsh Restoration - Dickinson Bayou | \$ 100,000 |
| 21. Nearshore Reefing - Corpus Christi | \$ 100,000 |
| 22. Bahia Grande Restoration (Port Isabel / Brownsville) | \$ 95,000 |
| 23. Oyster Reef Restoration - Aransas Bay (Rockport) | \$ 75,000 |
| 24. Oyster Reef Restoration - Copano Bay (Rockport) | \$ 75,000 |
| 25. Marsh Restoration - Egery Island (Copano Bay/Bayside) | \$ 70,000 |
| 26. Marsh Restoration - Matagorda Island | \$ 70,000 |
| 27. Nueces Bay Delta Water Management Gates | \$ 70,000 |
| 28. Nearshore Reefing - Freeport / Vancouver | \$ 60,000 |
| 29. Nueces Bay Demonstration Oyster Reef | \$ 60,000 |
| 30. Marsh Restoration - Goose Island (Rockport) | \$ 50,000 |
| 31. Nearshore Reefing - Port Mansfield | \$ 50,000 |
| 32. Shoreline Stabilization - J. D. Murphree WMA | \$ 50,000 |
| 33. Shoreline Stabilization - Cow Trap Lake (Brazoria County) | \$ 50,000 |
| 34. Dollar Bay Shoreline Protection and Marsh Restoration | \$ 50,000 |
| 35. Galveston Bay Foundation Headquarters Living Shoreline Restoration | \$ 50,000 |
| 36. Marsh Restoration - Oxen & Gang's Bayou (Galveston) | \$ 42,000 |
| 37. Trinity Bay Discovery Center Living Shoreline | \$ 40,000 |
| 38. ** Sweetwater Preserve Shoreline Protections and Oyster Reef Enhancement | \$ 30,000 |
| 39. Marsh Restoration - Nueces Bay (Corpus Christi) | \$ 24,000 |
| 40. Marsh Restoration - Snake Island Cover (West Galveston Bay) | \$ 20,000 |
| 41. Weed Eradication for Water Flow Restoration (Guadalupe River Delta) | \$ 15,000 |
| 42. Bay Debris Removal - Aransas Pass | \$ 5,600 |
| 43. Building Conservation Trust's Texas Habitat Fund | \$ 114,066 |

** 2020 Projects

TOTAL FUNDED THROUGH 2020: \$8,064,666

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

Enjoying Your Digital CURRENTS Newsletter

CCA Texas' financial responsibilities and goals are ongoing while most chapter fundraising events are on hold. For the time being, publishing the CURRENTS newsletter requires the internet. There are excellent reasons, with cost being primary.

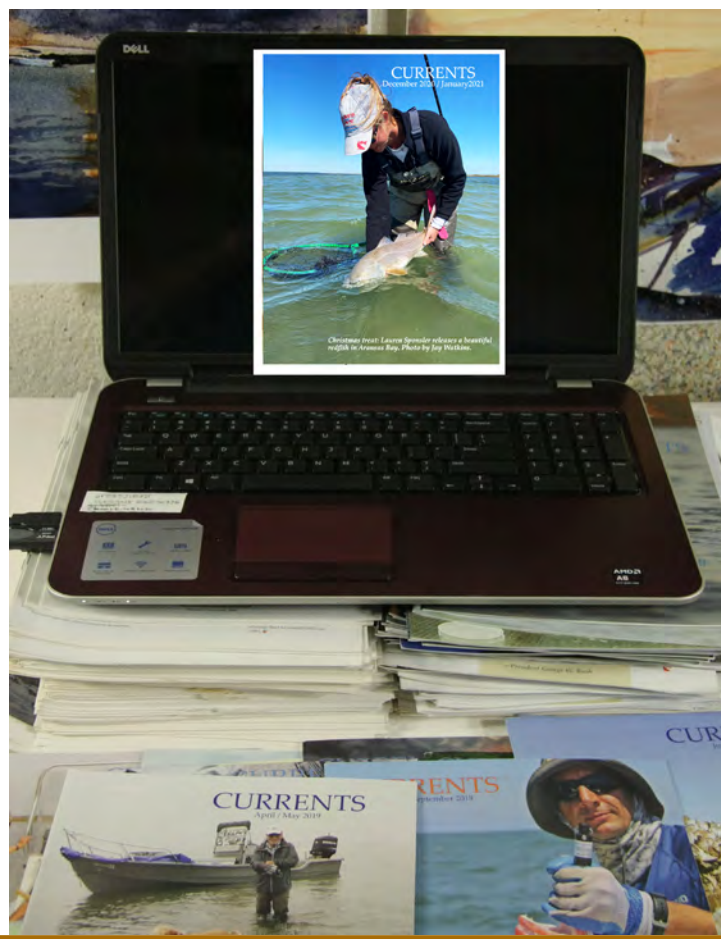
For 36 years, the printed CURRENTS newsletter has provided valuable two-way communication, as well as being an important tool for effecting environmental change. But printing and mailing a 28-page, full color newsletter to 60,000 members is time-consuming and expensive.

The online CURRENTS newsletter requires no printing nor postage, and delivery is almost instantaneous. An email to members contains a link, with the full newsletter a click away.

Apart from the cost difference, there are reasons a member could appreciate an internet version of the publication.

- An e-newsletter can be opened in seconds. Articles can be accessed rapidly. Images can be viewed large. Text can be enlarged for easier reading, blocked, copied and shared. Past issues are a click away on the CCA Texas website.
- A favored article can be forwarded to others, or readily accessed later instead of having to search through stacks of magazines.
- Links can be used to connect to advertisers, as well as cross referencing other articles, writers, photographers and artists. Texas Parks & Wildlife information is available with a connected link.
- A link to the CCA website provides comprehensive news and resources. On the website, an array of CCA information is available. View 21 videos with many being Project-specific Videos. Consult the list of CCA-approved guides. View an informative Podcast.

- Photos can be larger and more numerous, allowing for more of the membership's Great Photos to be shared.
- In the Social Media Happenings page, links open a member's recent fishing video, a habitat update and a news flash that could benefit from member input. As an example, see the final sentence in John Blaha's HTFT feature, page 6.



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 CURRENTS feature from years back? Check in with the STAR program?

Go to ccatexas.org and bookmark it now.



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Like everyone else you've probably bought a few items (or more) on Amazon recently.
But, did you know that with EVERY purchase you make, you can help CCA and our mission of ensuring the health and conservation of our marine resources and anglers' access to them?

Go to **AmazonSmileCCA.com** and designate "Coastal Conservation Association" as your charity of choice. Then, when shopping on Smile.Amazon.com, .5% of the price of eligible purchases will go to CCA at NO COST to you!



In 2015, the U.S. Coast Guard estimated over **760,000 red snapper** were **illegally fished in Texas** and U.S. waters by the lancha fleet from Mexico.



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REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING IN GULF OF MEXICO:

Inside 9 nautical miles – Texas Parks & Wildlife > **800.792.4263**

Beyond 9 nautical miles – US Coast Guard > **361.939.0450**



PHOTO: TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

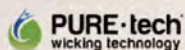
Many years ago, anglers came together to Save the Redfish and launched a movement that charted a new course for saltwater anglers and marine conservation. Today, the Redfish have some advice for us anglers – Mask Up! They want us to take care of ourselves so we can continue to take care of them and all the other marine life we care so much about.

We can meet this new challenge and be as successful as we were in the Redfish Wars. To remind us what we can do to make it happen, we've crafted a BRAND NEW Save the Redfish solar tee in both long and short sleeves.

When you buy a shirt, you'll be supporting our CCA Texas vision of marine conservation while helping to spread the message to protect your fellow anglers and everyone else. Get your masked-up Redfish shirt today and make sure everyone in your crew is doing their part, on and off the water.

Stay safe and thank you for your support of marine conservation as a member of CCA Texas.

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Caught Redhanded! Reports from TP&W Game Wardens

Texas Wardens cover a lot of enforcement issues and a lot of land and water involving other activities. They represent a much admired organization with great warden backgrounds and education. We are privileged to be a partner in their conservation efforts to conserve our Texas resources. — Ronnie Luster, Chairman CCA Texas Parks and Wildlife Committee

On Friday, August 21, 2020, Jefferson County Game Wardens Steve Satchfield, Phillip LeDoux, and Joshua Sako were conducting an offshore patrol under the Joint Enforcement Agreement with NOAA into the Gulf of Mexico aboard the 29' PV Pauling from Sabine Pass, Texas. After checking several recreational boats for compliance with federal Highly Migratory Species

(HMS) and reef fish regulations out to 60 NM offshore, the crew encountered a recreational fishing boat with three (3) red snapper on board at approximately 30 NM off the Sabine jetties. Given the recreational red snapper season is closed at this time, the violation was thoroughly documented, and the case is being referred to NOAA for prosecution.



Texas Game Wardens, Serving Texans since 1895



Law Enforcement Off the Pavement



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Are You Following CCA Texas on Social Media? **LIKE and FOLLOW US Today.**

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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, member photos, and advocacy efforts to keep you informed and engaged. Our following is GROWING, please join us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!

Featured Social Media Highlights: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter



On the CCA Texas Facebook page, we recently wrapped up our third and final online LIVE auction of the year. **Cast for the Coast: Last Call** was a

huge success. Thank you to everyone who tuned in and helped us raise critical funds that will support our work of ensuring the health and conservation of our marine resources and anglers' access to them here in Texas. Stay updated on CCA Texas.

LIKE us on Facebook: @CCATexas
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INSTAGRAM

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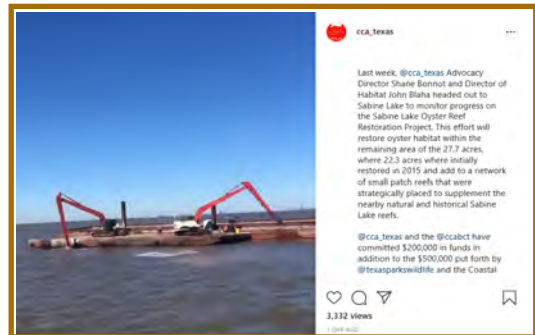
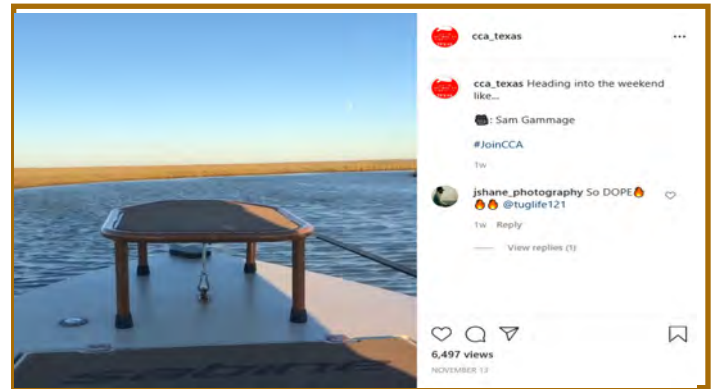
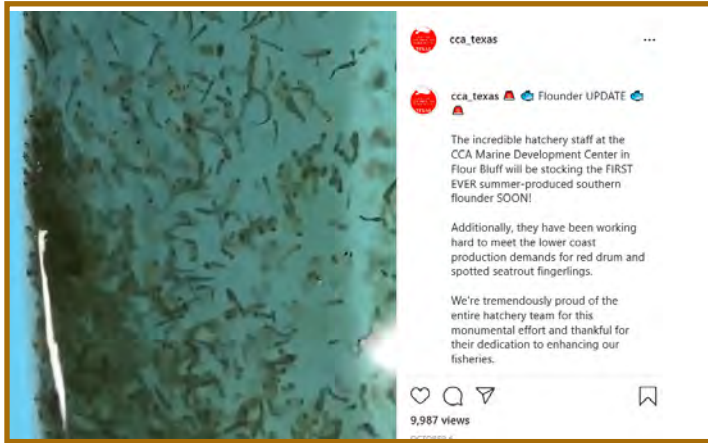
CCA Texas just passed over 10,000 followers
on Instagram!

SEE INSTAGRAM AND TWITTER FEEDS ON PAGE 14



INSTAGRAM

These anglers are enjoying informative videos that are seen by thousands each day. Support CCA Texas by adding us to your Instagram feed. FOLLOW us on Instagram TODAY!



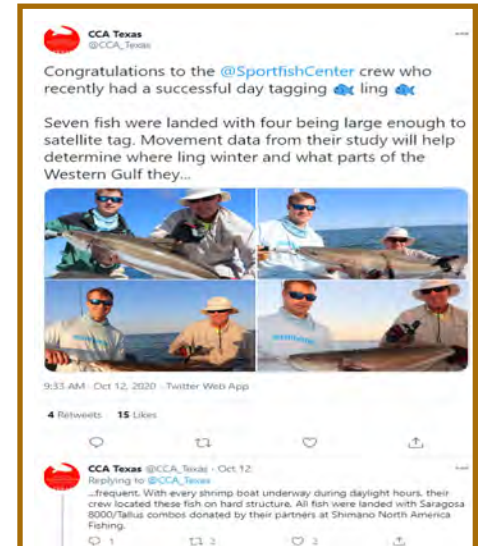
TWITTER

Do you get your news on Twitter? Over 2,400 anglers follow us to stay informed on how CCA Texas is working to ensure the health and conservation of our marine resources and anglers' access to them here in Texas. Will you help us reach our goal of 2,500 followers? FOLLOW us on Twitter TODAY!

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



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HURRY...OFFER ENDS DECEMBER 15, 2020!!



COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS

A Special Gift for New CCA Texas LIFE MEMBERS

brought to you by **WEATHERBY**

Custom Stock: dark green with black webbing

CCA logo on floor plate

For a limited time a new CCA Texas Life Member (\$1,000 + \$50 shipping) can receive a custom CCA Weatherby .257 magnum with a composite stock, 26" barrel and muzzle break. MSRP: \$1,100.

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 mail this form to the CCA office completely filled out or email it to Liz Bosmans to receive your gift
(This offer is NOT available online)

CCA LIFE MEMBER APPLICATION

Name _____ CCA ID# _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Method of Payment (\$1,050.00)

☐ Check ☐ Cash ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Amex ☐ Discover

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PLEASE SHIP MY GUN TO THIS FFL DEALER

(This form must be completely filled out or your gun will NOT be shipped)

Johnny's Sports Shop (101 Booth Dr. Eagle Lake, TX 77434 | (979) 234-3516) or ANY Academy Sports + Outdoors store has agreed to accept CCA Texas Life Member guns at all Texas stores for no handling fee.

If you choose to send your gun to a different dealer, YOU MUST provide a copy of their FFL along with this form.

To have your gun delivered to Academy Sports + Outdoors, contact Mylinda Jones at (281) 646-5908

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Contact Name _____

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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, Kevin Hickson

Chapter Updates

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

Aransas Bay
Michael Ferri 361-790-4404
txsprig@yahoo.com

Happy Holidays to you all! We are all looking forward to getting back to normal in 2021! Aransas Bay would like to welcome our new chapter officers: Michael Ferri as

President, Bill Burge as Vice President and Ally Krueger as Treasurer. Thanks to Jane Jackson for continuing to serve as our Secretary, you do a fabulous job! Thanks to all of you who have served these last few years for your dedication to our local conservation efforts and donating so much of your precious time to our local community.

Fall fishing in Rockport has been off the hook lately after some challenging high tides most of this Summer and early Fall due to all the storms in the Gulf. See some photos below of our local anglers catching some beautiful fish!

The Aransas Bay Banquet will be held at the Fulton Convention Center Saturday, March 20, 2021, doors will open at 5:30 PM. Look for information from our chapter

soon regarding ticket purchases! To follow our local chapter updates, follow [ccatexasaransasbay](#) on Instagram and CCA Texas Aransas Bay Chapter on Facebook. Contact akrueger1994@yahoo.com to purchase banquet tickets.

Babes on the Bay will be held May 14-15, 2021 and these ladies are ready to fish!! Doors will open at 5:30 PM on Friday, May 14 for bag pick up and fishing will be Saturday, May 15. Get ready for the best year ever! Don't forget about live music, shopping, food and lots of incredible prizes from our amazing sponsors! **Waterloo Rod Company is back! Tackle Town, Yeti, Orvis Swan Point, Landing, Chris's Marine, Reel Sportswear, Goin' Coastal Outfitters, Miss Kitty's Fishing Getaways, Big Tree Realty & Canterbury Construction**, to name just a few!! Registration opens at the beginning of January online at www.babesonthebay.com. Don't forget to follow us on Instagram @babesonbay and our Facebook Page "Babes on the Bay" for updates and photos! If you're interested in being a Sponsor or Vendor,

Aransas Bay fishermen have been catching fish and shooting Great Photos. From left, Beau Ramey with a beautiful trout caught on a Super Spook. Fall Sunrise in Rockport Harbor. The topwater bite has been on point! Below-Brad Frame with a fine red caught on fly.



contact Jen Thomasson with any questions, ccababes@gmail.com or text (361) 205-0182. Cheers to a safe & prosperous 2021!

Austin

Jeff Beck 512-698-8307
ccaauspres@gmail.com

Hello CCA Austin Members, I hope y'all have been out fishing, catching and maybe some hunting if you are so inclined. The Austin Board would like to wish all y'all a great and safe holiday season.

The 2021 banquet is set for Thursday May 13. The boat that will be raffled this year is a 23ft Shallow Sport package with an all new design and color. In addition, we also have a Jeep Rig package for raffle that will be ready in January 2021.

Please check out our chapter website: www.ccaaustin.org, Facebook and Instagram for updates. Please take a minute and check out the complete list of sponsors at www.ccaaustin.org. These folks support the mission of CCA, please support them when you can. 2020 Banquet Hats will be

available for sale at some of our sponsor partners. Please check our social media pages for updates on locations.

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



Colorado Valley fishermen are also competing in the big fish and fine photography areas. Gary Janda with a very nice redfish, Mason Felkher with his biggest catch ever, and below John and Dave Fehlker coming in from a good day fishing.



you are interested.

Please be sure to "Like" CCA Austin on Facebook and Instagram, 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

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@busterandcogdellbuilders.com

Colorado Valley

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

Greetings from the Colorado Valley! We are all fine in the valley and enjoying some cooler weather. Hope this note also finds all of you well. Please see some photos of our chapter board members Dave Fehlker and Gary Janda enjoying some great summer fishing with family and friends. Life is good! Our chapter truly wishes that your summer was eventful and fun as well.

Our banquet is still scheduled for March 25, 2021 so please put it on your calendar. Our board is so looking forward to getting back to normal and having a great evening. Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all!

Corpus Christi

Valerie Chilton 405-831-4158
vkchilton@gmail.com

Dallas

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

East Texas

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

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

Hello everyone! Well, summer is gone; hurricane season is officially over and despite the current covid situation the fishing is still fantastic! Night fishing in the river has also been picking up as I have seen quite a few fish being caught under the lights. So, we hope you and your families are doing well, staying safe and catching some fish!

More recent news, we have officially scheduled our **2021 banquet, which will be held at the Fort Bend county fairgrounds in Rosenberg, TX on Thursday April 29, 2021.** So, mark your calendars! We have some great things in the works for our 2021 banquet. Stay tuned for more updates and exciting information. Can't wait to see you there!

Finally, we want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Good wishes to you and your family this holiday season. I know 2020 was a heck of a year but be thankful for what you have. God bless you all, see you in 2021.

Remember to keep the waterways clean and be respectful to your fellow anglers. Hope to see you on the water! Happy Holidays from Fort Bend CCA!

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

The Fort Worth Chapter of CCA would like to check on all of you, our members. Find us on Facebook or just send us an email to let us know how you are doing. Share your pictures with us - hunting, fishing or anything outdoors. We know there has been a lot of creativity over the last 8 months and if it isn't on Facebook did it really happen? We also really appreciate your support for our online auction and thank you to everyone who participated. There were some incredible items up for auction. The winner of the Polaris and trailer was **John Black**, big congratulations to that guy. Great things coming his way for sure! It is our hope that for our May 2021 banquet we will be back to normal and look forward to seeing you all at Billy Bob's Texas for a venue change this year. More information to follow. Tight lines!

Galveston
Corey Carpenter 832-671-8980
corcarp1@gmail.com

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

Greetings from the Golden Triangle Chapter! I know that it has been a difficult year for all but we all hope that everyone is healthy and doing well. On top of that, we also hope that everyone has been able to get out and enjoy some time with friends and

family on the water. Thanks to efforts from CCA and TPWD, fishing has been great on the Upper Coast of Texas and we could not be more thankful! As the year ends, we are eagerly looking forward to starting a new year, hosting a few banquets and seeing some familiar faces. We hope that you are able to get out and enjoy life on the water, until next year...cheers!

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

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

Well we can all kiss 2020 goodbye! We're ready to see our chapter friends again and share some more good times at our meetings and banquet next year. I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe and healthy Thanksgiving and Christmas. Eat, drink and may your thoughts be merry! Stay tight with your families and if you get to go fishing, keep your lines tight too!

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

Hays County
Tim Young 512-737-7939
tim.haysco@gmail.com

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

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

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 Laguarda
713-515-3830
KLaguarda@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

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

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

Here at the Matagorda Bays Chapter we are concluding a very successful year and looking towards next year's events. Our final chapter event for 2020, the **Jim Ehman Memorial Guides Cup, has been re-scheduled once again and has been moved to April 13, 2021.**

We are excited to announce the 2021 Matagorda Bays Chapter boat raffle prize. We have pushed the limits again with the largest motor ever being placed on a CCA Texas boat and we want to send a huge thank you out to **Chris's Marine of Aransas Pass** for the loaded raffle boat. We have placed our chapter order for a Haynie 25 Magnum with the following accessories and motor: tournament seats, flush lids, extended gunnels, gunnel lights, painted console, graphics package, C-Top, powder coating, 80qt. Engel cooler, dual 8ft power poles, custom upholstery, BT Stereo System with HT4 amp, Garmin 94SV, swim platform, Coastline tandem trailer and a 400HP Mercury Verado! YES, a 400HP Verado! We expect delivery of the boat after the first of the year and will begin selling raffle tickets as soon as the boat is in El Campo. Please check out our Facebook page and chapter webpage on the CCA Texas website for boat raffle and banquet updates.

Closing quote for 2020, "Most of the world is covered by water. A fisherman's job is simple: pick out the best parts," Charles Waterman. It's time for our CCA supporters to pick out the best parts of Matagorda Bay and don't forget to take a kid fishing! If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us at any time.

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

Well, I can't remember a time in mid-November when we were still wet wading here on the mid-coast, but nonetheless, it has been a great fall in our fishery! Unfortunately, our annual **Speedy Stop**



Mid Coast chapter president Wade Harrell (left) and Vice President Mark Saddler after a nice morning wade in Matagorda Bay.

Guides Cup tournament was postponed due to Hurricane Delta churning through the Gulf. It's been a tough time for our neighbors to the east in Louisiana and our prayers are with them! **We have rescheduled the tournament for March 26, 2021 and are looking forward to a great time!** Thanks to all our guides and sponsors who have stuck with us during this challenging time.

Our chapter will again be partnering with the San Antonio Bay Partnership to assist with the February abandoned crab trap cleanup in Aransas, San Antonio and Matagorda Bays. The big event will be the first Saturday of the closure on February 20, 2021. If you want to bring your boat and participate, Allan Berger has laid out clean-up routes to follow. You can contact Allan at (713) 829-2852 (text preferred) or allanr-berger@comcast.net for more information. Mark your calendar for our 2021 banquet the evening of Friday, April 30. Until next time, tight lines!

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

We hope everyone has a great holiday season to put a positive end on a crazy year. Despite being unable to hold our annual banquet this year, the chapter was able to have great success thanks to **Chris Mapp, Coastal Bend Marine**, our hard-working board and our countless supporters across the state. Thanks to Chris Mapp for donating our Polaris Ranger that was our grand prize raffle item.

Thank you to all who purchased tickets for the raffle and participated in our online auction. We look forward to seeing you all next year.

Our 2021 annual banquet will be held on Saturday March 20 at the POC Community Center Pavilion. Reach out to a board member for more info. Happy Holidays from all of us down in POC, come see us this winter!

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

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

Thanks to everyone who made 2020 a successful year! Our Redfish Bay Chapter Board, John Blaha (and other Houston staff), Chris's Marine, supporters, donors and members continue to make the Redfish Bay Chapter a successful organization. We appreciate your patience this year with no events except our online auction on September 2; and a special "thank you" to those that participated in the auction. Next year, if possible, we can get back to a normal schedule of the banquet, Take a Kid Fishing, Beeville Fish Fry and general membership meetings. We have missed the personal, face to face interaction with our members! We are hoping that we can get together in 2021!

Mark your calendars for our 2021 Annual Banquet. It is scheduled for Saturday, April 17. We are hoping that requirements will change for events and we want to have the event

as early as we can. We will follow whatever requirements are in effect at the time. Have a great Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Rio Grande Valley
Boone Stutz 210-906-7696
cca.riograndevalley@gmail.com

Sabine-Neches
Darin Johnson 409-790-9855
darin@jorgensenmarine.com
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Sabine Neches Chapter! **Save the date for March 7, 2021! Stay tuned for details!** Be safe, and tight lines to all!

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

Here come the holidays! Again, what can we say? In the strangest time in our lives, we are blessed to have family, friends and the wide-open spaces and beautiful waters of the Lone Star State of Texas.

In the hope of the future, spirit of family, and appreciation of our safe, natural resources, take care, socially distance in your blinds, on your docks, and on your boats. Our fall climate is perfect to continue the safer outdoor activities during the holidays. Go fish!

DON'T FORGET ABOUT IT t-shirt. CCA San Antonio will be unveiling a long sleeve cotton t-shirt. See the image below. This design is at press and should be available mid-December. A must-have fun family collectable t-shirt and great Christmas gift. **A special thanks**



CCA San Antonio Go Fish! T-shirt available for purchase now!

to t-shirt sponsors Don Strange Catering-Events-Venues, Groomers Seafood, MAXIMUM ALTITUDE trucks and Ponce Advertising. These sponsors and the donation of artwork from artist/Dad Robert Lozano Jr. made this fund-raising project possible. You can purchase by emailing me at robertlozano129@yahoo.com.

Please have a safe and healthy holiday! Keep those lines taut, wear a mask and take the family fishing. Blessing from our CCA family to yours! Cheers from "Burnt-O".

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
Madelyn Rayburg
Maddierayburg@gmail.com
210-900-7445

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

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



Mid-Texas Coast Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Planning Underway

Save the date: the closure period is Feb 19-28, 2021, with Saturday Feb 20 being the main event. In case of bad weather, Feb 27 is the fallback.

The comprehensive and systematic approach to removing traps has been expanded to include San Antonio, Aransas, Lavaca & Matagorda Bays. Search areas are defined out of Port O'Connor, Charlies, Seadrift, Austwell, Rockport, Port Lavaca & Palacios, with removal activities continuing throughout the closure period.

Contact Allan Berger at allanberger@comcast.net or 713-829-2852 with questions or to sign up for your area. Details are available on sabaypartnership.org.

Funding for this year's effort is from a NOAA Marine Debris Removal grant. Volunteers are asked to collect data on each trap removed and mark its location using a cellphone-based app. This data will inform identification of the root causes of trap dereliction.

A celebratory party is planned in Port O'Connor on Saturday evening Feb. 20--COVID rules permitting. Mark your calendars, organize your team and sign-up for your area! —Allan Berger / San Antonio Bay Partnership



Charlotte O'Dell and Ryan Redd at PPWD dock



Ashley Berger in action



Port O'Connor contingent in action



Lavaca Bay Foundation in Action





Upper Coast

Jenn Nolan

The flounder run near Port A

Let me take you to the friendliest place to fish in Texas. There are many great places in the Port Arthur and Sabine area via boat—or a spot on the bank—to get a limit of flatfish if you know where to go and how to target them. A few of my favorite places in SETX are the boat ramps and docks around Keith Lake. Another place I love to fish this time of the year is anywhere along the pier, banks and walkway at Battleground Park in Sabine. For a family day, anywhere along the rocks at Walter Humphreys and on the inside of the pylons are great areas to target flounder. While you're at it, you may feel the explosive bite of a resident redfish.

Whether fishing on the bottom and slow bumping a swimbait, finessing a shrimp or soaking a live mud minnow, you can entice the bite of both flounder and reds in these waters. If not, grab some Gulp paired with a popping cork. This is a tried and true killer flounder combo.

NOTE: As December rolls around, you can start gigging again on the 1st, but that limit stays at two until the 15th of December, when we go back to our five fish, 15" minimum. In sharing the excitement of the flounder run, you can always find these limits and all other state rules and regulations in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Journal. Download that to your phone and always have your fishing license as well as the size and limits handy for years to come.

If you're looking to get off the bank and want to explore the fisheries more in freedom, kayaking has continued to grow in our areas. One local group, the **Sabine Kayak Club**, has free meetups to share in the joy of kayaking. You just might have a little fun finding some freedom outdoors with the flounder run. Till next time, I left them biting. Cheers —**Jenn Nolan**
TPW Volunteer, Exec. Dir. of Champions Outdoors
832-266-7978 jmacsyakshack@gmail.com
www.championsoutdoors.com



Jenn Nolan released this nice red in a back bay near Port Arthur. Get a load of those blue toenails. The kayak entrepreneur can be reached to reveal the release spot at www.championsoutdoors.com.

Middle Coast

Capt. Tommy Countz

Get off that comfy couch!

A lot of people don't realize how good fishing can be in December and January. December can be like fishing on a Fall day, and one of the best bets in December is fishing the Colorado River. Drift along with the current and make casts towards the shore. I use a 1/4 oz lead head rigged with a bright colored paddle tail soft plastic like a Margarita Norton Sand Shad Jr. The colder the water temperature, the deeper the fish will be.

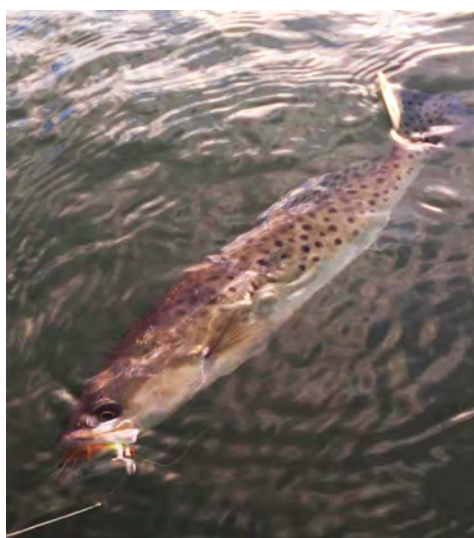
If we haven't had any really cold spells, you might find some great bird action in East Matagorda Bay. Another option is looking for streaks of off-color water in the clear water and drift those areas. I pretty much throw the same baits that I use in the river for this.

January is akin to fishing in December, but we'll have the coldest weather of the year. Fishing in the Colorado River is the premiere place to catch some nice boxes of reds and trout. Remember, water cools in thermal layers so the deeper water will be warmer and like fishermen, fish seek out warmth and comfort. The bite is going to be more subtle so slow down your retrieve and "feel the fish on."

January is also a time for wading in West Matagorda Bay. After a big blow comes in and the tides are lowest, redfish have to come out of the back areas on the south shore. Look for them in deeper guts coming out of the peninsula. If you find one or two reds, you'll find a bunch.

The weather in January can be miserable, but pick and choose your fishing days and I bet you'll be surprised. By the way, leaking waders can ruin a good fishing trip so find out if they leak before you go out. Of course, you'll plan safety first and send the big ones back for seed. There—I've given you some options for fishing in cold weather, so get your tail off that comfy couch and gut it up like a Texas fisherman.

—**Capt. Tommy Countz** 281-450-4037 837
tcountz@sbcglobal.net



Phil Shook released this fly-fooled speck.

Lower Coast

Capt. Rene Hinojosa

Sloooow is now part of your equipment

As December begins on the lower Texas coast, we may still be wading in shorts, and doing so in super-high water, at least in the the Port Mansfield region. Offshore storms? Who knows, but dredging of the channel to the East Cut will no doubt increase better tidal movements and inflow from the Gulf into all the back bays. Good for fish and good for fisherfolks.

Deep or shallow, shorts or waders, we've had success with the Norton lures, and I have affection for the Sand Eel red and white paddle tails beneath an 8 oz jig head. You can work it as a "suspended" bait in deeper water with practice, keeping the rod tip up. We'll be wading mostly through December, and looking forward to those days just after a strong front moves through. But drifting on a mild wind can provide a big payday for reds.

Then comes January, and wind. Don't be afraid to go out, because there's always clear water somewhere, and maybe very little competition for that perfect spot. On light wind and balmy days, ease along shorelines looking for trophy redfish. Slow is an important part of your equipment in January, whether balmy or breezy. If you have affection for topwaters, try the Skitterwalks and Super Spooks. A certain editor says a white She Dog with red eyes can work wonders in deeper water, but think sloooow...

Of course, you'll be prepared with gear for your crew and a sharp eye for weather problems. Help a fellow fisherman if one needs it, and the same for your catch: send the big spotted ladies back for further duty. The CURRENTS photo editor says that if you keep your camera or cell phone ready for action, you may get one of those once in a lifetime memories in full color for your wall, and the CCA newsletter. —**Capt. Rene Hinojosa Jr.** 956-966-0719
shallowcharters@gmail.com



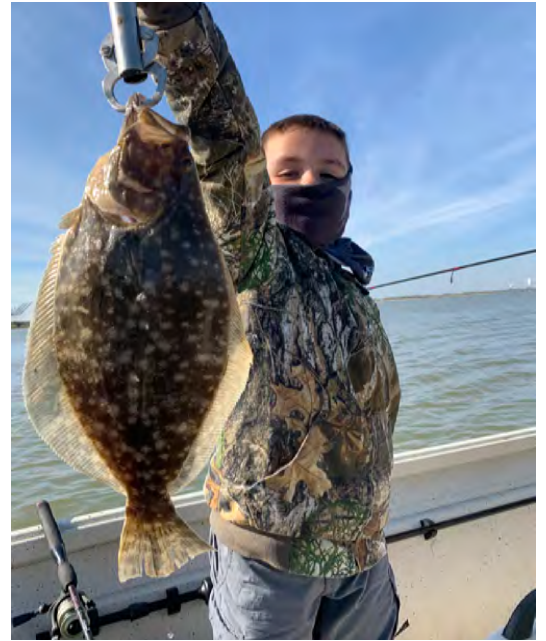
Capt. Rene Hinojosa releases a green sea turtle while an audience applauds.

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.



CLOCKWISE: Great Scenic photo, courtesy of an Aransas Bay photographer. Great Kid's photo of son Carson from Anthony Almaguer. Great Action, Wildlife and CPR photo of Fishing Locos member Cynthia Michelle with a huge surf-running redfish. Humor Photo: "Lost a Reel?" from Anonymous. A Smiley Redfish, from Tim Fading.





CCA TEXAS STAR



BEST IN TEXAS

TILSON
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31st Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo Round-up

While most people are preparing for Christmas and the New Year, STAR staff and volunteers are running on all cylinders in preparation for the 2021 tournament year. But before we start to get ahead of ourselves, let's take a moment to reflect on this years' tournament straight from the Tournament Director.

"Reflecting on 2020, no doubt many are anxious to see it end. Our prayers continue to focus on our members and friends who have rallied with the fierce spirit that Texans are known for. Of course fishermen and women are legendary optimists...why else would we keep casting, if not thinking the next twitch could be pay dirt!? Our faith propels us forward, often defined as "the substance of things hoped for." And hope never fails. As we have endured the challenges, are we not becoming stronger? No matter how underwater we may have been, you can bet the important things have surfaced—faith, family, and friends. Not sure I've ever noticed how spectacular the weather has been, but like this? Are the colors sharper? Is the air crisper? Reflecting on 2020, something good is happening. Maybe we just need to get outside for more aqua therapy, right?

We want to extend a hearty welcome to all our NEW members! As you discover more what the CCA family is about, you will learn why we love to fish. Catching is great, where we all started, and you can get plenty of tips to improve your skills. You'll begin to see the passion that moves us...yes, the fish "lure" us into the quest but the camaraderie of sharing a love for our precious coastal resources, and doing something about them, is the epoxy that makes us strong. Check out the various projects underway by all the chapters. Attend a meeting (when they resume, and they will) and join in on a chapter event or project. Get your kids out on the water with you; let them see the difference between virtual and real! There is a reason why we are drawn to the healing waters...find out for yourself. Texans are so very blessed. Did you know that on top of our countless habitat projects, CCA-built hatcheries are raising and releasing 30-50 million baby fish each year back into our bays and estuaries? This is only accomplished with the help and support of members like you! We want you to experience why Texas has some of the best saltwater gamefish populations ever recorded. Get involved!

In this Spirit of the season, we certainly have lots to be thankful for. We wish you and yours the most wonderful Christmas you've ever had. Thanks for joining CCA and fishing the STAR. See you next year!" —**Bill Kinney**, STAR Tournament Director

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, Linda's Sylvan Beach Bait & Tackle in La Porte, Smitty's Bait House in Galveston, West End Marina in Galveston, Surfside Marina in Surfside Beach, Harbor Bait & Tackle in Matagorda, Indianola Fishing Marina in Indianola, The Port O'Connor 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!



BEST IN TEXAS

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 Magazine" is again offering a FREE one-year (12 issues) online subscription to all 2021 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.

\$7.15 million in college scholarships to youth from all over Texas

TILSON

CUSTOM HOME BUILDERS

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. For more details or call 1 (888) 540-6705.

Thank you to our tremendous 2020 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, Shoalwa-ter Boats, Haynie Boats, Mowdy Boats, Dargel Boats, Texas Fish & Game Magazine, Coastline Trailers, McClain Trailers, KTRK-abc13, 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!



STARkids Gafftop winner, Rowdy Hanks and Gafftop winner, Michael Fesco



Kingfish winner, Clifford McCrummen



Middle Coast Trout winner, Justin Aguilar



Dorado winner, Teague Mize



Upper Coast Trout winner, Lee Wright



Sheephead winner, Jerry Mills



Lower Coast Trout winner, Danys Perez



Ling winner, Reese Conner



Flounder winner, William Casey Hicks



HOPE NEVER FAILS...



In this spirit of the season, we certainly have lots to be thankful for!



TILSON
CUSTOM HOME BUILDERS



Academy
SPORTS+OUTDOORS



Merry Christmas!

Please support those who support what you care about.

ccatexas.org · startournament.org



Here's a **SNEAK PEEK** at the
2021 STAR Platinum Print!



*Pre-Order
NOW*

**HISTORY SHOWS
THESE SELL
OUT FAST!**

WORKING TITLE

"Redfish on the Half Shell"

BY ANASTASIA MUSICK

Total package cost of \$135
includes CCA membership,
2021 STAR entry, and the limited-edition
print to ship in January.

ccatexas.org • startournament.org

Gulf Identification Guide



Grouper



Tito's All-Time Favorite



Mahi-Mahi



Tito's Martini



Red Drum



Hair of the Dog



Speckled Trout



Tito's Salty Dog



Flounder



**Tito's
Screwdriver**



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



Port Arthur Oyster / Bacon Portabella Stew

Ingredients

- 1.5 pint fresh raw oysters, undrained
- 4 slices bacon, cooked & chopped
- 2 Tbsp butter, unsalted
- 8 oz portabella mushrooms, sliced
- 1/2 red bell pepper / diced
- 1 tsp fresh thyme
- 1 tsp fresh dill
- 1/4 cup celery, with tops, chopped
- 1 1/2 Tbsp parsley, chopped
- 1 small red onion, chopped
- 1 1/2 qt half and half
- **Port A Seasoning to taste:** suggestion — salt, pepper, cumin, crushed red pepper, paprika, dash of Tabasco or Louisiana Hot Sauce



Preparation

Get your oysters ready — reserve liquor, rinse oysters gently.

Fry your bacon crispy, remove bacon and saute onions and celery in rendered bacon fat and butter until translucent. Remove from pot. Saute mushrooms with thyme until golden brown.

Add half and half to the pot with reserved oyster liquor. Simmer a moment, then add all the remaining ingredients. Cook on low for an additional 5-7 minutes until oyster ends begin to curl. Ladle stew in bowls and garnish with chopped green onion. Serve with oyster crackers, or crisped flour tortillas.

Courtesy of Vizi Lange-Caldwell



Two major national art awards:

First Place, "A Search for Rainbows" and Second Place, "Autumn Wolves."

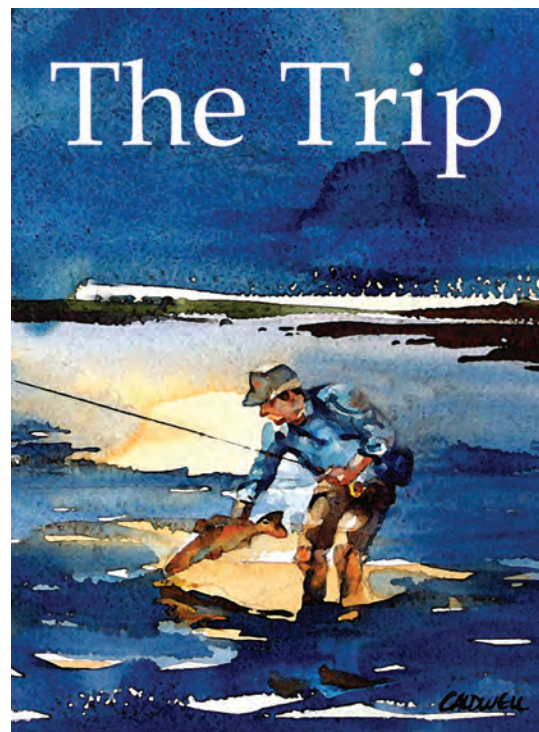
Giclees on both are now available.

Great idea for Christmas: Drop by the website and get my 4.5 star novel, *The Trip*.

For a friend, choose a Giclee from many old, middle-aged and new Caldwell paintings.

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



Caldwell

TOWA Fall 2020 Stampede

Texas Outdoor Writer's Association—Set at the Brune Ranch near Shaw's Bend, the TOWA event this year was a three-day adventure in the outdoors, including the Senior Bull riding championship, Cowboy shooting, the Sellmark Texas Challenge at Gunsmoke Texas, the IBCA sanctioned Wild Game and BBQ Cookoff, Jackson kayaks on the Colorado River, music food and beverages—all outdoors.

For young visitors, CCA provided the Catch A Kid Contest, complete with



lures and rod and reel prizes. Invented by the Northeast Houston chapter years back, the young "fish" were strapped into a flotation vest and attached to an offshore rod. Each youngster scrambled for prizes

as an angler applied drag. For one strong "fish," the angler had to apply thumb drag and still lost the contest. Several "fish" went home with CCA rod and reel combos, as well as a variety of lures.

A CCA booth provided HTFT videos and CCA information. CCA member Hailey Johnson is now the TOWA president. She presented awards for the top BBQ contestants at the CCA booth. —Sam Caldwell

Port Arthur set as TOWA 2021 Conference Locale

The TOWA Annual Conference is held beginning the last Friday of February each spring and is the highlight of the year for many Texas communicators.

The conference is designed to provide networking opportunities, a comprehensive supporting (industrial) member hands-on product experience during break-out sessions, the annual business meeting of the membership and up-to-date workshops featuring the most qualified professionals in outdoor communications.

Scholarship Opportunities: TOWA Student members and future outdoor writers are given opportunities to apply for scholarships at various times throughout the year. For more information, drop by the TOWA website:

<https://towa.org/blog/>





Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Drive, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77024

CURRENTS NEWSLETTER

December 2020 /January 2021

**BEST WISHES FOR A
FINE HOLIDAY
SEASON AND
A GREAT NEW
YEAR FROM YOUR
FRIENDS AT CCA
TEXAS**



Short Break on a Long Trip
A watercolor from 2002 by Sam Caldwell

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

*Operation
Game Thief*



Current size, bag and possession limits are now available through the Texas Parks & Wildlife website: TPWD has a number to report game violations. **1-800-792-4263**. A partner with CCA in aiding Texas game and Game Wardens is Operation Game Thief. Drop by and put this website on your favorites list: www.ogttx.com



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: | \$20 | 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. |
| STAR ENTRY FEE: | \$25 | Tournament entry fee. Must be a current CCA member. |
| YOUTH: | \$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