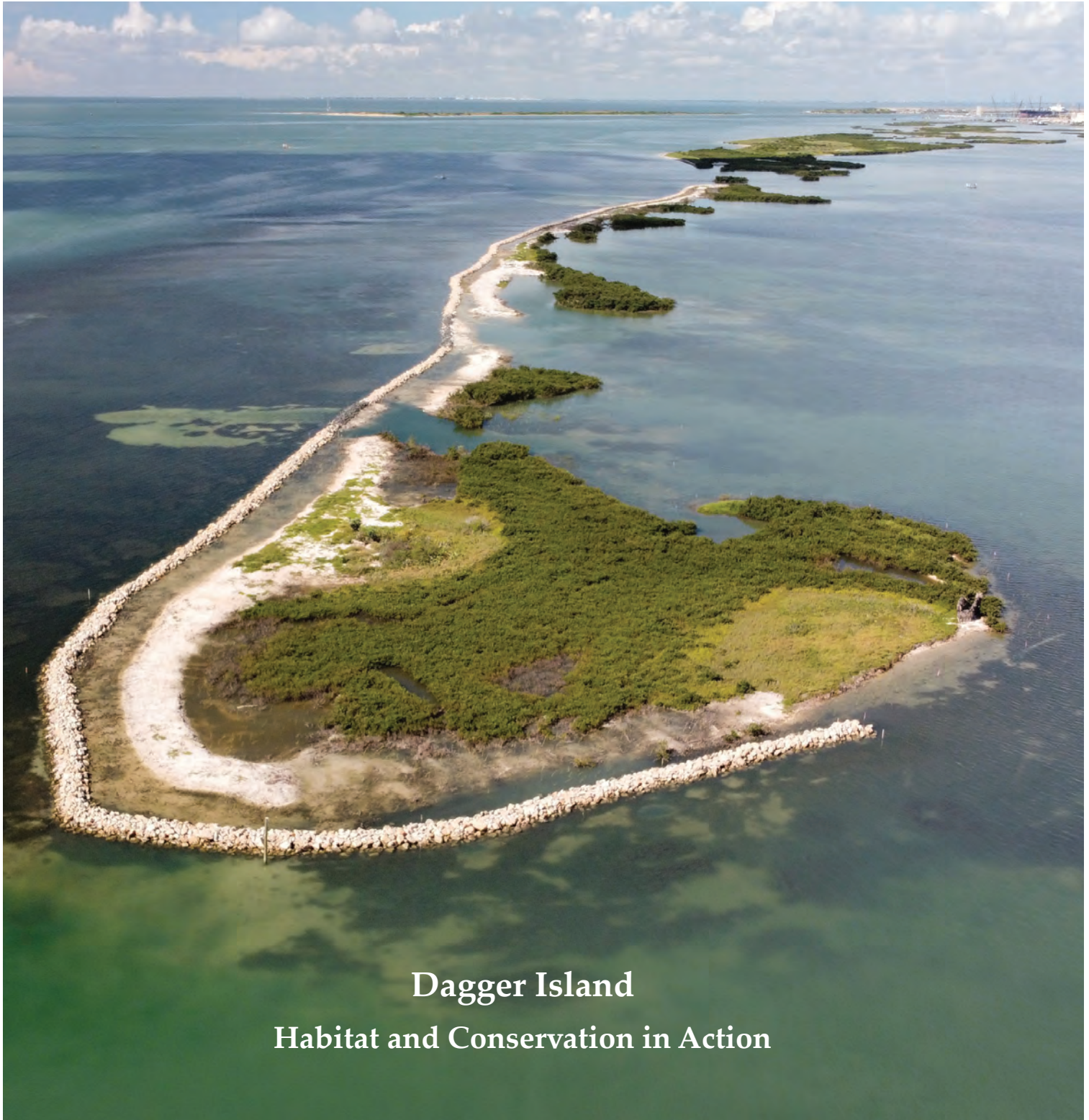


CURRENTS

February / March 2021



Dagger Island Habitat and Conservation in Action

CURRENTS IS NOW INTERACTIVE!

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

Conserve It, Respect It, Use It Responsibly

By John Blaha

As I reflect on 2020 and what lies ahead for 2021, the one thought that continuously comes to mind is "How do we continue to maintain the beautiful Texas coast and the marine resources at our hands?" In the face of the COVID pandemic, people from all over the state fled to the coast for time away and the opportunity to enjoy the coast we all love. Once restrictions were lifted, people wanted to be outdoors, whether it was at the coast, lake or going for a simple stroll down the street. The outdoors and coast have been a getaway. It didn't come without a price socially, but that's a story for another publication and for leadership within communities to figure out.

What did this mean for the coast? Above all, it was another jump in pressure on the resource. Fridays became Saturdays, Thursdays become Fridays, and Mondays became Sundays. People came to the coast and did not want to leave. Look at real estate sales for communities like Rockport/Fulton, Port O'Connor and other coastal communities. People are investing in the coastal communities, and it's time they invest in the very reason they have come to the coast. Whether it is fishing, hunting, birding, or simply walking the shores of the bayfronts, we all need to step up and take care of it.

How can we all get involved and make a difference? We can start by being stewards of the resource and above all respecting it. We all love to keep fish to eat and give a little to our families and friends, but we should take what we need and put the rest back. The fishery is not infinite, and we must take care of it. This is not about one user group over another, and it really does not matter what you used for bait, a dead fish is a dead fish. Whether you are the weekend angler, an avid angler that fishes 10 or more days a month, or a guide, we all need to hold ourselves and each other accountable. There is nothing worse than seeing a freezer of frozen fish that has become burnt or old and not worth eating. These statements are not meant to say do not keep fish, they simply mean take what you need and let the rest go. Speaking of letting go, consider releasing those upper slot redfish and over 20" trout. These are prolific breeders and frankly, the smaller ones are a lot tastier.

Be an educator! This is especially important to those that are avid anglers and guides that have an understanding of the resource and habitat. Explain to your beginner friends and clients the importance of habitat, letting some fish go, and above all respect the resource and one another. We have all seen way too many times where respect is thrown out the door. We all make mistakes, and a le-



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 ½ mile break water and beneficial use dredge materials to create an island. 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.](#)

gitimate mistake is just that, a mistake. Own it and move forward with it as a learning experience. We all have the opportunity to be an educator and/or set an example on the water. Take that opportunity, seize it, and make a difference in someone's day. At the end of the day, it will be remembered.

The health of the coastal habitat is a huge part in the overall health of the entire ecosystem. Without healthy sea grass beds, oyster reefs, upland and lower marsh, and water quality to name a few, the ecosystem will not be healthy. CCA Texas has worked tirelessly to help ensure these parts of the ecosystem are healthy and continue to remain as strong as possible. Whether it is working with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and industry members to ensure reasonable harvest practices within the oyster industry; helping TPWD educate the public about the importance of sea grass beds; working with TPWD and others to ensure freshwater inflows to bays; and working with TPWD and others to restore and create habitat up and down the Texas coast, CCA Texas is committed to ensuring the coastal hab-



The future is in the hands of the growing generation of young anglers. It is the current generation's opportunity to educate them and instill conservation-minded ethics so that the coastal resources are available for them and future generations.

it is healthy for present and future generations.

Taking care of the resource does not stop with CCA Texas, TPWD, and other organizations or agencies. We need to all be part of the solution. Several opportunities exist for taking part in cleanups, including the Crab Trap Cleanup, Sandifer Beach Cleanup, and Marsh Mania events around Galveston. The current COVID situation is putting some events on hold and discussions are being held on how to modify them, but the TPWD Crab Trap cleanup will take place in 2021. The crabbing season will be closed between February 19th and 28th, and the volunteer event will take place on February 20th. Be sure to follow TPWD on social media and check their website. In addition to these opportunities, we can help every time we go out.

One of the biggest ways to help is to simply respect the resource. Unfortunately, we see way too many instances where anglers have driven over grass beds needlessly or cut through small marsh creeks, just because they can. Running through these little creeks and making "new paths" through the marsh is a huge detriment to the resource. ALL users need to remember this. High tides seem to give many the "look at me" bravado and in the end, the marsh pays the price. These small little creeks are widened by erosion

and the newly created indentions allow water to flow where it did not flow before and, in the end, it creates erosion and the marsh slowly disappears. It is undeniable and all one must do is look at the St. Joe and Matagorda Islands. Creeks and trails created by boaters have slowly grown due to erosion, and the force of Hurricane Harvey has opened many areas where water had not flowed before. We all take shortcuts, especially when it is windy and rough, just think about what you are doing and the long-term consequences. Just because we can, does not mean we should. We all have our moments, and it is time to check ourselves and think about the future.

It is on each of us to be a better steward, educator and user of the resources available to us in Texas. In the end it comes down to: Conserve It, Respect It, and

Use It Responsibly. If we do not, there is always someone willing to change the rules and access to it for all of us. Let's keep that reasoning out of their hands. 2021 will offer many challenges. Let's all move forward together and help ensure our coastal resources are healthy, available, and ready for future generations. 🌱

Dagger Island is one of many projects that CCA Texas and Building Conservation Trust (BCT) have been a part of. CCA Texas and BCT are committed to ensuring that Texas coastal habitat is healthy through these projects executed with many partners.



Everyone likes to keep and eat fish. Take it a step further, and only keep what you need and let the rest go. Cousins Banks Tessier and Jack McPherson located these reds on a perfect day near Dagger Island. Photos by John Blaha.

HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

CCA Texas Projects

1. Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough Restoration	\$1,600,000
2. ** Nearshore Reefing - Rio Grande Valley Reef	\$ 861,000
3. Nearshore Reefing—Port O'Connor	\$ 700,000
4. Oyster Restoration - East Galveston Bay	\$ 500,000
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 (BCT & CCA Texas Secured Funds)	\$ 399,066

** 2020 Projects

TOTAL FUNDED THROUGH 2020: \$8,349,666

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

Advocacy

By Shane Bonnot

Texas Legislative Session Begins

The 87th Legislative Session is currently underway and State Representative Dade Phelan (R-Beaumont) will lead the House of Representatives as its newly elected speaker. Phelan, serving his fourth term for District 21, has proven himself an effective leader and broker in previous sessions, serving as chairman of the Committee on State Affairs, Vice-Chair of the Natural Resources Committee, as a member on the Select Committee on Ports, Innovation and Infrastructure, and as a member of the Calendars, Appropriations, and Elections Committees.



*State Representative Dade Phelan,
87th Speaker of the House*

During the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, Phelan was on the ground in his flood-stricken district, ensuring that aid was provided to his constituents and listening to their needs. In response, he sponsored a much-needed relief package for mitigation projects that will help prepare the coast for future flood events. Phelan is a husband, father to four sons, avid angler and a CCA Texas member.

Prior to each legislative session, committees submit interim reports for incoming members. This year, the House Committee on Culture, Recreation and Tourism of the 86th Legislature interim report provided an implementation update and future recommendations for HB 1300 (oyster mariculture) and HB 2321 (increased oyster penalties). The charge to the committee was as follows: Monitor the implementation of the cultivated oyster mariculture program, the implementation of increased penalties related to the regulation of oyster harvesting, and the effectiveness of these state laws as related to the protection, conservation, and sustainability of oysters in Texas coastal waters. CCA Texas is keeping a close eye on legislative activity and will keep the membership abreast of any future action relating to the sustainability of the Texas oyster fishery. In the meantime, details regarding HB 1300 and HB 2321 can be found by clicking [this link](#) and navigating to pages 10-14.

Volunteer Opportunities Abound

February may be short on days but it is flush with volunteer opportunities. Dates have been set for both the **Annual Crab Trap Cleanup** and the **26th Annual Billy Sandifer Big Shell Cleanup**.

You can participate in the crab trap cleanup anytime February 19-28, with the main volunteer effort taking place on Saturday, February 20th. For more information about the Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program, please contact Holly Grand at 361-825-3993 or See page 6 of this newsletter. crabtrap@tpwd.texas.gov



*The Abandoned Crab Trap
Navy in Action*

An Eighteen Year Tradition Continues

**Save the date: the closure period is February 19-28.
In case of bad weather, Feb 27 is the fallback day.**

The comprehensive and systematic approach to removing traps has been expanded to include San Antonio, Aransas, Lavaca and 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.

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 cell-

phone-based app. This data will inform the root causes of trap dereliction. *Send the email address of the data coordinator in your crew so we can create a username and password for accessing the data program. And, the mobile phone of the Captain for last minute changes and on-the-water emergencies.*

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

Looking forward to the event—it will be fun again! Call or email questions.

This year, due to COVID concerns, there will be no celebratory party. —Allan Berger / San Antonio Bay Partnership.



Let's Go Retro / A few images from past efforts in Crab Trap and Beach Cleanups

Your CURRENTS Photo Editor likes the freedom of additional space for larger member photos. And, hopes the viewer will enjoy the ability, in digital mode to enlarge images.



Abandoned Crab Traps 2021

*Seventeen years: more than 33,000
derelict traps removed. Here comes eighteen.*

2021 Crab Trap Drop-Off Sites

SABINE LAKE – Local TPWD coordinator Carey Gelpi (409) 983-1104 (ext. 222)

- Pleasure Island Marina Boat Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site

GALVESTON BAY – Local TPWD coordinator Christine Jensen (281) 534-0100

- Jones Lake State Ramp (Fat Boys) — Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
- Dickinson Bayou SH 146 Bridge Public Boat Ramp — Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
- Fort Anahuac County Park Boat Ramp — Non-facilitated trap drop-off site, Sponsored by Galveston Bay Foundation and Chambers County
- Chocolate Bayou State Boat Ramp FM 2004 — Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
- TPWD Dickinson Marine Lab — Non-facilitated trap drop-off site during business hours (M-F, 8am-5pm)
- Stingaree Restaurant and Marina (Bolivar) — Non-facilitated trap drop-off site, Sponsored by Galveston Bay Foundation
- Christmas Bay boat ramp – Facilitated by the Christmas Bay Foundation. Please visit [Christmas Bay Foundation's site](#) for more information about volunteering at this location.

MATAGORDA BAY– Local TPWD coordinator Leslie Hartman (361) 972-6253

- Please visit [San Antonio Bay Partnership's site](#) for more information about volunteering throughout the mid-coast.
- Matagorda Harbor at Matagorda – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
- Railroad Park at Palacios – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site

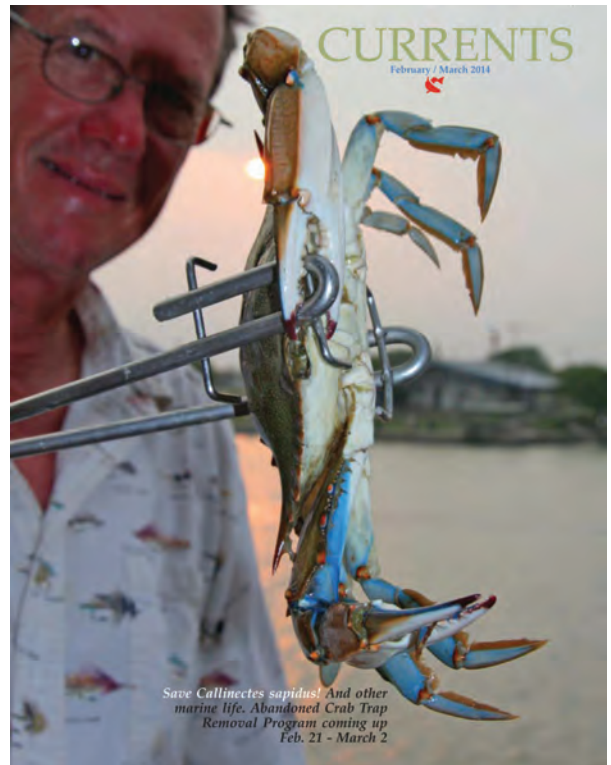
SAN ANTONIO BAY – Local TPWD coordinator Kelly Kowal (361) 983-4425

- Please visit [San Antonio Bay Partnership's site](#) for more information about volunteering throughout the mid-coast.
- Charlie's Bait Stand — Facilitated and trap drop-off site
- Port O'Connor TPWD Docks — Facilitated and trap drop-off site
- Austwell Public Boat Ramp – Facilitated by San Antonio Bay Partnership & trap drop-off site
- Seadrift Marina – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
- Swan Point / Sanders Park Boat Ramp, Seadrift – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site

ARANSAS BAY – Local TPWD coordinator Zach Olsen (361) 729-5429

- Please visit [San Antonio Bay Partnership's site](#) for more information about volunteering throughout the mid-coast.
- Goose Island State Park Boat Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site

– Drop off Sites continued on page 8



—DROP OFF SITES CONTINUED

CORPUS CHRISTI BAY – Local TPWD coordinator Tom Wagner (361) 729-2328

- South Conn Brown Harbor Public Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site (Bigelow Street, Aransas Pass, TX 78336)
- Ransom Channel Public Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site (Ransom Drive, Aransas Pass, TX 78336)

UPPER LAGUNA MADRE – Local TPWD coordinator Faye Grubbs (361) 825-3353

- Bluff's Landing Marina – Non-facilitated and trap drop-off site (4242 Laguna Shores Road, Corpus Christi, TX 78418)
- Kaufer-Hubert Memorial Boat Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site (FM 628 Exd Riviera, TX 78379)

LOWER LAGUNA MADRE – Local TPWD coordinator Jason Ferguson (956) 350- 4490

- Adolfe Thomae County Park – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
- Port Mansfield Navigation District Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site



Beach Cleanups 2021

On February 27, the Friends of Padre are hosting the 26th Annual Billy Sandifer Big Shell Cleanup. This cleanup occurs once a year in the Big Shell portion of the Padre Island National Seashore where hundreds of volunteers dedicate a Saturday to removing trash from this rugged, desolate stretch of beach. Since its inception in 1995, over 11,425 volunteers have removed 2,996,000 pounds of trash from the beach.

The deadline to sign up and ensure that you receive your commemorative Billy Sandifer Big Shell Beach Cleanup t-shirt is February 5th. If you do not register, you are welcome to attend the event, but will not be guaranteed a t-shirt. [Click here](#) to get signed up!

Due to COVID safety precautions, this year's event will look a little different from years past so please be sure to visit the Friends of Padre website or their

[Facebook Page](#) for all the latest information. Also, if you have not heard our podcast with Billy Sandifer and Dr. David Mckee, stop everything you are doing and listen to it now! [Click here](#) to listen and while you're at it, subscribe to the Coastal Advocacy Adventures Podcast on your phone's podcast app.

Tough duty, cleaning miles of Padre Island shoreline. Capt. Billy Sandifer began the effort in 1995. Drop by the Friends of Padre Island website for full details of this year's cleanup: <https://www.friendsofpadre.com/>

Kathy and Miller Bassler took up the challenge of cleaning the East Cut and jetties in 2011. Thousands of pounds of debris have been removed by hundreds of volunteers, many of them CCA members. The Basslers were Finalists in the Field & Stream National Awards, 2014. The next cleanup will be in 2022.



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.

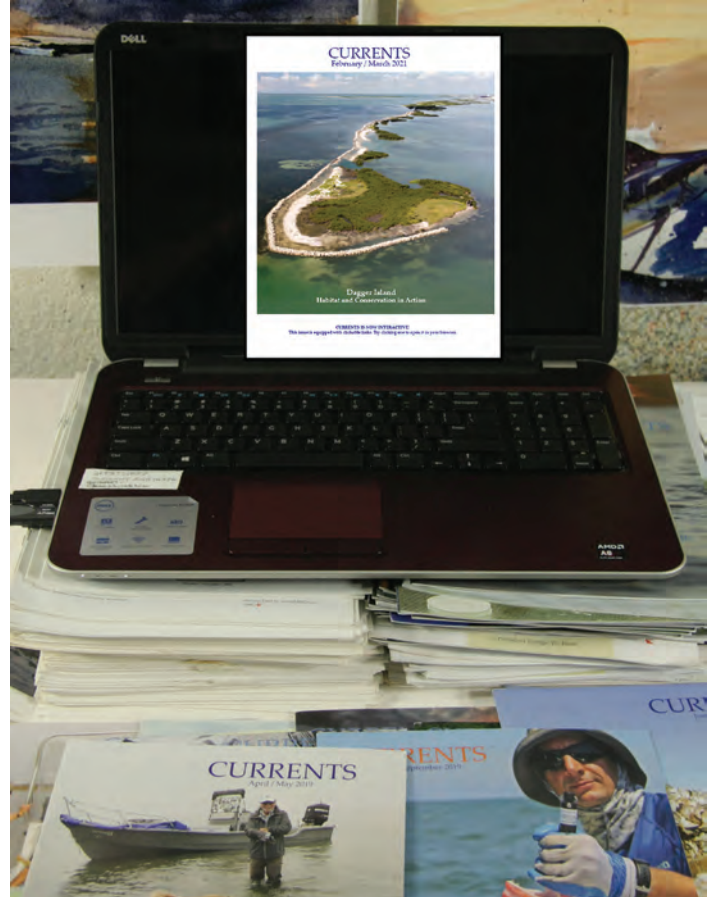
For 36 years, the printed CURRENTS newsletter has provided valuable two-way communication, as well as being an important tool for affecting environmental change. But printing and mailing a 28-page, full color newsletter to 60,000 members is time-consuming and expensive.

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 many 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 section, links directly open up to posts on our social media platforms.



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

You'll find news and information about chapter events, advocacy and breaking news, plus 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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Shop **Smile.Amazon.com** and .5% of the price of your purchases go to **Coastal Conservation Association**.

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.

**REPORT
ILLEGAL
FISHING!**

**STEALING YOUR FISH.
SHORTENING YOUR SEASON.**

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**



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.

SAVE THE REDFISH SOLAR TEE



THIS FABRIC IS RECOMMENDED
AS AN EFFECTIVE UV PROTECTANT



SHORT AND LONG SLEEVE AVAILABLE

SHOP NOW



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Click on a favorite tee shirt and shop now. Or, paste this url into your browser: www.joinccastore.com/

Caught Redhanded! 🚒 Reports from TP&W Game Wardens

TPWD Game Wardens Lead Multi-Agency "Operation Half Shell" Along Texas Coastal Bend.

AUSTIN — Between Dec. 14 and 18, Texas Game Wardens in Calhoun and Aransas Counties led a multi-agency law enforcement surge operation targeting illegal commercial oyster harvest and possession along the coastal bend. "Operation Half Shell" consisted of patrols by Texas Game Wardens in collaboration with the U.S. Coast Guard, Calhoun County Sheriff's Office and the Aransas County Sheriff's Office.

"The effort employed by our game wardens and federal partners during this operation to protect these resources is truly inspiring and extremely noteworthy," said Major Ellis Powell. "Not only is it a public health and safety concern, but the economic and ecological impacts are tremendous as well. Our mission is to assure compliance with regulations that will help sustain these resources for many years and generations to come."

The operation resulted in more than 70 criminal cases and numerous warnings over the four days. In total, Texas Game Wardens were able to return 436 sacks of oysters, approximately 47,960 pounds, to the bay. Many of the violations were for possession of undersize oysters that the state's reef ecosystems require for sustainability and for future harvests.

Game wardens made 12 arrests for possession of undersize oysters from oysterman who had two prior convictions on the same violation as of September 2017. Game wardens also issued 42 citations for possession of undersize oysters, adding up to 34 percent of the cases. Other arrests included unlawfully selling molluscan shellfish (a Class A misdemeanor) and possession of marijuana (a Class B misdemeanor).

U.S. Coast Guard boarding officers also identified over 20 violations related to vessel crew and safety requirements.

New regulations that took effect in Nov. 2017 reduced the allowable number of undersize oysters taken from 15 percent to 5 percent and provided an enhancement pen-



Three Texas Game Wardens and a photographer set out on Operation Half Shell. Photo by David Sikes

alty for the possession of undersized oysters to an arrestable Class B offense.

Sunday, December 6, 2020—, Orange County Game Warden Raj Ataya was patrolling Hwy 73 near the Rainbow Bridge between Port Arthur and Bridge City for fishing violations. He checked a local fisherman and found him to be in possession of two undersized red drum (one 17" and one 14.5") that were both still alive. Warden Ataya issued a citation and a warning to the fisherman for possession of undersized game fish and returned both fish to the public water and watched them swim away. 🚒



Texas Game Wardens, Serving Texans since 1895



Law Enforcement Off the Pavement

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

CURRENTS IS NOW INTERACTIVE! This issue is equipped with clickable links. Try clicking one to open it in your browser.

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, join thousands of CCA Texas members around the state by following us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter! Every FOLLOW and LIKE helps!

Featured Social Media Highlights:

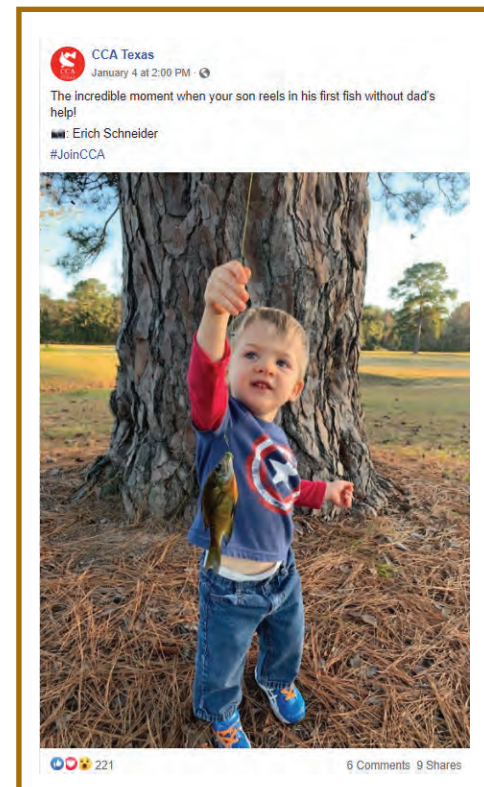
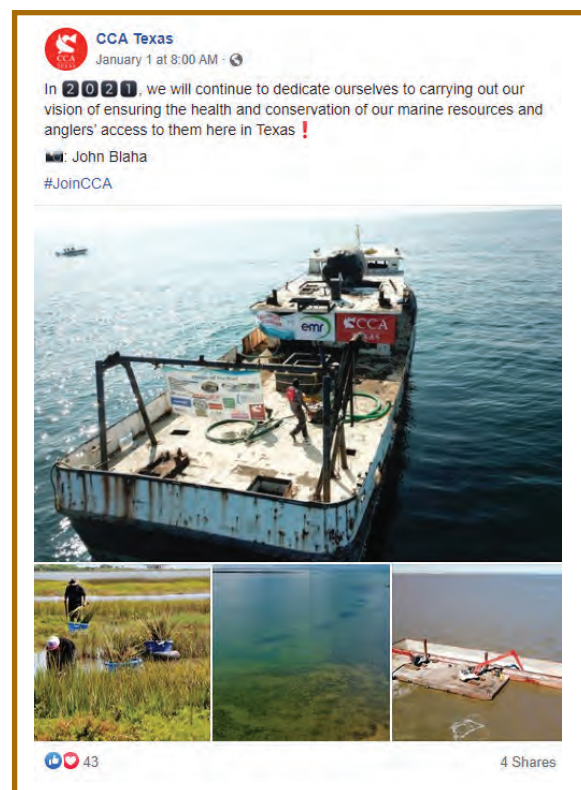


FACEBOOK



If you're on Facebook, following our CCA Texas Facebook page is a must! We'll keep you updated on all the latest happenings and even provide you with some great photos and videos to share on your own personal profile!

LIKE us on Facebook:
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<https://www.facebook.com/CCATexas>



INSTAGRAM

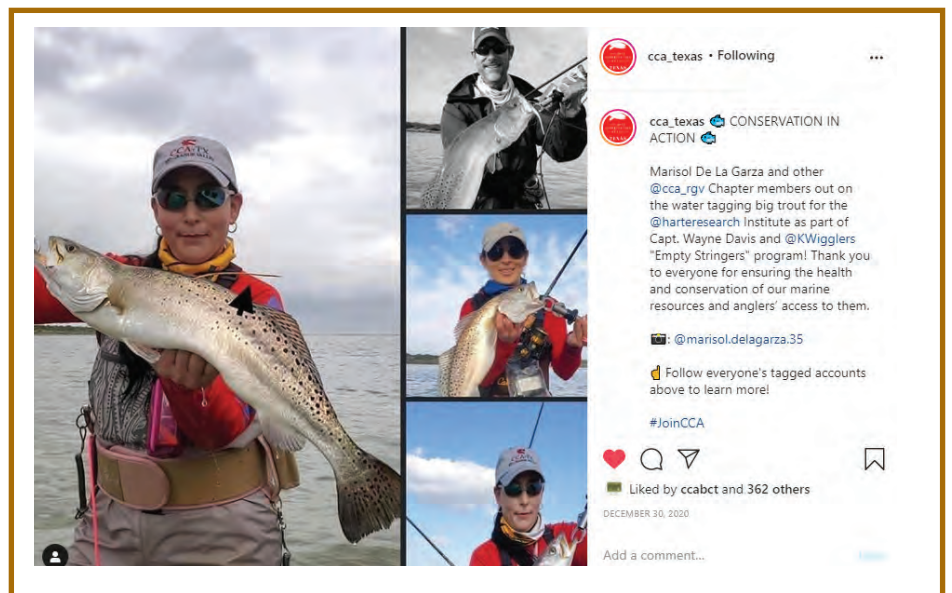
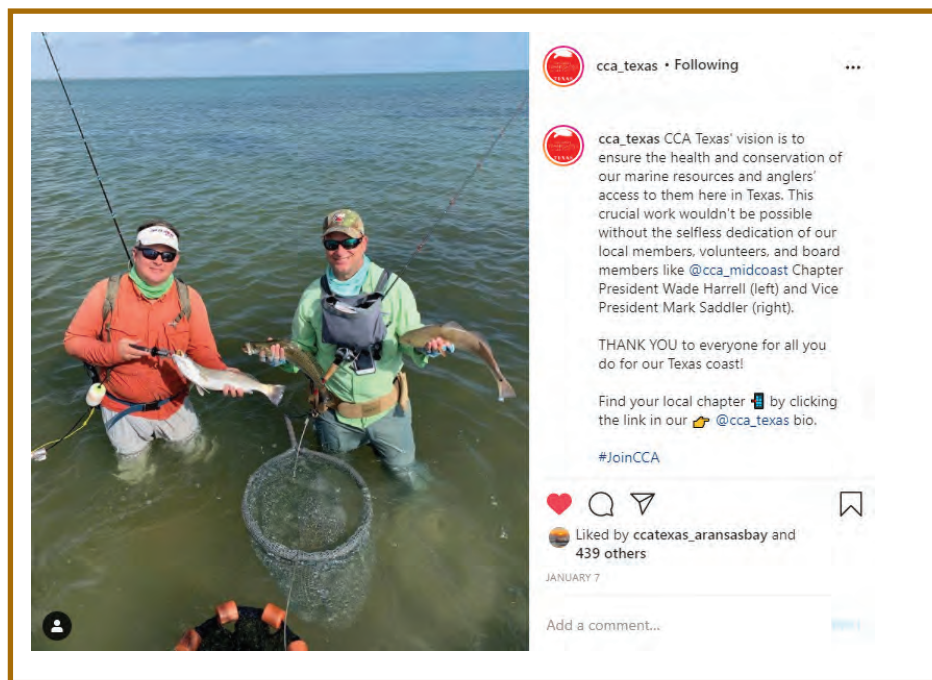
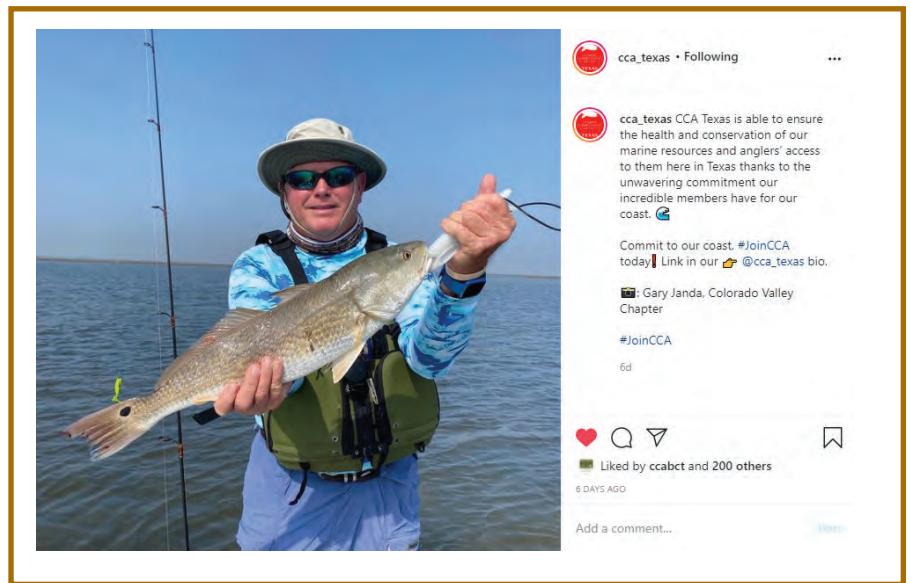
FOLLOW us on Instagram: @CCA_Texas
https://www.instagram.com/cca_texas

Over 10,000 anglers follow us on Instagram! Do you? Add us to your feed to see some incredible "thumb-stopping" photos as you scroll on your phone! FOLLOW us on Instagram TODAY!

INSTAGRAM



Anglers enjoy member-submitted photos and informative videos seen by thousands! Support CCA Texas by adding us to your Instagram feed.





Are you on Twitter? If so, join the nearly 2,400 anglers who 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. We're close to our goal of 2,500 followers, help us with a follow! FOLLOW us on Twitter TODAY!"

TWITTER



FOLLOW us on Twitter:
@CCA_Texas
<https://twitter.com/ccatexas>

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

Engage with us TODAY!
Kevin Hickson
Communications Director
Coastal Conservation Association
Email: khickson@joincca.org





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



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SPORTS+OUTDOORS

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Chapter Updates

Alvin-Pearland

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

Greetings and Happy New Year from the Alvin-Pearland Chapter! We are certainly glad to have 2020 behind us and are hoping for a "Return to Normal" for 2021!

On that note, at this point we are tentatively planning for our 2021 banquet to be held in June. No specific details yet, but we will communicate as soon as things start to come together.

We have not set any Anglers' Night Out dates for 2021 at this time. We sure miss seeing everyone, swapping stories and learning new things, so we hope to be comfortable getting together soon! Again, stay tuned for details.

The best way to stay up to date with our latest chapter events is to follow us on [Facebook](#) or go to our [chapter website](#). We hope to see you at one of our chapter events this year!

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

Austin
Jeff Beck 512-698-8307
ccauspres@gmail.com

Hello CCA Austin members, I hope this CURRENTS finds you happy and healthy in the new year. This is a good time of the year to organize, inventory and maintain your gear while you enjoy the great fishing experiences from last year. Spring will be here soon.

Austin Chapter Board members are moving full steam ahead to get ready for



Austin's 24' Shallow Sport

our banquet. **The 2021 banquet is set for Thursday May 13.** We are monitoring the current pandemic situation and understand we may not be able to host in May. **In just case, we have secured an alternate date, Tuesday August 24, 2021.** We will continue to update as we get new information.

Both showcase raffle packages, 24' Shallow Sport and hunting Jeep, are ready! We will be starting ticket sales soon. Please check out our chapter website, [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 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

Hope everyone had a great Christmas and your new year will be good. Ours has started off unexpected here in B/CS with about 4 to 7 inches of snow. Great fireplace weather and time to get the reels and tackle ready for the fishing days to come.

We held our first chapter meeting of the year at C&J Barbeque in Bryan, Texas. After a delicious meal and visiting (while social distancing), we got down to business. Our main item was discussion and decision

about our annual banquet, auction and raffle. Normally it is held in March. As of last fall, we had hopes of going forward with our "normal" plans. But after much discussion, deliberation and a vote...we decided to re-schedule the event for early fall: either September or October. We feel the safety of our members is of the utmost importance, and we hope things will be more amicable by then. At that time if the Bryan facility still requires masks and social distancing, we will be happy to comply and we will implement the necessary precautions to

insure everyone's safety.

We will have "early bird" ticket sales again this year. Looking forward to an awesome banquet in the fall! The date of our next chapter meeting will be published later along with the annual banquet date, venue, etc. Until then, take someone fishing; a child, spouse, loved one and enjoy the great outdoors.

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

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

Thank you, Cliff Johnstone, for your outstanding service as chapter president these past 2+ years!

In lieu of the 2020 banquet, the Corpus Christi Chapter held our first online silent auction on August 18 with great success. Thanks to Kimberly Prowse, Jay Gardner, Barrett Fines, Corey Survant, Kesley Gibson, and Tyler Thorsen for your hard work in putting it all together! Stay tuned to the chapter [Facebook page](#), [chapter website](#) and your member email for future online auctions and giveaways.

We also want to thank our 2020 CCA Corpus Christi Chapter award winners. The TPWD Game Warden of the Year goes to Rocky Corona of Region 8. The TPWD

Biologist of the Year is our very own Ashley Fincannon, Hatchery Manager of the Marine Development Center and CCA Corpus Christi Board member. The Conservationist of the Year goes to Jake Herring, former Chapter President and Director of Land Conservation with the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program. Our Lifetime Achievement Award goes to Dr. Larry McKinney, Executive Director of the Harte Research Institute, and former Division Director of TPWD.

The 2020 Babes on Baffin all women's fishing tournament has been postponed until October 8-9, 2021. We hope to resume the Poco Rojo Kids Fishing Tournament in the fall. Stay tuned for more details!

A reminder, the 2020 banquet has been rescheduled to 2021. We will be setting the date soon, so keep an eye out! For 2020 table buyers, rollover and donation options are available. Contact Courtney at ccacorpustchristi@gmail.com or call 361-882-5199. Let us know if you're interested in volunteering!

information about the chapter or banquet, contact Chapter President Greg Resnansky ccadallasboard@gmail.com, or Assistant Director Drew Adams, dadams@ccatexas.org.

East Texas

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

Fort Bend

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

Hello everyone, 2020 is finally over! Now it's time to move forward from last year and start focusing on 2021. First on the list, your Ft. Bend CCA committee members have been on the ball making plans and coming up with some great ideas for our 35th annual banquet. This year we will be raffling off another boat for our Grand Prize, a 2021 JH Performance Outlaw 210x (21') with a 175HP Mercury and a Coastline aluminum trailer. There will

contact Jim Black, number listed above.

As usual, our gracious sponsors and donors are doing all they can to help make this year's banquet a huge success. **It is scheduled for April 29, 2021**, location and details can be found on the CCA website listed below. If you would like to become a sponsor or would like to donate please contact either Jim Black or Blake Tumlinson (979) 332-2236, Banquet Chairman, your support is greatly appreciated. For table reservations you can also contact Blake or Jim and they'll get you fixed up. Hope 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 boat, what a great group to do business with. Another thanks to **Steve Onstad and The Swinging Door BBQ Restaurant** in Richmond for allowing us to hold our monthly meeting there for all these years.

Some other upcoming events we are starting to prepare for is CCA Kidfish and the "Ladies Only" fishing tournament, The Lingerie on The Bay, both held in Matagorda, TX. Dates and info on these events will be coming soon, flyers and entry forms will be posted at ccatexas.org/fort-bend and matagordabay.com so be on the lookout for these events.

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

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

Golden Triangle

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

Greater Sugar Land

John Breland 281-808-2969
geauxingfishing@yahoo.com The Greater Sugar Land Chapter wrapped up 2020 with our President's Cup Fishing Tournament that took place in Sargent with a good time and lots of big fish being

HORNED FROGS



In photo: Zuider Zee Boys, left to right: CCA Dallas Presidents Bill Graswich, Richard Pratt, Wade Gear, Hal Thomas and John Hansen.

Dallas

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

With the end of winter on the horizon, CCA Dallas is getting ready for spring and warmer weather. In April, the chapter will host an Angler's Night Out featuring a fish fry by the Zuider Zee Boys, made up of past CCA Dallas Presidents John Hansen, Richard Pratt and Hal Thomas. The date and location hasn't been set yet, but keep an eye on ccatexas.org/dallas and the CCA Dallas [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages for more information.

The 40th annual CCA Dallas Banquet will be September 16, 2021 at Sixty Five Hundred, 6500 Cedar Springs Road in Dallas. If you are interested in becoming a banquet sponsor, donor, or learning more

also be chances to win other prizes so be sure and get your tickets today, I'm sure they're not going to last long! For boat tickets please

Fort Bend BOAT RAFFLE

2021 JH Performance Outlaw 21' w/ 175hp Mercury

For tickets and details call Jim Black 979-240-5010



Greater Sugar Land: Joel Canavan and John Breland with President's Cup trophy

weighed in. This event has grown every year and displays the chapter comradery among members. This year's Presidents Cup winner will be proudly putting the trophy on his mantle for the 7th time, congrats Joel Canavan. A special thank you to **Bob and Barbara Hillard** for hosting the weigh in party and providing dinner.

The chapter is looking forward to a busy 2021 starting with planning of our **Annual Banquet scheduled to take place Thursday April 1 at the Stafford Centre**. And like in years past the banquet will feature outstanding boiled crawfish, silent and live auctions. Make your plans to get your ticket early as we expect a sellout.

A staple of the Greater Sugar Land Chapter are our annual Kid Fish events to take place in the Sugar Land area and those are being planned in conjunction with the neighborhoods involved. Seeing the kids' faces when they land a fish brings a smile



David Kveton Kid Fish Trailer

and sense of pride to every member of our chapter. Our Kid Fish trailer, which is named in memory after David Kveton long time member of our chapter and past president, is something we are extremely proud of.

As President of the Greater Sugar Land Chapter I have issued a challenge to all chapter members to grow our chapter and that will start with each member bringing a new guest to each general chapter meeting starting with our next meeting on **Tuesday March 3, 2021 at Otto's BBQ in the Fountains Shopping Center in Stafford**. Social time starts at 6:00 p.m. and meeting gets under way at 7:00 p.m. featuring a **TBD Guest Speaker**. La Les La Bon Temps Roulle and Geaux Fishing!

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

Happy New Year! I hope 2021 finds you and your family happy and healthy. We all know 2020 was tough so let's try to get back to having our regularly scheduled events in 2021. We are making plans to have an in-person **banquet this year on May 6, 2021 at the Springs Venue on Laramie Trail in Montgomery** – same location as we've done it in the past. We are super excited and looking forward to seeing all our fishing buddies again! Catch us online at our [chapter website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

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Ctown75@aol.com

Hays County
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tim.haysco@gmail.com

Heart of the Hills
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bucksdelucks@yahoo.com

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

Despite the pandemic our board has been working hard at getting everything in line for our 2021 banquet. The event is scheduled for **March 18, 2021 and will be held in a new venue. Pedrotti's Ranch at 13715 FM 1560 N has agreed to host us**. Details will be available regarding converting your 2020 banquet tickets into 2021 tickets on our [Facebook page](#) and by contacting any board member. Very

limited tickets may be available by the time this article is published. We were sold out for the 2020 event when the shutdowns began. Once again, contact a board member or message us on Facebook for up-to-date info.

We will still be serving up a crawfish boil with shrimp, sausage, potatoes and corn, dessert and drinks. The facility is very large and will have plenty of room for us to comply with local requirements for spacing and of course we will have plenty of hand sanitizer for everyone.

Our chapter will be holding regular meetings until the banquet. You can exchange your old tickets for new ones at any of these meetings. Please check our [Facebook page](#) and email for updates. We look forward to seeing everyone on March 18.

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

Apologies to Hill Country for missing this article last issue. — Editor

Hill Country Chapter sold (100) raffle tickets for a chance at winning a gun out of the five guns that were raffled off via face book live last Wednesday, November 11th at approximately 6:00pm. Congratulations, The winners are as follows: Bill Hay, Mike Weston, Carl Schumann, Sammy Knippa and Robert Weston. Thanks to the following directors for selling the tickets: Kenny Boeder, Quinn Koehler, Cameron Kallies and Miles Engelke. A big thanks to all of you who purchased tickets.

Our Hill Country Chapter officers and directors were saddened when we heard of the passing of Jim Cook. Jim and Darlene joined the Hill Country CCA about 23 years ago and helped organize the first CCA banquet. Jim spent many happy hours volunteering for CCA alongside Darlene, Keith, Heather, Quinn and Dawn. It's not too often that an entire family are active members of a CCA chapter – and Jim was proud of his family's involvement.



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Houston Real Estate
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Katy
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gman091753@aol.com

Laredo
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Lee County
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Live Oak
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Lower Laguna Madre
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oscar@shallowsportboats.com

Mainland
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eric.minor@anico.com

Matagorda Bays
Chris Bird 979-257-6508
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2021 is here and the Matagorda Bays Chapter board wishes each of our members a healthy and prosperous year! We will be hosting our final chapter event for 2020, the **Jim Ehman Memorial Guides Cup, that has been re-scheduled to April 13, 2021.**

In our last update we announced the 2021 Matagorda Bays Chapter boat raffle and for those who missed it...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!

During the board's last meeting we set the dates for all chapter 2021 events, which are listed below:

May 8, 2021- Lil' Salties Kid Fishing Tournament (Matagorda Harbor), June 24, 2021 - Chapter Banquet & Boat Raffle (El Campo Civic Center) and September 20-21, 2021 - Guides Cup (Matagorda Harbor).

Please check out our [Facebook page](#) and [chapter webpage](#) on the CCA Texas website for any all-boat raffle and banquet updates.

Opening quote for 2021, "The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions of hope." -**John Buchan**. Preserve your strong personal hope and pass it on to a kid with a fishing pole. 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

Not much new to report, just a few reminders about upcoming dates. We have re-scheduled our annual **Speedy Stop Guides Cup** tournament for March 26, 2021 and are looking forward to some stiff competition! Thanks again 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 &



Above, Wade Harrell, Mid Coast chapter president, releasing a winter redfish. Below, Mark Saddler, chapter Vice President, hooked up with a nice fish.



Matagorda Bays. The big event will be the first Saturday of the closure on February 20. I guarantee you will have a blast with the cleanup if you've never experienced it before! If you want to bring your boat and participate, Allan Berger has laid out cleanup routes to follow. You can contact Allan at (713) 829-2852 (text preferred) or allanrberger@comcast.net for more information.

Mark your calendar for our 2021 Mid Coast Chapter banquet the evening of **Friday, April 30.** Until next time, stay warm and fish on!

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Northwest Houston
Rob Sziy 832-971-1989
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Orange County
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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 start to their new year. A special thanks again to **Chris Mapp, Coastal Bend Marine** for donating our grand prize raffle item last year, the Polaris Ranger. Also, thank you to all who purchased tickets for the raffle and participated in our online auction. We are excited to announce that we are going to hold our **2021 annual banquet on Saturday, March 20 at the POC Community Center Pavilion.** Head to our [chapter webpage](#) or reach out to a board member or for more info. See you in March at the Community Center, in POC "Where it all began."

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

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

Mark your calendars! The Redfish Bay Chapter Annual banquet is moving to July 31, 2021 and we are moving the location to the Aransas Pass Civic Center. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. We sold out last year, so we upgraded the size of our venue to allow for more space. The event will be organized the same as years past with sit down meal, raffle, silent auction, live auction and free beer and wine. We are looking forward to providing a fun family event.

Other events such as the Take a Kid Fishing event (first weekend in June) and the Beeville Fish Fry are being planned. Everything depends on the ability to meet and social distancing requirements. More information to come. Watch for emails and snail mail information as it becomes available. We are looking forward to 2021! It will be much better than 2020!



Rio Grande Valley Kidfish

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cca.riograndevalley@gmail.com

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

Saltgrass
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stobartbuck@yahoo.com

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

San Antonio
Robert Lozano 210-632-4246
robertolozano129@yahoo.com

Greetings and Happy New Year, hoping you and yours are well. We have a new and IMPROVED "Go Fish -DON'T FORGET ABOUT IT" tee shirt. CCA San Antonio was hoping to unveil a long sleeve cotton beefy tee shirt for the holidays, but the production was delayed and should be available by late February. This is a must-have fun, family, collectible tee, and great example of better times to come. Our special thanks to tee shirt sponsors Don Strange Catering-Events-Venues, Groomers Seafood, MAXIMUM ALTITUDE trucks and Ponce Advertising. These project sponsors and the donation of artwork from Roberto Lozano Jr. made this fund-raising project possible. You can email me for direct release and purchase date: robertolozano-no129@yahoo.com.

The San Antonio banquet committee is at MACH speed in planning for our 41st Annual San Antonio Banquet and Sporting Clay events in 2021 with proposed summer dates. Fresh updates to follow. STAY TUNED! We are always looking for volun-



Don't Forget About It Go Fish.... San Antonio tee shirt design

teers to help in various projects. Please be safe. Keep those lines taut, wear a mask and take the family fishing. Best from our CCA family to yours! Cheers from "Burnt-O".

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Tomball/Magnolia
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Trinity Bay
Jayo Washington 281-960-7064
jayowash@comcast.net

The Trinity Bay Chapter is looking forward to 2021. But first...In October of 2020, we were able to host a very successful outdoor banquet. Wow! Gene's Powersport

Country (12525 Interstate 10 E Baytown, TX 77523) allowed our chapter to use the outdoor facility. The weather was great, and everyone had a fabulous time while raising money for conservation. Thanks so very much to our sponsors as the event was sold out.

After more than two decades of serving, our very own Gerald Payne stepped down as Chapter President. Although he will not hold office, he was tasked with being the chapter's banquet chairperson for 2021.

Please welcome longtime board member Jayo Washington as being elected President for 2021. Jayo is a pioneer of the chapter and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the organization.

Besides elections, the chapter is considering the idea of doing a "Spring Fling" in April, basically an outdoor mini-banquet. Look for more information in the coming months.

The Trinity Bay Chapter meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. If you would like further details on becoming a member or sponsor please contact us, we'd be glad to hear from you.

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



Fore Casts

Upper Coast

Capt. Ralph Frazier

The trophy trout of a season

With 2020 being a strange year (to say the least), 2021 has to be better. After the warm start of this season, our fish are definitely not in winter patterns, but are scattered everywhere. Early February, choose a place to start depending on conditions, and move along with a game plan until that first big strike makes the drag complain.

Many other guides agree with me; now's the time to locate that school of larger fish, or the trophy trout of a season. Problem; where are the concentrations? Solution; now's the time to pay close attention to bait movements. Find the baitfish and you will find the gamefish.

As February wanes and the water gets cooler with big north fronts, baitfish will of course not be as active. You will concentrate on shallow flats with deeper water close by. If you're one of those hard core wade fishermen, this could be your time of the year. Check your chart, and plan a day that begins with a large shallow area adjacent to deeper dropoffs, the deeper the better. As the sun warms you and the flats, gamefish will head for the chow line. Be there.

You will plan ahead and be sure your team is warm and safe. And of course, remember that the big spotted ladies and over-sized reds need to be returned for further duty. Stay safe, cover and provide social distancing. We'd love to have everyone here in 2022. — **Capt. Ralph Frazier**
281-337-0321 Ralph2fish@aol.com

CHARTS: Important to an upper Texas coast fisherman, faced with myriad choices of places to fish. The editor checked a few of many options. From a Humminbird at \$150 (Academy), to a Hook-N-Line for \$15 (Texas Map Store) you can enhance a trip and a stringer with intelligent planning. — **Editor**

Middle Coast

Capt. Gordon Taylor

Patiently waiting for the lucky bite

February and March are two of the best months to go after that truly big fish. You can not only target the oversized redfish and drum that hang in deeper water, but you also have a chance to catch that trophy trout in the shallows. For the big drum and reds, I will be fishing the shipping channel in front of the old Navy Base in Ingleside along the dropoff using sea lice, crabs, or dead shrimp on the bottom. I will also target the same species next to the platforms in Corpus Christi Bay, freelining live or dead shrimp.

For the trophy trout, I will be wading shallow along the shorelines in Redfish Bay using soft plastics and small suspending lures. My two favorite soft plastics are the Saltwater Assassin 4" sea shad called "Space Guppy" and the Down South Lures in the "Bone Diamond" color. I use the smallest suspending lures by Mirrolure in the white body with the red head and also the bone color with the silver stripes throwing them tight against the shorelines in 1 to 1 1/2 feet of water.

The best part of fishing this time of year is the lack of competition on the water which definitely helps in stalking that big trout. The difficult part can be the weather, but with proper planning by watching the weather, dressing in layers to stay warm, and by patiently waiting for that lucky bite, you can be rewarded with the fish of a lifetime. Also due to the lack of boaters, make sure to let a family member know the location you will be fishing in case of an emergency. You can never be too safe out on the water!

It has been a great year so far for the big fish. Every trip recently has produced a trout 25" or better on suspending lures. Take care and have a great day.

— **Capt. Gordon Taylor** 361-319-0099
taylorj60@gmail.com

Lower Coast

Capt. David Pena

Catch my best spots if you can

It's that time of year again; hunting season has wrapped up. My season ended early when I bagged my targeted buck in early December, which gave me the opportunity to start fishing early this year. Lucky for y'all, I found some big trout mixed in with some big redfish! (And I might just tell you where they are).

I'll start by telling you what I'm catching them on and how I'm fishing for them. My go-to lures this year have been Custom Corky SDXL Gringo color and FB Plum Nasty. I've been throwing these on calm days, in shallow water and have had great luck. Remember, when throwing Corky's, the sink rate is super slow, so don't get impatient. I have found that for our salinity in the Laguna Madre the sink rate is about 8 to 10 seconds per foot of depth.

On the days when the wind kicks up, or if I'm fishing deeper water, I have been throwing Bass Assassin Die Dapper in the Hot Chicken color rigged with a Saltwater Assassin Pro Elite 16oz jig head in chartreuse. I am throwing both of these rigs with about 6-8 feet of Yo-Zuri 20 lb fluorocarbon leader tied with a perfection loop. I find that this setup gives both of these lures maximum presentation.

Now for the fun part: This is where you put the pieces together to figure out exactly where I've been fishing. I will say that the majority of my fishing has been in the Yarbrough area. On calm days, I have been fishing the dropoffs coming from the seashore side, focusing my efforts in about 2 feet of water. My best areas have been east of the First Cabin, but not as far as Cactus Island. On my windy days, I like to start a little further North, starting around the Meadows, working my way South towards Yarbrough Pass.

So, now you've got a guide's secret to explore. Maybe you'll give the hints a try, and let me know how it works out.

Be conscious of conditions, practice good conservation so they'll be there for your young folks. Good Luck and hope to see y'all on the water! — **Capt. David Pena** 361-765-0388

www.CaptainDavidPena.com/



MidCoast angler enjoying the end of a successful trip.

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.



A Monsta Flounder:
Isabella Linkey caught this 23.25", 5.97 lb flounder with Captain Michael "Sharky" Marquez of Our Cast Charters. Photo credit goes to Captain Sharky. — Liz Linkey

Jeremy Janda and his two sons. Will Janda 6, is catching a 32" red and his little brother Reed 4, is ready to use his little net to net the red. Both boys have already caught reds, trouts and even a couple flounders. They love going to the coast. Photo by Granddad Gary Janda

Below, the Magallanes boys deal with a rod-bending something or other.





BEST IN TEXAS

TILSON
CUSTOM HOME BUILDERS



32nd Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo Early Bird Registration Deadline is FRIDAY, APRIL 30 !

*Register NOW for the
Early Bird Drawings Before You Forget!*

The holidays have slowly faded away and things are starting to get warm between the cold fronts. Many of you are busy out on the water chasing a new personal best speckled trout right now whenever the weather allows, as this time of year can produce some historic catches. While it may seem like a distant thought, this year's STAR Tournament is just a few casts away. As it did with most things in our lives, 2020 tried its best to ruin the years' STAR Tournament. Thankfully, Texas anglers were not fazed and came to fish STAR in numbers we have never seen before, over 58,000 anglers! From all CCA staff and board members, we salute you for showing that you care about conservation despite all of the hardships that 2020 brought. So here's to making the 2021 tournament even bigger and better!

The 2021 tournament kicks off at sunrise, Saturday, May 29th and runs until 5 p.m., Monday, September 6th (Labor Day). There is no better

time to start honing those fishing skills. Over the coming months, fish will begin their transitions from their deep and muddy winter haunts and start patrolling the sand and grass flats with regularity. Then as the tournament gets even closer you can follow them to the sand as they prepare to spawn and stay on them as the tournament kicks off. Not only will you get to enjoy time on the water, but greatly increase your chances of catching a winning trout early in the tournament. Historically, the winning trout are caught early in the tournament, so it definitely pays off to follow the fish as they transition through the seasons. Don't let this deter you though, almost every year we have a late summer ringer caught somewhere.

Early Bird Gets the Boat

While you can register at any time before, or during the tournament, why would you want to miss out on a brand new Dargel 210 Skout, 150 hp Mercury outboard, on a McClain trailer or twenty other great prizes?? You don't have to miss out as long as you register by Friday, April 30th! You can go home with a beautiful new boat without even having to wet a line! Although, we do highly encourage wetting a line as much as possible for your own sake. If you get busy and wake up April 30th kicking yourself for not getting entered into the Early Bird drawing don't fret! You can still win the same boat in our Member Bonus Drawing, just like Jerry Rangel, of San Antonio, TX this past year!

A new Dargel may help your fishing situation, but what about the kiddos? Well, we've thought of that too. Any young angler between ages 6 and 17 can win a \$25,000 scholarship in our Youth Scholarship Drawing, simply for being entered! Sounds pretty sweet doesn't it? What if we told you that it gets even sweeter? These young anglers can



2020 STAR Early Bird Drawing winner, Jerry Rangel.

enter STAR absolutely free, with their \$10 CCA membership!

To be eligible to WIN one of a \$1,000,000 in prizes being offered in Texas' largest, richest, summer-long fishing event, you must be a CURRENT member of CCA, in addition to being registered in the 2021 TEXAS STAR tournament. CCA membership is \$35 annually and the 2021 STAR Tournament fee is \$25, for a total of only \$60. Remember though, YOUNG ANGLERS FISH STAR FOR FREE. To be eligible to fish STAR for free, "Youth" members MUST BE at least 6 years of age in 2021 and under 17 the day of entry. It is the "Youth" member's responsibility to make sure their CCA membership is current and that they are registered for the current year STAR tournament.

As you make your plans to head off to stock up on gear and register for STAR if you haven't already, be sure to be on the lookout for a very special bonus from our great sponsor Academy Sports + Outdoors, where you can find any gear you might need.

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.

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. See their ad in the CCA Texas CURRENTS newsletter for more details or call 1 (888) 540-6705.

Thank you to our tremendous 2021 sponsors who allow us to host this great event:

Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Home Corporation, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, Mustang CAT, Mercury Marine, Hoffpauir Polaris, Shiner Bock, Shoalwater 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

Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament!!

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



CCA TEXAS
STAR

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



*Pre-Order
NOW!*

HISTORY SHOWS
THESE SELL
OUT FAST!

“Redfish on the Half Shell”

By ANASTASIA MUSICK

Total Package \$135,
includes CCA membership,
2020 STAR entry and
the limited-edition print!

ccatexas.org • startournament.org



CCA TEXAS
STAR
TOURNAMENT

THANK YOU!

Please support those who support our conservation efforts!



BEST IN TEXAS

TILSON
CUSTOM HOME BUILDERS

Academy
SPORTS+OUTDOORS



Shiner
BOCK



Dargel
BOATS



HAUTE
CUSTOM BAY BOATS



COASTLINE



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IT'S A KEEPER

THE GIFT THAT'S GUARANTEED TO
MAKE A SPLASH THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

**FINE-TUNED
WHISKEY**



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DRINK RESPONSIBLY • MUST BE 21 TO PURCHASE • DISTILLED IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY • REBECCACREEKWHISKEY.COM



Drop by the Rebecca Creek Distillery website: www.rebeccacreekdistillery.com

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**



Mike's Grilled Onion Redfish

Sauce:

- 1/2 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 large chopped onion

Directions:

1. Catch two nice redfish.
2. Fillet, leaving the skin on.
3. Remove the fillet from the skin and lay it back on the skin before proceeding.
4. Score the flesh.
5. Combine first 5 ingredients in saucepan and simmer for 20 minutes.
6. Baste fillets with reduced sauce.
7. Add chopped onion to remaining sauce and simmer 15 minutes until onions are soft and sauce has thickened slightly.
8. Grill fillets for 15- 20 min until the meat starts to flake.
9. Remove to serving plate and top each fillet with the onion sauce.
10. Invite friends.



Liz Hewitt / Great Recipes Editor



Three major national awards:

First Place, "Outdoor Book"
TOWA, 2018

First Place art, "A Search for Rainbows" and Second Place for "Autumn Wolves" OWAA, 2019

Giclees are now available.

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

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

samcaldwell.com

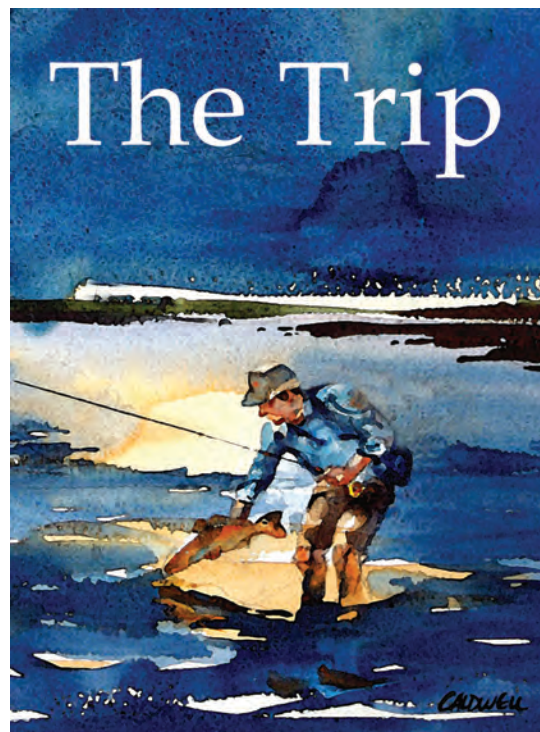
Texas State Artist 2004

DU State Artist 2010-2011

Dallas CCA Conservationist 2015

2016 Perry R. Bass Wall of Fame

281-455-9390



The Trip

Caldwell

DON'T LET THIS ONE GET AWAY!



VISIT WWW.JOINCCA.ORG/STARTOURNAMENT

TO REGISTER FOR **2021 STAR**
& ENTER THE EARLY BIRD
DRAWING TO WIN THIS
DARGE SKOUT BOAT,
MOTOR & TRAILER PACKAGE!





Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Drive, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77024

CURRENTS NEWSLETTER

February/March 2021



It's time again to get those dangerous Abandoned Crab Traps out of the bays.

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