Coastal problems now, CCA solutions in place from the past

The massive CCA/CPL/TP&W Marine Development Center near Corpus Christi is capable of producing millions of red drum and spotted seatrout fingerlings each year. This facility and the hatchery in Lake Jackson were developed to alleviate natural disasters, like the recent freeze, and to enhance gamefish populations. Photo, Sam Caldwell.

For a video visit to the hatchery and a recent update, click on the hatchery ponds above.
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) recently came out with their assessment of the numbers of fish that died due to the recent freeze. As we all suspected by the length of the freezing temperatures as well as videos and images emerging on social media, it was obvious that this event was going to have an impact on our coastal fisheries, and it did. It appears the bays most affected were south of the JFK causeway in the Upper and Lower Laguna Madre. There was still damage in Rockport, Port O’Connor and East Matagorda Bay, but the area with the most impact seems to have been in the lower coast. Fortunately, there does not appear to be as significant of an impact in the Galveston Bay complex or Sabine Lake area.

TPWD estimates that over 3.8 million fish died in this latest freeze with non-recreational species contributing to 91% of the total. Estimates of recreationally valuable species at this time include 9,000 red drum, 160,000 spotted sea trout and 105,000 black drum. These are just their estimates and we can assume these numbers are going to increase. A true picture of these effects will not be available until after TPWD’s 10-week Spring gill net surveys that begin in April and end in June. Once those numbers are recorded, TPWD will be able to compare those catch numbers to the 30 years of Spring gill net surveys to get a complete picture of what effects the freeze had on our fishery.

THE RECOVERY
An event like this is not one you can react to after the fact and put plans in place to help our fishery recover. CCA and our members have been planning and preparing for these types of events for over 40 years. We have built two fish hatcheries with state-of-the-art equipment to spawn and release redfish, spotted sea trout and flounder. Those are the CCA/Dow/TPWD Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson and the CCA Marine Development Center in Corpus Christi. There is also a third hatchery used as a research and fingerling growout facility in Palacios, named Perry R. Bass Marine Fisheries Research Center. These facilities already have spawning brood stock from each bay system that can immediately help restock all of our bays.

These three facilities, when at full capacity, are capable of producing and releasing up to 15 million red drum fingerlings, 10 million trout and 50,000 flounder each year. The hatcheries will begin to play an important role in subsidizing the existing fish populations that survived the freeze. Building and restoring critical fish habitat is another key component that CCA has been doing in anticipation of these types of events. Since 2008, CCA has built and restored thousands of acres of essential fish habitat to assist in a fish kill recovery. These habitat projects provide the needed refuge for fish to use in repopulating their species and aiding their recovery. In addition to hatcheries and habitat playing an important part, our red drum and spotted seatrout fisheries entered the freeze in excellent shape as a result of proper man-

agement choices over the years. So, although there was a lot of fish mortality, and as devastating as it was to see, there will be a lot more that survived to begin the cycle of recovery. Texas fisheries are extremely resilient, and our fishery will experience a full recovery very soon.

HOW YOU CAN HELP
In these types of events all of us want to help. We have received many emails and phone calls asking what can I do? If you are interested in helping CCA and our work to assist in the recovery of our fishery, you can do so by just attending one of our upcoming banquet fundraisers in your area. Consider buying a table and bringing some of your friends. Consider becoming a Life Member. Join the elite group of CCA members. Our 2021 new Life Member offer is included in this CURRENTS issue. Better yet, bring some friends to the event who are not members. Not only will this introduce new people to the organization, but at the same time they will all become members with their banquet ticket. Members matter. The more members we have, the more help we have available when the next event occurs. We need as many people as we can that care about our coastal resources to get involved and help us make a difference for future generations.

If you are not comfortable or able to attend one of our events, you can simply make a donation to CCA. The dollars we raise at our banquets as well as general contributions fund everything that CCA does. We will be working on identifying more hatchery needs to ensure they are performing at full capacity as well as working with our partners to continue building and restoring more coastal habitat.

We may also be organizing some brood stock capture events in certain areas of the coast later in the year depending on how the hatcheries are doing with their current stock. The hatcheries typically need new brood stock to replace the ones that have already been used for spawning. New brood stock not only brings in a fresh spawning class, but also allows new genes to be introduced back into the bays. If we are asked to help with these collections, it will be a great opportunity for our members to help catch these needed fish. We will be sending out information to the membership if and when these events will be scheduled.

Finally, you can be good individual stewards of the resource. We want and encourage everyone to keep fishing, but with that said, we also ask that you only keep what you can eat fresh and release the rest. If we all do our part during these times, we can all play a vital role in a speedy recovery for our fishery. —Robby Byers

THE 2021 FREEZE
By Robby Byers, Executive Director

We have built two fish hatcheries with state-of-the-art equipment to spawn and release redfish, spotted sea trout and flounder. An early hatchery used as a research and fingerling grow out facility is in Palacios, Texas.

These three facilities, when at full capacity, are capable of producing and releasing up to 15 million red drum fingerlings, 10 million trout and 50,000 flounder each year.
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) recently came out with their assessment of the numbers of fish that died due to the recent freeze. As we all suspected from the length of the freezing temperatures as well as videos and photo images on social media, it was obvious.

Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson has grow out and holding ponds for red drum as well as spotted seatrout. CCA sponsored the newly completed flounder building.

Below: The Perry R. Bass Marine Fisheries Research Center near Palacios, Texas has provided major advances in technology and also serves as a hatchery for red drum fingerlings which are then transported in large tank trailers.
Restocking the resource; early days of CCA

Walter Fondren III recounted the seminal accomplishments of Dr. Connie Arnold, December, 1998.

At the Perry R. Bass Research Station, Dr. Arnold developed the idea of using light levels to promote spawning of red drum—three times a year.

“What Connie Arnold’s achievement did for CCA, was provide added legitimacy for the organization. It allowed us to add a dimension outside the political arena and showed everyone that these guys [CCA] really care about the resource...

“His ability to complete that process, the impact of proven successful redfish hatching, was the key that allowed us to tackle the idea of putting together three very different groups: a government agency, a public corporation and a private group of citizens. TP&W, CP&L, CCA; that assemblage worked from day one. It allowed us to do that first hatchery in Flour Bluff, to begin restoring a damaged resource, add funding to a wide range of hatchery research. And, that really got us up on the front burner as a conservation organization.

“That success made a big difference when CCA began working on a national level. And later, made it possible for us to put together a second troika of government, public and private groups, and build a state of the art hatchery in Lake Jackson.

“A lot of good resulted from Connie’s work, including allowing us to put fish back where fish need to be.” —From Change of Tides by Sam Caldwell and Fred Carr. Top photos: Sea Center Texas opening day, a few of the first redfish fingerlings to be released. Dr. Arnold and a brood red drum. Perry R. Bass, Gov. William Clements and Walter Fondren release the first brood redfish at the new Sea Center hatchery. Below, Butch Murrell helps T.J. Warren celebrate his first catch. Photo by K.C. Strake of Bach Rehabilitation Center, at the new Sea Center Texas fishing pond.
Temporary Emergency Rule for Spotted Seatrout Regulations in Laguna Madre Bay Systems*

3 FISH BAG LIMIT

Slot size of 17-23 inches

* This temporary rule change is for Upper and Lower Laguna Madre Bay Systems south of the JFK Causeway, including the adjacent beach fronts from Packery Channel to the Rio Grande River.

Changes are in place for 120 days and can be extended for an additional 60 days if necessary. This action will result in a 27% increase in spawning stock biomass to help the stock rebound.
A time for action and hope

By Shane Bonnot
CCA Texas Advocacy Director

The 2021 Texas Winter Storm will go down as one of the costliest natural disasters in our state’s history. It seemed to affect us all in some form or fashion and unfortunately our fisheries were no exception. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) estimates nearly 4 million finfish were killed because of the freeze, but full realization of impacts will be revealed after TPWD conducts spring gill net and recreational angler surveys. See the latest news release from TPWD here.

Undoubtedly this is a bad fish kill and regionally, for the Upper and Lower Laguna Madre systems, it is fair to draw comparisons to 1983 or 1989. Despite this setback, there are reasons to be hopeful. For one, entering into this event stocks of red drum and spotted seatrout were quite healthy, based upon TPWD gill net catch rates and coastwide recreational landings. What we had done in the past had worked well to build and maintain healthy fisheries. It stands to reason that we can do it again.

Another reason for hope lies in the coastal cities of Lake Jackson and Corpus Christi (Flour Bluff). CCA Texas has helped build two saltwater fish hatcheries to help maintain adequate recruitment of juvenile red drum, spotted seatrout and flounder. Nearly 25 million red drum and spotted seatrout fingerlings (1-2 inches in length) are released each year into coastal waters. With the help from grow out ponds at the Perry R. Bass Marine Research Facility in Palacios, TPWD has a robust fish-producing-machine in place to crank out fingerlings and kick-start the recovery of our fisheries. Rest assured, TPWD staff is ready to heed the call and respond appropriately.

Finally, speckled trout are a resilient lot. Fifty percent of females are sexually mature by the time they reach 10 inches and 100 percent are mature at 12 inches. They will spawn numerous times from late spring through fall, releasing a tremendous number of eggs in that time frame. For reference, a 2-pound female spawning eight times in a season can easily produce three million eggs. So, while we will certainly notice declines of speckled trout in some regions of the coast, we can expect to see rebounds in this fishery within a couple of years.

Anglers can and will make the difference in the speed of this recovery; Personal accountability for our individual actions will have accumulative effects. Practice “keep whatcha eat” or “CPR” (catch, photo, release). Learn how to properly handle a fish to reduce stress and improve survivability. Get involved in organizations and programs that promote sound conservation initiatives. CCA’s best fishing practices program - ReleaSense - offers some excellent safe-release practices, resources and the latest research on reducing mortality of released fish.

As the images continue to roll in and final numbers are crunched, let us remain hopeful. We know the fishery will rebound as it has in the past, we know that hatcheries will kick-start the recovery, and we fully expect that anglers will step up to support resource recovery and marine habitat projects more energetically than ever. I am confident that we as an angling community will seize this opportunity to display our better nature. Remain hopeful, stay engaged and keep fishing.
# HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

## CCA Texas Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough Restoration</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. ** Nearshore Reefing - Rio Grande Valley Reef</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Nearshore Reefing - Port O'Connor</td>
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<td>4. Oyster Restoration - East Galveston Bay</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Nearshore Reefing - Sabine Pass</td>
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<td>6. Nearshore Reefing - Galveston / Big Man &amp; Kate's Reef</td>
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<td>7. HRI Nearshore Reef Enhancement Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Dagger Island Shoreline Protection &amp; Marsh Restoration (Redfish Bay)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Shoreline Stabilization - Oyster Lake (West Galveston Bay)</td>
<td>$230,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Oyster Restoration - Deep Reef Sabine Lake</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Nearshore Reefing - Matagorda</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Shoreline Stabilization - San Bernard NWR</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. Marsh Restoration - Bird Island Cove (West Galveston Bay)</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation - Moses Lake (Galveston Bay)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Baffin Bay Serpulid Reef Habitat Conservation/Restoration Study</td>
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<td>16. Oyster Restoration - Pepper Grove / Galveston (BCT)</td>
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<td>17. Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Shoreline Protection (San Antonio Bay)</td>
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<tr>
<td>18. ** Oyster Reef Creation - St. Charles Bay (Rockport)</td>
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<td>19. HRI Oyster Restoration Site Locator Mapping Study</td>
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<td>20. Marsh Restoration - Dickinson Bay</td>
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<td>21. Nearshore Reefing - Corpus Christi</td>
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<tr>
<td>22. Bahia Grande Restoration (Port Isabel / Brownsville)</td>
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<td>23. Oyster Reef Restoration - Aransas Bay (Rockport)</td>
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<td>24. Oyster Reef Restoration - Copano Bay (Rockport)</td>
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<td>25. Marsh Restoration - Egery Island (Copano Bay/Bayside)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Marsh Restoration - Matagorda Island</td>
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<tr>
<td>27. Nueces Bay Delta Water Management Gates</td>
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<tr>
<td>28. Nearshore Reefing - Freeport / Vancouver</td>
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<tr>
<td>29. Nueces Bay Demonstration Oyster Reef</td>
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</tr>
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<td>30. Marsh Restoration - Goose Island (Rockport)</td>
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</tr>
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<td>31. Nearshore Reefing - Port Mansfield</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Shoreline Stabilization - J. D. Murphyne WMA</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>33. Shoreline Stabilization - Cow Trap Lake (Brazoria County)</td>
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<tr>
<td>34. Dollar Bay Shoreline Protection and Marsh Restoration</td>
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<tr>
<td>35. Galveston Bay Foundation Headquarters Living Shoreline Restoration</td>
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<td>36. Marsh Restoration - Oxen &amp; Gang's Bayou (Galveston)</td>
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<tr>
<td>37. Trinity Bay Discovery Center Living Shoreline</td>
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<td>38. ** Sweetwater Preserve Shoreline Protections and Oyster Reef Enhancement</td>
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<td>39. Marsh Restoration - Nueces Bay (Corpus Christi)</td>
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<td>40. Marsh Restoration - Snake Island Cover (West Galveston Bay)</td>
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<tr>
<td>41. Weed Eradication for Water Flow Restoration (Guadalupe River Delta)</td>
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<tr>
<td>42. Bay Debris Removal - Aransas Pass</td>
<td>$5,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>43. Building Conservation Trust’s Texas Habitat Fund (BCT &amp; CCA Texas Secured Funds)</td>
<td>$399,066</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** 2020 Projects

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

If you are interested in contributing to our Habitat program, Contact John Blaha at jdblaha@ccatexas.org
For a limited time a new CCA Texas Life Member ($1,000 + $50 shipping) can receive a custom Weatherby Weatherguard 6.5 Creedmoor with a 24” barrel in a tactical grey cerakote finish. MSRP: $900. Tax deductible amount $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 return this form via email, phone or by mail to the CCA Texas office completely filled out to receive your gift. Contact: 713.626.4222 | lifemember@ccatexas.org (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

__________________________________________ Exp. Date ____________________

Credit Card Number

Signature

CVV

PLEASE SHIP MY GUN TO THIS FFL DEALER
(This form must be completely filled out or your gun will NOT be shipped)
You can pick up your gun from Johnny’s Sports Shop (101 Booth Dr. Eagle Lake, TX) or Academy Sports + Outdoors has agreed to accept the Life Member guns at all Texas stores with no FFL transfer fee. If you choose to send your gun to a different dealer, YOU MUST send a copy of their FFL with this form.

To have your gun delivered to Academy Sports + Outdoors, write the store address in the FFL portion below. For questions regarding Academy Sports + Outdoors, contact Mylinda Jones at (281) 646-5908.

FFL Dealer________________________________________
Contact Name_______________________________________
Address______________________________________________
City________________________________Zip Code__________Phone______________________________
PARTNERING TO PROTECT OUR COASTS

7% of proceeds from CCA-branded gear supports habitat restoration.

SHOP NOW
We were finally able to present Kevin Winters his Game Warden of the Year award, a delay due to COVID. On board for the presentation were Captain Jennifer Weaver and Major Edward Tanuz. —Ronnie Luster

Gill net bust on Galveston Island
On the night of January 30 along the west end of Galveston Island, Texas Game Wardens observed a few lights along the shoreline. Upon further investigation, four individuals were observed working two different gill nets. A short time later, the individuals came back to their vehicle. They were in possession of two coolers, one empty and one with a mixture of fish. They stated they had caught them on the two rod and reels they had. The Game Warden explained to them that he had observed them pull the fish out of the gill net and that they needed to retrieve the net. They retrieved two gill nets that measured approximately 150’. Multiple cases are pending to include illegal means and methods, fishing without a fishing license, undersized redfish, undersized black drum, and undersized sheephead. —Vu Nguyen

Lieutenant Game Warden, Region 4 Law Enforcement
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.

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
Enjoying Your Digital CURRENTS Newsletter

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 36-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.

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.
FOR THOSE WHO NEED WATER TO BREATHE

COSTASUNGLASSES.COM
AVAILABLE IN PRESCRIPTION

COSTA SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE
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. In the midst of the tumultuous Winter Freeze, we took to our social media platforms to post a video update on the Trout Broodstock at Sea Center Texas that was viewed over 30,000 times!

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

FACEBOOK
If you haven’t done so, head over to our CCA Texas Facebook page and LIKE us today! Stay informed on all the latest with special video updates and be the first to know when we go LIVE for online events! LIKE us Facebook TODAY!
@CCATexas
https://www.facebook.com/CCATexas

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

We just passed 11,000 anglers following us on Instagram. Help us get to 12,000! Add us to your feed to see photos that you will NOT want to miss. FOLLOW us on Instagram TODAY.
Thousands of anglers enjoy informative photos and videos each day. Support CCA Texas by adding us to your Instagram feed!
Get important recreational angling-related news filtered into your feed by following us on Twitter. In addition to posting our own updates, we make sure to Retweet and Favorite Tweets that we know will help to inform you! FOLLOW us on Twitter TODAY!

FOLLOW us on Twitter:
@CCA_Texas
https://twitter.com/cca_texas

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
PROUD PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

7% of the proceeds from each CCA-branded item sold goes to support habitat restoration.
CURRENTS is published six times a year by CCA Texas, a nonprofit state affiliate of the Coastal Conservation Association. This is the issue of April/May 2021
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Aransas Bay
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txspriq@yahoo.com

Hello Aransas Bay chapter members, I hope everyone has returned to a sense of normalcy after the historic cold temperatures experienced across the state. As CURRENTS goes to press, the Aransas Bay Chapter Banquet is scheduled for March 20, 2021 at the Fulton Convention Center. We are looking forward to a great evening of food, friends, as well as plenty of awesome trips and auction items. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. We are excited to announce it is a sold-out event!
I want to say a huge thank you to all the Aransas Bay chapter members who volunteered their time and effort to help clean up our local bays and beaches. On February 26, chapter members participated in the TPWD Annual Abandoned Crab Trap Cleanup. This year we joined forces with the San Antonio Bay Partnership and coordinated our search efforts together. We removed 77 traps from the assigned area, which ran from Spaulding Bight to Arlyn’s Bight. The following morning, February 27, chapter members loaded up and headed down the beach to Mile Marker 31 to fill their truck beds with bagged trash as part of the Billy Sandifer Big Shell Beach cleanup.

Babes on the Bay is quickly approaching, and we are ready to see all our fabulous Lady Anglers March 14-15, 2021 for our first ever all-release, catch-photo-release Babes on the Bay Tournament! We are putting our fishery first and look forward to some fun, new changes!
The tournament will be held at Fulton Convention Center at 402 N Fulton Beach Rd in Fulton, Texas under the big tent. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. on Friday for check-in/swag bag pick-up. The captain’s meeting is mandatory and will be held Friday evening at 8 p.m. Join us Friday AND Saturday for live music, vendors/shopping, food & drinks, friends and fun! 2020 and 2021 Babes merchandise will be for sale in the Babes store at the festival grounds. Fishing starts at sunrise Saturday morning!
Due to our recent weather events in Texas, we are making changes to the format of the tournament and encourage you to follow our Facebook Page and Instagram page: @babesonbay so you are in the loop on these updates. Register your team today at www.babesonthabay.com, and find rules, boundaries and other info on our website! We have some of the best prizes and sponsors ever this year, including Waterloo Rod Company, Yeti, Orvis Swan Point Landing, Rockport Tackle Town, Chris’s Marine/Power Pole, Poor Man’s Country Club, Miss Kitty’s Fishing Getaways, The Reserve at St Charles Bay, Reel Sportswear, Goin’ Coastal Outfitters and many more! If you need any help or have any questions, please feel free to e-mail Jen at ccbabes@gmail.com. We missed you all last year and can’t wait to see your smiling faces for the best girl’s weekend all year long!

Austin
Jason Magdalena 512-789-6207
Jason.magdalena@gmail.com

Hello CCA members! I hope this CURRENTS finds you and your family well. The Austin CCA board of directors is proud to announce the decision has been made to move our banquet to Tuesday, August 24, 2021. We are hoping that by doing this, we will be able to create the banquet experience that you are accustomed to from years past as well as raise the funds needed to continue our support towards the Mission of CCA! We’d also like to give a warm welcome to Kelly Cooper as our newest member to the board of directors. We will be emailing our past table buyers soon to purchase your tickets. For the table buyers who offered to donate their table buy to their 2021 table purchase, you will be contacted individually.
This year’s banquet boat is a 24 MOD “V” by Shallow Sport! It comes equipped with a Suzuki 300hp Four Stroke engine, Integrated Ice Chests, Lenco Trim Tabs, a raised console and extended grab rails. It all sits atop a tandem axle McClain aluminum custom trailer. Tickets are available now! Purchase yours from an Austin board member, call Cheryl at (512) 221-7057, or stop by one of our supporting partners where you will receive a $20 gift card for their restaurant or business - check our social media to see where the boat is each week! Tickets

Aranas Bay had a great impact on the environment since the last CURRENTS Newsletter. Left to right: Aranas Bay Chapter volunteers after the Texas Abandoned Crab Trap Cleanup, Aranas Bay Chapter Volunteer Gals after the Billy Sandifer Beach Cleanup at Mile Marker 31 and Carter Crigler, Brad Frame and Lindsey Thompson cleaning up some traps in the water. Above photo: Aranas Bay CCA President, Mike Ferri and Vice President, Bill Burge during the crab trap cleanup.
are $100 and we will only be selling 1,500 tickets. Every year we sell out before the banquet date - don’t wait to get yours!

If you’d like to snag some CCA Austin gear before the banquet, check out our online store at www.austinccastore.com!

Follow us on social media at IG: @ccaaustin and FB: @CCA Austin Chapter.

Bay Area
Kim Lamont 979-482-1456
Kklamont93@yahoo.com

Brazoria
Brandon Marth 979-277-0151
brandon@brenhamironworks.com

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

Glad to see Spring after the extreme Winter cold snap. Hope everyone is out and about enjoying the warm weather and wetting a line. Catch and release is a great practice, especially with the recent fish kill from the severe cold.

Our chapter will have a meeting on April 13, 2021 6:30 p.m. at Vortex, 2310 Cavitt Dr. in Bryan, Texas. Please join us if you can! Also, we are gearing up for our 29th Annual Chapter Banquet on September 23, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the Brazos Center in Bryan, Texas. Individual tickets, reserve tables and corporate tables are on sale now and available for purchase; program ads are also available.

We hope to have a great turnout with good food, drinks, raffles, auctions and lots more fun!

Please contact John Ben Strother or Drew Adams (713) 626-4222 for more information or to purchase tickets. They are also available for purchase online on our Brazos Valley Chapter webpage.

Take a kid fishing and enjoy the Spring bite outdoors!

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

Greetings from the Colorado Valley! Our chapter is excited to get back to a more normal schedule and currently are preparing for our upcoming 20th Anniversary Banquet which will be held on May 20, 2021 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in La Grange starting at 6:00 p.m. Please come and join us for a terrific evening of fun and fundraising. We still have a few seats left so for more information on tickets/table reservations and/or raffle tickets please give me a call or any one of our amazing board members Danny Olenick, Trish or Rusty Kubena, Gary Janda, Dave Fehlker, Kendall Rohde, Kenneth LeFrance, or Jeff Burgh. We are sincerely looking forward to getting together and enjoying some great outdoor fellowship. Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all!

Central Houston
Todd Buster 713-545-1897
tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com

The Central Houston Chapter is preparing for its 45th Annual Fundraiser. This year’s event will be held on Thursday, May 27, 2021 at the Goode Company Armadillo Palace. We will also be raffling off another Sabine Skiff Micro Versatile, powered by a 30 hp Tohatsu, and sitting on an aluminum McClain Trailer. Watch out for details on purchasing tickets. If you are interested in purchasing a table, please contact Coleman Todd at coleman@ccatexas.org, or Todd Buster at tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com.

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

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

CCA members near and far volunteered...
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.

Click on a favorite tee shirt and shop now. Or, paste this url into your browser: www.joinccastore.com/
at the Friends of Padre 26th Annual Billy Sandifer Big Shell Beach Cleanup on PINS. Estimates are 1,000 volunteers cleaned 27 miles of beach and filled six 30-yard dumpsters. Thank you, Aaron Baxter and the Friends of Padre board for organizing this event during these crazy times!

The 2021 Babes on Baffin All Women’s Fishing Tournament is October 8-9, 2021 at Marker 37 Marina. We hope to resume the Poco Rojo Kids Fishing Tournament in the fall.

We are working to set the date for the 2021 banquet soon. 2020 table and ticket buyers keep an eye on your email and the chapter Facebook for information. For questions, contact Courtney at ccacorpuschristi@gmail.com or call (361) 882-5199.

Dallas Board meeting to plan fish fry and banquet.

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

Start your spring off right by joining CCA Dallas at Tailwaters Fly Fishing Co. (1933 E Levee St. Dallas, TX) on April 17 from 12:30-3 p.m. as we celebrate our 40th Anniversary with a fish fry cooked by the Legendary CCA Dallas Zuider Zee Boys. A donation to CCA ($25 adults, $10 children 15 and under) gets you in the door to enjoy crispy fried fish, coleslaw, french fries, tasty hush puppies and ice-cold beer.

Of course, we will be selling raffle tickets at the event for the latest hunting and fishing gear. Come for the food and raffles, stay for the fellowship and tales of the big one that got away. Seats are limited so donate today to reserve your seat and help our chapter support CCA’s hatchery efforts to restore the redfish and trout fishery after February’s winter freeze. Hope to see you all there, Greg Resnansky / CCA Dallas Chapter President

East Texas
Dr. James Norman 936-554-3165 jnoman7@suddenlink.net

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

Hello everyone, the Ft. Bend committee members and I are getting excited now! Our 35th annual banquet is right around the corner and we have some great things in store for you this year. To start things off our grand prize will be a 2021 JH Performance Outlaw 210x (21’) with a 175HP Mercury and a Coastline aluminum trailer. There will also be four other chances to win some great prizes, tickets are $50 each, 5 for $200, or 15 for $500! For tickets, please contact Jim Black (979) 240-5010. The banquet will also have a live and silent auction, bucket raffle, games, a great meal, plenty of beverages and much more. So, it’s time to get the friends and family out for some fun!

The Ft. Bend banquet is scheduled for April 29, 2021 at the KC Hall in Needville, TX. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and dinner is served around 7:00 p.m. Contact Jim Black or Blake Tumlinson (979) 332-2236, our Banquet Chairman, for banquet details. For tickets and table reservations you can contact Troy Burditt (281) 725-8569 or you can purchase them online at ccatexas.org/fort-bend. We can’t wait to see you all there!

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

Finally, some dates for other upcoming events: CCA Kidfish will be July 24, 2021 and the “Ladies Only” fishing tournament, The Lingerie on The Bay, both held in Matagorda TX, will be August 27-28, 2021. Flyers and Entry forms will be posted soon! Remember to keep the waterways clean and be respectful to your fellow anglers. Hope to see you on the water!
This year is off to a great start for the Golden Triangle Chapter. We kicked 2021 off with our Anglers Night Out and it was filled with great food and great people. We would like to thank everyone who came out to support us.

This year we plan to hold a membership drive fishing tournament on June 5. The weigh-in will be held at Stingaree on the Bolivar Peninsula. There will be plenty of great prizes to give away and we highly encourage you to bring your kids! There will be a special division just for them.

Also, this year we are planning on having our annual banquet in Beaumont on the night of October 7, 2021! We are looking forward to seeing everyone there and wishing a fun year to all! Cheers!

With the Governor’s announcement that the state will be opening to 100% and Texas Parks returning to normal capacity it gives us hope of getting back to normal. The Greater Sugar Land CCA Chapter is excited about getting back out and hosting some of our annual events like our Kid Fish Projects. Some of the neighborhoods that have hosted Kid Fish in the past have been Missouri City, New Territory and Meadows Place. If you know a neighborhood in the Greater Sugar Land area that would like to participate please let us know. A special thanks to our Kid Fish chairs: Weems Turner and Mike Anderson. Stay tuned for more information on these events as they start to develop.

We have 2021 general meetings scheduled for May 5, August 5 and November 4 and will take place at Otto’s BBQ in the Fountains Shopping Center in Stafford at 6 p.m. Come join us and bring a friend. We are also looking forward to participating in the Inter Chapter Challenge on June 11 and 12 at Paws & Taws. In October we will again host our annual Presidents Cup Fishing Tournament in Sargent. Will anyone be able to unseat current Presidents Cup winner Joel Canavan? He has brought the trophy home seven times! La Les La Bon Temps Roulle and Geaux Fish.

Greater Woodlands
Charlotte O’Dell
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Guadalupe Valley
Adam Arroyo
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Hays County
Tim Young 512-573-7939
tim.haysco@gmail.com

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

Hope everyone is doing well in the Heart of the Hills! We have had some challenges in the last 12 months or so, but we are

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CCA Fort Bend grand prize 2021 JH Performance Outlaw 210X (21’) with a 175HP Mercury and a Coastline aluminum trailer.

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

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

Golden Triangle
Joe Winston 830-624-6570
Joe.winston@heroesonthewater.org
This year is off to a great start for the Golden Triangle Chapter. We kicked 2021 off with our Anglers Night Out and it was filled with great food and great people. We would like to thank everyone who came out to support us.

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Greater Sugar Land
John Breland 281-808-2969
geauxingfishing@yahoo.com
As this issue of CURRENTS goes to press the Greater Sugar Land annual banquet is expected to be a sold-out event. I would like to thank all the attendees, table sponsors, sponsors and volunteers who help make this event successful every year. This was the first banquet we hosted in several years without having Pam Canavan, our Banquet Chairperson, with us. We lost a great person and faithful chapter member when she passed away in December. Memories of Pam will be with us forever.

Greater Sugar Land
John Breland 281-808-2969
geauxingfishing@yahoo.com

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

Hope everyone is doing well in the Heart of the Hills! We have had some challenges in the last 12 months or so, but we are
Texans, so we'll survive and be stronger than ever! We weren't able to do much in 2020, but did pull-off our Heart of the Hills Banquet in September at Don Strange Ranch. It was a smaller group, but everyone who attended had a great time. Thanks to our Bull Red Sponsors: Academy Sports + Outdoors, Buffalo Homes LLC, Campbell Brown Construction/Baffin Bay Escapes, Craig Beckel, DD Taxidermy & Outfitting, Ford of Boerne, Goodtimes Ranch, Jay Prewski, KCM Cabinets and Slabco Inc. Beverages were donated by Ben E. Keith in Kerrville and Keg 1 in Fredericksburg. Cajun Cookers boiled shrimp were spot-on and the HEB desserts were a big hit! Thanks to Apache Rifle Works for helping with the gun raffles and auction items and to The Pearl Antler/JWM/BH Land Services, AquaMan Water Conditioning and Summertime Guide Service for their contributions. As always...many thanks to our volunteers and to CCA staff from Houston!

On a different note, we will have some major challenges to overcome concerning the massive fish kill caused by our historic 2021 Texas freeze. Please do your part by encouraging people and businesses you know to JOIN CCA and be part of the solution! We hope to have some type of meeting in the near future - keep an eye out for updates. Tight lines and practice catch, photo, release to help our fisheries recover!

members and especially the well-oiled machine that makes up our banquet committee. Bravo to you guys for a flawless performance. Volunteers of all ages stepped up to help and I can’t say enough about how much that teamwork makes a difference.

CCA Helotes would also like to thank our banquet sponsors, Gun Shack, Premier Yamaha-San Antonio, Galm Real Estate, Bear Ready Mix, Silver Eagle, Glazers Beer and Beverage, Academy, Helotes Pits, DeWinne Equipment, Jupe Mills, Texas Lawman Security, Stag Golf, Inc., Burkholder AC and Heating, LLC, Judy Mitchell, Rockport Rattler/Charles and Vicky Sablatura, John and Karen Botter, Capt. Michael Laskowski, Jr., and all the other fine outfitters and companies that supported the CCA Helotes banquet. Please support those businesses that support CCA, it’s a great way to let them know you appreciate them being involved. Also, a big thanks to our auctioneer, Mr. Joey Tomlinson, for helping us with another record-breaking auction for the chapter.

Finally, we’d like to thank everyone that attended the banquet. We value your support and hope you had a great evening supporting CCA. Can’t wait to see you next year!

As things begin to return to normal, look for more chapter updates here on our Facebook page or the CCA Texas website. Remember to take a kid fishing, it will put a smile on their face and yours.

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

Howdy CCA Helotes members! Well, it took us over a year, but we finally had our banquet. And what a banquet it was! We moved to a new venue to accommodate our spacing needs and I think everyone was impressed. Pedrotti’s Ranch provided some excellent food and the wonderful venue for our event. Thanks to Anthony and Louie Pedrotti and staff for making it happen. We had a full house, and everyone was excited to support CCA after the long wait from our cancelled date last year. We started off our event with the posting of the colors by the posting of the colors by our cancelled date last year. We started off our event with the posting of the colors by CCA, and we listened to a beautiful rendition of our National Anthem performed by O’Connor High School Junior, Miss Zoe O’Donnell. What a great way to start the event!

I’d like to personally thank all our committee

Remember to take a kid fishing, it will put a smile on their face and yours.

Hill Country
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Houston
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Lee County
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Live Oak
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Lower Colorado
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Lower Laguna Madre
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Mainland
Eric Minor 409-370-7379
eric.minor@anico.com

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

We are only one month away from our final chapter event for 2020, the Jim Ehman Memorial Guides Cup, that has been re-scheduled to April 13, 2021! This year’s tournament will be a little different as we will be utilizing a phone app for our teams to measure and send in pictures of their catch. As a chapter that hangs our hat on leading by example, this year’s tournament will be a no fish kill event due to the historic freeze event.

The 2021 Haynie Magnum 25 has been delivered from Chris’ Marine & Haynie Boats and tickets are currently being sold! You can reach out to any
of our board members to purchase tickets or pay via Venmo. Contact Wes (979) 578-3084 for more information.

Please check out our Facebook page and chapter webpage on the CCA Texas website for any all boat raffle and banquet updates. 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

Aren’t we all glad to be past the February 2021 freeze-out and headed towards warmer weather? Despite the weather setback, crab-trap cleanup efforts in the mid-coast region were a success, with 1,203 abandoned traps removed from the waters of Aransas, San Antonio and Matagorda bays. We are all anxiously awaiting more information from Texas Parks & Wildlife on the severity and extent of the recent fish kill and are encouraging our fellow CCA members and anglers to practice conservation and help our fishery recover sooner rather than later! A recent post-freeze trip was a success with plenty of fish landed and all released! Remember, our efforts with CCA Texas are more important now than ever and consider encouraging your friends and fellow anglers to join CCA!

Given several unfortunate circumstances, including the freeze, we decided to cancel our annual Speedy Stop Guides Cup tournament originally scheduled for this month. All buyers and guides should have received an email from CCA regarding refund options, etc. We hope to get back on track next year. We are still in a bit of a flux with our annual banquet but are hoping to mix things up a bit this year with an outdoor venue and a new format. Stay tuned, we are working to lock a date in for late April/early May soon! We hope to see you and catch up on fishing tales then!

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

Hello Northwest Houston Chapter Members. We know 2020 was hard for everyone and we are happy that things seem to be moving forward and that we will be able to have our in-person activities this year. With that said, our Annual Member Appreciation Fish Fry will be held on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 so come hungry! Mark Mohr and his crew will be frying up the fish with all the fixin’s and Bluewater Seafood is sponsoring the food. Please make sure to give them both a big thank you for their continued support of this event and our chapter. We are also happy to announce that CHICK-EN BOY with Chicken Boy Lures will be our speaker. As in the past, it will be held at Houston Distributing, 7100 High Life Drive off of Cuten Rd. in the Stein Room. Although this is a free event, you will need to RSVP as there are only 100 spaces, so RSVP early at ccatexas.org/events/north-west-houston-2021-fish-fry. We are very happy to announce that our 2021 Annual Kid Fish will be held on Saturday, May 8 from 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Sylvan Beach Park-Fishing Pier in La Porte. This is a great chance to get our little ones out and fishing-remember they are our future generation of conservationists! We would like to thank Harris County Precinct 2, The City of La Porte and Linda’s Bait and Tackle for their continued support of this event. To register for this event, email Kathy Gain at nwccakidfish@gmail.com. There will be lunch provided after the fishing, and each child will receive a prize. If you have never participated in this event, we encourage you to this year, it’s one of the most rewarding things we do as a chapter.

Our 2021 Annual Fundraising Banquet will take place at Shirley Acres in August. Check out the next CURRENTS for all of the details. We can’t wait to see you there!

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

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

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

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

Redfish Bay
Norman Oates 361-758-0266
noates01@gmail.com

The Redfish Bay Chapter annual banquet is scheduled for July 31, 2021. Although we normally have our Banquet in April, we wanted to move
it later in the year so more people would be comfortable in attending. We will observe whatever guidelines are in affect at the time – we want our members to be safe! As always, there will be a sit-down meal, beer, wine, colas and CCA annual membership included in the price of tickets. Individual tickets are $75, couple’s tickets are $110 for both, corporate tables for eight are $600 and auction tables for eight are $1,000. We will have raffles, a silent auction and live auction items for you to select. As always, our board works hard to have items of interest for everyone to bid on; about 40% of our attendees are women. Our banquet is family-oriented and we work hard to make it a fun event for everyone.

We are planning to have our Take-a-Kid-Fishing event June 4-5, 2021. It is a great event for young fisherpersons. It will start on Friday evening at 5 p.m. with registration and a meal. Fishing is Saturday morning until noon. Then fish are weighed and measured, and trophies are awarded along with hot dogs soon after fishing stops. We usually have around 200 fisherpersons including game wardens with young anglers (along with their parents). Plan to bring your kids to this great event! Our Beeville Fish Fry will be on the first day of dove season – more info to follow.

Greetings! We just completed our 23rd annual banquet on March 4, 2021 and once again had a sold out event! The crawfish were hot, the drinks cold and conversation colorful! It was a great evening of fundraising and seeing friends that we have not been able to connect with for some time now.

I apologize for not having any pictures, we got caught up in the moment. I would like to thank some of our important sponsors: Platinum Sponsors, Indorama Ventures, All American Inspection and longtime sponsor Anthony Toups with Classic GMC/Chevrolet/Acura. Shane Chesson with Pure Cajun and his team for the crawfish, Del Papa Distributing (Bud Team) and Giglio Distributing (Miller/Coors) for the cold beverages! There are a whole lot more who were there, and we greatly appreciate your continued support!

So please stay tuned, we will be updating our Facebook page with our banquet committee meetings and locations. We can always use more volunteers to help in various projects and will find a way to put your special talents to use for a great cause. Please be safe. Keep those lines taut, wear a mask, take the family fishing. Best from our CCA family to yours! Cheers from Burnt-O.
Coming off a very successful, albeit scaled-back banquet, Trinity Bay Chapter is throwing a low key thank you party for our supporters. For this one the focus is fun and food. Saturday, April 24, 2021 from 2-5 p.m. we are hosting a crawfish boil for 150 of our closest friends. We are going to cap attendance, for social distancing purposes, at the first 150 people that buy tickets. Tickets are $40 for crawfish and drinks, online tickets only, no walk-ups. Buy 8 tickets and we’ll reserve you table. We’ll have a few live auctions, a few silent raffles and a couple of the usual games. Check out the Trinity Bay page at ccatexas.org/trinity-bay or our Facebook page for all the details. Don’t wait long, tickets will go quick for this spring, Lord knows we need a break from this winter.

The Trinity Bay Chapter meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7 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.
Hola from South Texas once again! I’m writing this about a month after the freeze that hit the Texas coast. Our trout loss here in the LLM was bad and finding dead turtles scattered around the bay was heartbreaking. A big thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the turtle rescue!

The mangroves took a beating as well. The mangroves south of the Arroyo Colorado still have some green on them. The grass on the flats look pretty good. I think with help from CCA/TPW restocking programs and the practice of catch and release, the LLM is going to be just fine.

As April opens, fishing will get better with the help of warmer water. But early on, the fish will be holding in relatively deeper water. Look for areas with potholes and turtle grass. Work either a plastic lure or a topwater slowly through them. Until May warms up everything, use small baits around the three-inch range. Purple and chartreuse seem to be the hot color right now. Fly fishing will be a challenge till mid-April because the fish hold in deeper water. Redfish will begin visiting shallow shorelines and this will continue as the temperatures rise in May. Use small crab patterns in natural colors when targeting these shallow water fish. Small clousers in natural colors should be a primary choice.

Let’s all give Mother Nature a hand with helping our beloved Texas bay systems rebound by practicing CPR and respecting the ecosystem. Until next time, remember to take a kid fishing and respect fellow boaters.

—Capt. Bryan Robinson
956-241-5520
bryandrobinson@yahoo.com
Capt. Bryan is a longtime CCA member and a past president of the RGV chapter.

April and May in Matagorda can be an awesome time to fish our bay system. Sure, we’ll get an occasional cool front moving through in April but it warms quickly and we never miss a lick.

April is when water temperatures sneak up towards the 70 mark and fish are interested in exploding on topwaters. In May it gets even better! I love to start a morning throwing a pink Skitterwalk around the drains that run out of Matagorda Peninsula. Later in the morning I’ll switch to a Norton Sandeer Jr. rigged on a 1/16 leadhead and work it over some shallow grass beds. Bait activity and slicks are your two main keys for spring fishing.

If I’m fishing from the boat, I’ll normally be in East Matagorda Bay, again looking for bait and slicks, drifting scattered shell on the west end or big mud flats on the east end. In May, trout and reds should start showing up in the surf. Any time it’s flat and green you’ll find me there.

Well, I’ve given you some options for fishing the Matagorda area. If you’d like to book a trip with me, call or text 832-221-0889 or email me at npursuittx@gmail.com. Hope to see you in Matagorda.

—Capt. Tommy Countz
281-450-4037
837 CR 243 / Bay City, Tx 77414

Who’s ready for flipflops?
The transition from Spring to Summer can be challenging, but don’t let conditions keep you off the water. Our main focus in April are trout and reds along the West and East Galveston Bay areas, tide runners moving through the jetties and up our channels. To cover a lot of water, we will be throwing 1/8-1/4 ounce jig heads paired with Down South Lure or Mirrolure little John’s tails or shad tails, in order to work multiple water columns. I also like a topwater or LeLe type bait in the early morning or late evening when the wind allows, to key in on a reaction strike. Another great bait selection is a popping cork with 2 ft. leader, a DOA or Berkley Gulp.

Early mornings, we will focus on shallow sloughs near bayous or rock groins. As the day gets heated we will move to deeper water, shell pads or drop offs. Always keep an eye out for slicks or bait, remember to keep your senses and be patient, focus on tide movement or active bait.

I hope this information can help you be more successful in your outings. A lot has come out these past few months after all the weather and freeze we have had, and I encourage everyone to use good judgment, and enjoy the outdoors. It’s a great idea to take only what you plan to use, and let the rest go for the next generation. Hope to see you on the water! Stop by Waterloo Pro Shop in Victoria, Texas or your local shops for your tackle needs. Stay Safe! —Capt. Vincent Garza
832-221-0889 npursuittx@gmail.com
NPURSUITGUIDESERVICE.COM

Legendary midcoast fly guide Chuck Naiser takes a shot from the angler’s position. Poling is Bob Wight. Great Action Photo by David Sikes.
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Visit with White Claw at whiteclaw.com
Port Arthur, Texas: The Texas Outdoor Writer’s Association held the 2021 Conference in the seaport town of Port Arthur.

An important part of TOWA’s mission is to provide educational opportunities for members and recruit young advocates for the outdoors, and fund scholarship opportunities. This year’s speakers included Joe Winston, Jenn Nolan, Brooklee Grant, Darryl Valdes, Macy Ledbetter, Chester Moore, Mike Bennet and Sam Caldwell.

Mike Bennet is TOWA’s incoming President, and Brooklee Grant will be First Vice President.

Each year, communicators from across Texas vie for the coveted Excellence In Craft (EIC) awards. Top awards were again seized by CCA members.

Outdoor Book, First Place went to Pat Murray for his new book, “It’s More Than fishing.”

Best Outdoor Publication, Honorable Mention went to Sam Caldwell for the April/May 2020 Currents Newsletter.

Caldwell was also presented three awards for outdoor art: First Place for the painting, “Nearshore Reefing,” Second Place, “Autumn Wolves,” and Third Place for his Currents illustration of Santa as a surf fisherman; “Short Stop on a Long Trip.”

The TOWA’s highest honor, The L.A. Wilke Award, went to Herman Brune, TOWA’s outgoing president.

The Texas Outdoor Writer’s Association encourages communicators of all media to be members of the group. Drop by the TOWA website for full information: https://towa.org/
32nd Annual
CCA State of Texas
Anglers’ Rodeo
Early Bird
Registration Deadline
is FRIDAY, APRIL 30!

STAR of a Different Color?
For 31 years, the CCA Texas STAR Tournament has maintained essentially the same structure. Over the years the tournament has grown from just a few thousand to well over 50,000 participants as more and more anglers have tested their skills and luck every year. When the ice started to thaw and the sun started to warm our coastal waters, many of our worst fears were confirmed. Countless reports of dead game fish started to surface. While at the time of press, all that is available from Texas Parks and Wildlife is preliminary data, and we suspect that this fish-kill event had a major impact on certain areas of our coast. Don’t get us wrong, there are still plenty of fish to catch! Thankfully, our fish populations were at or near the highest levels ever recorded before the freeze hit. Of course the TPWD hatcheries that CCA helped build are running at full capacity to help restore our bays to pre-freeze levels and beyond. As conservationists, we can throw in to help accelerate the process faster. While our fisheries are in recovery mode, STAR is determined to do whatever we can to help our coastal resources that we all love so much. With this in mind, the STAR Tournament Committee knew that we had to revamp the 2021 tournament into a catch and release format to lay off those most affected—our inshore species, including trout. Don’t worry…while we give them a breather, this year’s tournament features even MORE in prizes than ever before! So without further ado, I present to you the 2021 CCA Texas STAR Tournament format.

Year of Red
Thank God for the durability of our redfish, anywhere and anytime. Since inception, the Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division has always been a crowd pleaser and considered most anglers’ favorite division. Well, we have more good news for you! The new 2021 STAR Tournament will feature THREE NEW TAGGED REDFISH DIVISIONS and another special SPECIES IS BACK! We do have one new tweak to the current tagged redfish rules; anglers will now be required to remove the exposed portion of the tag and RELEASE the fish. To be eligible, tagged redfish must have the visible portion of the tag removed in such a manner that the tag number remains visible. The fish MAY NOT be RETAINED, regardless of condition. The angler must present the removed portion of the tag at an Official CCA TX Weigh-In Station, with the date and time of entry clearly marked on the official weigh-in form (tag will be retained by weigh station personnel). As we like to say, **Clip and Claim**! Many anglers dream every day on the water about catching a STAR tagged redfish. Effective at 6 am, May 29, your chances have just doubled. Instead of just 60, we will release a MINIMUM of 120 up to 200 tagged redfish for all divisions!

New Divisions
The first new division that we would like to introduce is…...the **Blue Tag Division**! A minimum of thirty Blue-tagged redfish will be released into Texas coastal waters. The tags placed on the redfish will read “CCA TX/STAR (Tag Nos. BL1251 – BL1350)”. The FIRST THREE BLUE-Tagged Redfish entered, having the tag described above, will receive a 22’ Mowdy V hull, 150 hp Mercury motor, and Coastline trailer! Don’t worry though, the following six will receive the largest Academy Sports + Outdoors gift card we have ever awarded at $750! You can buy a LOT of fishing lures with $750.

The second new division for 2021 STAR is the **Green Tag Division**! A minimum of thirty Green-tagged redfish will be released into Texas coastal waters. The tags placed on the redfish will read “CCA TX/STAR (Tag Nos. GR1251 – GR1350)”. The FIRST THREE GREEN-Tagged Redfish entered, having the tag described above, will receive a 19’ Shoalwater Cat, 115 hp Mercury motor, and McClain trailer! Just like the Blue Tag Division, the following six, will receive these large Academy Sports + Outdoors gift cards.

Now, you may be wondering how we are going to continue to give away $325,000 in scholarships with this new format? We present to you, the **STAR Youth Scholarship Division**! The FIRST TEN STAR Youth (ages 6-17) anglers that catch a GREEN or BLUE tagged redfish will be taking home a $30,000 scholarship! All of the rules for the other tagged redfish divisions still apply to this division. The next two, will be able to buy that reel they’ve been eyeing with their $750 Academy Sports + Outdoors gift card.
Even though our years of tagged redfish catch data show that the majority of our prizes should be claimed with this many tagged redfish out swimming, STAR isn’t taking that chance, especially when it comes to scholarships. **ALL UNCLAIMED Blue Tag, Green Tag, and Youth Scholarship Division prizes will be awarded via drawing and all eligible anglers will be entered to win.**

When we said this was the year of red, we weren’t just talking about redfish...... Back by popular demand...... RED SNAPPER! You may recall STAR was the first to delist red snapper from the Offshore Division years ago. Now, this fishery has recovered through conservation. As the Great Snapper Count by Harte Research showed, the Red Snapper population is as healthy and plentiful as ever. We expect this to be a very popular addition to the Hoffpauir Offshore Division! With a lengthy Federal season expected in 2021, and some good weather windows, this is a great opportunity to run past the jetties and come back with a new Polaris Ranger!

Register NOW for the Early Bird Drawings Before You Forget!

Spring time is here ladies and gentlemen! If you haven’t been able to make it out on the water this year, YET, you can still be ready when the opportunity finally arises by making sure that you’re entered into this years’ all new STAR Tournament format. Even if you don’t get to make it out on the water during the tournament (May 29 thru September 6), you still have a chance at winning one of two boats, or twenty other great prizes, in our Early Bird Drawings and Member Bonus Drawing if you enter by April 30th. Once again we welcome back our longtime partner Dargel boats who consistently provides two amazing 210 Skouts with Mercury motors and McClain trailers to give away in these drawings.

After thirty one amazing years of STAR, we have been blessed to be able to award Texas youth $7,150,000 in college scholarships to youth from all over Texas, with ang ling abilities of all levels. The credit for all of the lives changed through STAR scholarships rests solely in the hands of our great sponsors. Without the support of these sponsors year in and year out, this great event that hosted 58,000+ Texas anglers would not be possible. We only ask that you reward our great partners for showing that they care about, what you care about! To learn more about the tournament (rules, prizes, entry, etc.) or our sponsors, simply head on over to [www.startournament.org](http://www.startournament.org). What could be a better gift to someone than the chance to win part of way over $1 million in prizes and scholarships? Sign up now!

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

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

**ACADEMY SPORTS + OUTDOORS**-

Don’t forget about that Academy Sports + Outdoors coupon on the way or sitting in your wallet!

**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.

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

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

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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.

Whataburger- 2021 member rewards coming soon!

Thank you to our tremendous 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, Chris’s Marine and Kryptek. For more information, go to www.startournament.org.

NEW 2021 STAR SPONSOR ALERT!
Kryptek was founded by two US soldiers in their downtime between fighting our nation’s battles in Iraq and Afghanistan. These combat veterans hoped to one day be able to go into a business that reunited them back to their love of the outdoors and wild places of their youth. Kryptek has spiraled firsthand experiences from those battlefields and other austere and challenging environments to provide real world solutions in apparel, gear and technologies to both the civilian and military markets.

The company’s slogan of “Battlefield to Backcountry” encompasses this ethos throughout all aspects of the company, whether in producing high-performance outdoor adventure apparel, to cutting edge camouflage designs, to working closely with our nation’s current military heroes to help them defend our freedoms and way of life.

Kryptek believes that from the battlefield to the backcountry; from the backbays to the bluewater, there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad equipment!

Kryptek is honored to join the mission of CCA Texas Star’s mission in preserving and conserving our natural resources and wild places for future generations so that they may continue to share the same joys and experiences that make risking everything worth it, whether here or abroad.

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS

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

No boat? Young Sam Lack, on a pier, took this $25,000 Scholarship and a Haynie Bigfoot boat!
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 DARGEL SKOUT BOAT, MOTOR & TRAILER PACKAGE!

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
- Plounder
- Tito’s Screwdriver

Tito’s Handmade Vodka is a proud supporter of CCA Texas
Tried and True Creamy Scallops

INGREDIENTS
1 dozen large scallops / 1/2 cup diced onion / Chef Ralph’s Super Seasoning
2 cloves garlic, minced / 1 stick butter / 1/4 cup Brie cheese / 1/4 cup white wine
1/2 cup milk or cream / 1 cup seasoned bread crumbs / cooked pasta / 3 strips bacon, diced

PREPARATION
Rinse scallops in cold water, pat dry with a paper towel and season on both sides with Chef Ralph’s. Cut butter into pieces and melt in a sauce pan over medium-low heat.

Stir in wine until well mixed. Pour bread crumbs onto a large plate. Dip seasoned scallops in warm butter mixture and then place in bread crumbs, coating on all sides. In a large skillet, cook bacon pieces over medium heat until crisp. Remove cooked bacon (set aside for use later) and add breaded scallops to skillet. Brown on all sides and removed to a warm plate. Add onion and garlic to skillet (add a little of the melted butter if necessary) and cook until onion is tender.

Reduce heat to medium low and stir in cheese and milk. Heat mixture, stirring constantly, until it just starts to boil. Return browned scallops and bacon pieces to mixture, cover and simmer about five minutes. Serve over cooked pasta — fettuccine or angel-hair pasta works particularly well with this recipe.

Recipe prepared by Vizi Caldwell. Thanks to Ralph Winingham for the recipe from his new book, “Bustin’ Clays & Cookin’ Game.” Chef Ralph’s Super Seasoning as well as Winingham’s three books are available on his website: ralphwiningham.com
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.

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

Drop by the Rebecca Creek Distillery website: https://www.rebeccacreekdistillery.com/
A few million new recruits on the way, courtesy of CCA hatcheries

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

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

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

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.ccataxes.org