

CURRENTS

April / May 2021



*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](#).

THE 2021 FREEZE

By Robby Byers, Executive Director

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. Mem-

bers 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 member-

ship 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 

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.



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 hatchery, 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.



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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 fin-fish 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




Connie Stolte and Shane Bonnot checking an early hatch of red drum fingerlings at Sea Center Texas.

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. 

Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson, and the CCA/CPL/TPWD Center near Corpus Christi.



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



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Caught Redhanded! 🚒 Reports from TP&W Game Wardens



Warden Kevin Winters, 2019 Game Warden of the Year

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



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Law Enforcement Off the Pavement



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Like everyone else you've probably bought a few items (or more) on Amazon recently.
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In 2015, the U.S. Coast Guard estimated over **760,000 red snapper were illegally fished in Texas** and U.S. waters by the lancha fleet from Mexico.

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Enjoying Your Digital CURRENTS Newsletter

CCA Texas' financial responsibilities and goals are ongoing. For the time being, publishing the CURRENTS newsletter requires the internet. There are excellent reasons, with cost being primary.

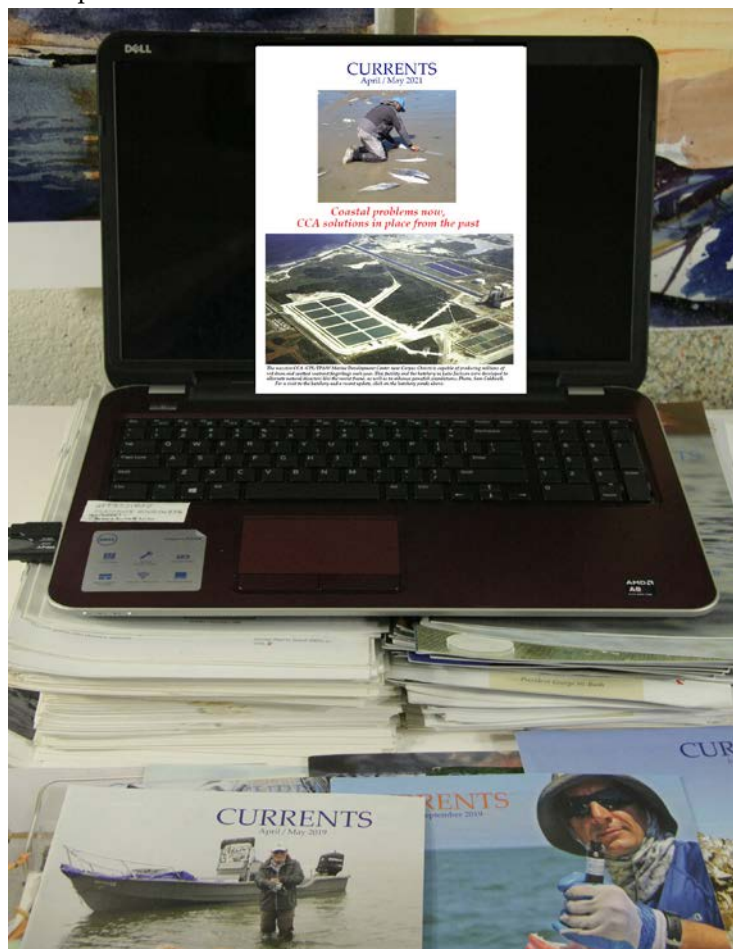
For 36 years, the printed CURRENTS newsletter has provided valuable two-way communication, as well as being an important tool for affecting environmental change. But printing and mailing a 36-page, full color newsletter to 60,000 members is time-consuming and expensive.

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.

- 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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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!



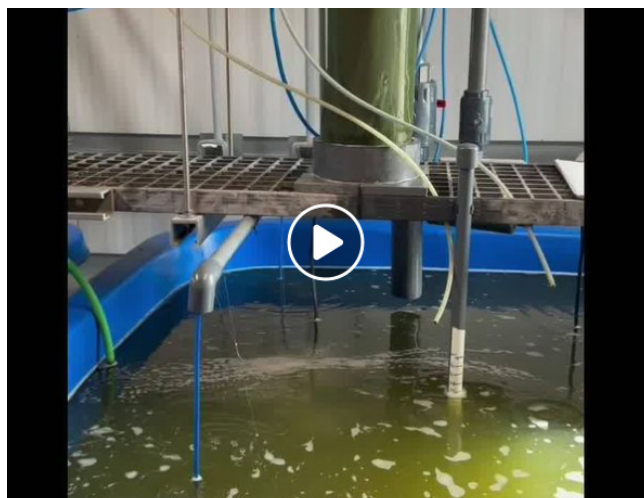
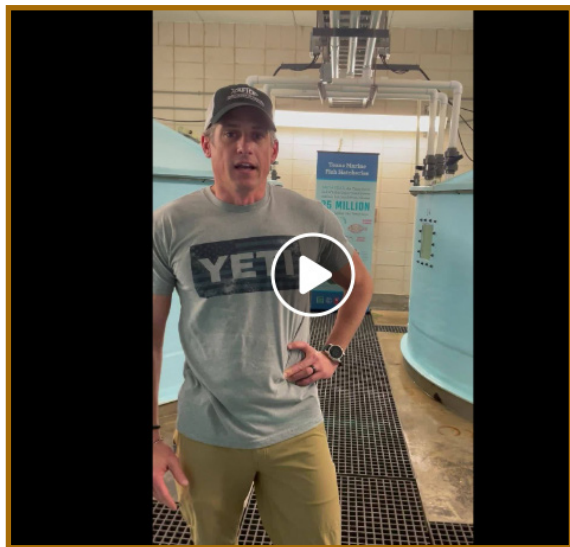
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If you haven't done so, head over to our CCA Texas Facebook page and LIKE us today! Stay informed on all the latest with special video updates and be the first to know when we go LIVE for online events! LIKE us Facebook TODAY!

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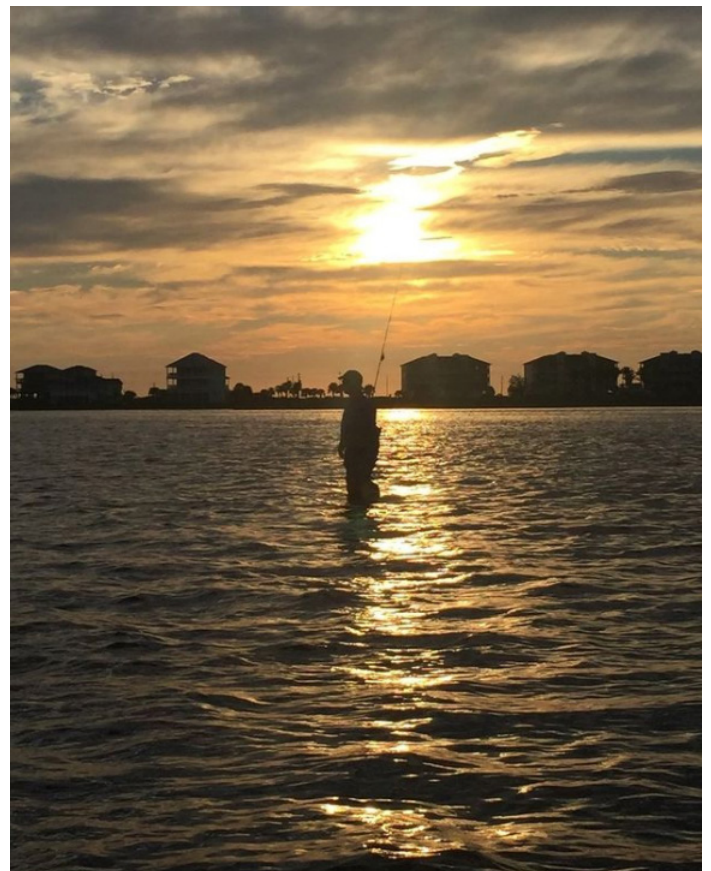
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INSTAGRAM



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!

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A message from the CCA Texas @STARtournament

ANNOUNCEMENT

Recognizing the extraordinary impact of the recent winter storm, the CCA Texas 2021 STAR Tournament will feature a significantly revised format. The Speckled Trout, Flounder, Sheephead and Gafftop divisions have been removed entirely from this year's tournament.

The 2021 STAR will feature three different Tagged Redfish Divisions utilizing a mandatory release format with bigger and better prizes than ever, including \$325,000 in college scholarships for youth anglers. While the offshore categories of the tournament will continue as in past years, a soon-to-be-disclosed new category will be added for 2021.

Marine conservation began with recreational anglers, and our continued engagement has never been more important for the future of our fisheries and for marine habitat. We are excited about this year's Tournament and will be releasing more details on all aspects of the new developments soon.

STARTOURNAMENT.ORG

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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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 Vol. 41, Issue 3 Editor-in-Chief Robby Byers

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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 Allyn'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.babesonthebay.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 ccababes@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



Aransas Bay had a great impact on the environment since the last CURRENTS Newsletter. Left to right: Aransas Bay Chapter volunteers after the Texas Abandoned Crab Trap Cleanup, Aransas 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: Aransas Bay CCA President, Mike Ferri and Vice President, Bill Burge during the crab trap cleanup.



2021 Austin Shallow Sport

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.austinceastore.com! Follow us on social media at IG: [@ccaaustin](https://www.instagram.com/ccaaustin) and FB: [@CCA Austin Chapter](https://www.facebook.com/CCA-Austin-Chapter).

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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](http://BrazosValleyChapterwebpage.com).

Take a kid fishing and enjoy the Spring bite outdoors!

Brenham

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

Brush Country

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

Centex

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

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.

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 enjoying preparations 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!

Corpus Christi

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

CCA members near and far volunteered



2021 CCA Central Houston Raffle Boat - Sabine Skiff Micro Versatile, powered by a 30 hp Tohatsu, and sitting on an aluminum McClain Trailer

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



SHORT AND LONG SLEEVE AVAILABLE



SHOP NOW

JOINCCASTORE.COM

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



Over 27 Miles of Beach Cleaned!

Corpus Christi chapter members again left the Padre Island beach much cleaner than they found it. Left: CCA Flag in the wind taken by Jay Gardner. Right and lower photo: beach cleanup photos taken by Jacob Augs.

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 ccacorpuchristi@gmail.com or call (361) 882-5199.

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

jnorman7@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!



Dallas Board meeting to plan fish fry and banquet.

Tickets on Sale NOW!

**2021 21' JH Performance Outlaw
210X w/ 175HP Mercury ProXS
and Aluminum Coastline Trailer**



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.

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 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!

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.

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 Rouille and Geaux Fish.

Greater Woodlands

**Charlotte O'Dell
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choctawcharlie69@gmail.com**

Guadalupe Valley

**Adam Arroyo
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Ctown75@aol.com**

Hays County

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

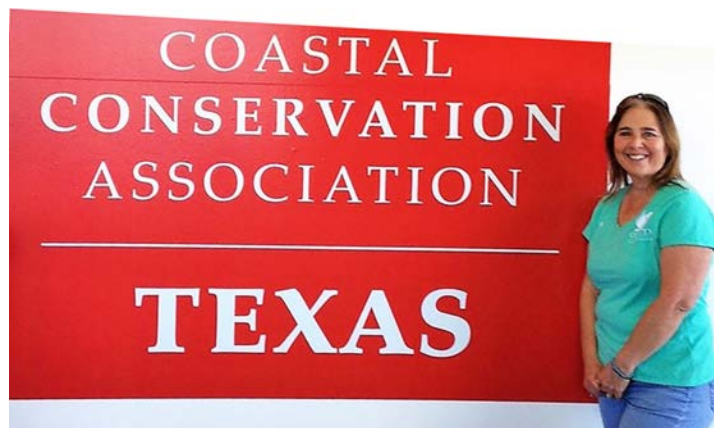
Heart of the Hills

**Kelly Parks 210-669-3732
bucksdelucks@yahoo.com**

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



2019 Greater Sugar Land CCA Kid Fish Event, held in memory of Greater Sugar Land volunteer and member, Pam Canavan.



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 you 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!

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 an all-female AFJROTC team from Harlan High School 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

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.

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Mainland
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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's Marine & Haynie Boats and tickets are currently being sold! You can reach out to any

WIN A BOAT!!!
MATAGORDA BAYS CCA

Tickets 1 - \$20 6 - \$100 20 - \$300 40 - \$500

Boat sponsored by: POLASEK CONSTRUCTION INC., SUTTON WEALTH MANAGEMENT, CHRIS'S MARINE & HAYNIE BOATS, COASTLINE TRAILERS, MERCURY OUTBOARDS, DMR SERVICES - CUSTOM ALUMINUM

Haynie Magnum 25

With 400 HP Mercury Verado, Custom Coastline Trailer, 10' Twin Power Poles, Captain Seats, C-Top, White Powder Coating, Garmin GPS, Custom Colors and MORE!

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN FOR MORE INFO: WES @ 979-578-3084

This beautiful boat, estimated to be valued more than \$100,000 dollars, will be on display at this year's Texas Holder Fishing Show in Houston, Texas from April 14 through the 18th. Raffle tickets will be on hand and available at the show.

Again, a BIG thank you going out to this year's Matagorda Bays boat sponsors: **POLASEK CONSTRUCTION INC., SUTTON WEALTH MANAGEMENT, CHRIS'S MARINE & HAYNIE BOATS, COASTLINE TRAILERS, MERCURY OUTBOARDS, DMR SERVICES - CUSTOM ALUMINUM.**



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!

Northeast Houston

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

Northwest Houston

Rob Sziy 832-971-1989
sziy@sbcglobal.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 Cutten 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

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Port Lavaca

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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



MidCoast chapter action: 2021 Crab Trap Cleanup. Post-freeze catch and release redfish. Young Midcoast angler releases post-freeze flounder.



CCA San Antonio Chapter Board members at the 2021 Hooked on Clays event.

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.

Rio Grande Valley
David Deleon 956-533-8374
david_deleon2@yahoo.com

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

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 fund-raising 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! Last, but not least, our committee! Shannon, Matt, Richard, Cameron, Robert, Melissa, Michael and Logan! **THANK YOU!!** Time for a break! Tight lines to all!

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

San Antonio
Robert Lozano 210-632-4246
robertolozano129@yahoo.com
 Hello from the thawed lands of San Anto-

nio. We hope that you, your friends and family pushed through the frozen tundra in February. From North Texas to the Coastal Bend, humans, wildlife and fish took a catastrophic beating. CCA needs our support now more than ever. We lost a significant portion of fish that could not tolerate the temperature.

We would like to thank our loyal area teams for participated in our 8th Annual Hooked on Clays event. We were blessed with dialed in chamber of commerce weather, cold beverages with fun had by all. There was great shooting, great food and great fun for this safely run, socially distanced outdoor event.

Special thanks go out to NSC - **National Shooting Complex**, what a great place to practice your shooting skills and enjoy a beautiful outdoor patio to relax after that hard day of shooting.

With the spring banquet season upon us, our San Antonio Banquet Committee has been planning great things. **Our 41st Annual Banquet will be held Thursday, August 5, 2021 at the Freeman Coliseum** there will be plenty of room, food, fun and items to win.

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.

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

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.

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



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Fore Casts



Upper Coast

Capt. Vince Garza

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 npursuitx@gmail.com
NPURSUITGUIDESERVICE.COM

Middle Coast

Capt. Tommy Countz

Bait activity and slicks are key

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 Sandeel 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 281-450-4037 or email me at tcountz@sbcglobal.net.

Hope to see you in Matagorda.

—Capt. Tommy Countz 281-450-4037

837 CR 243 / Bay City, Tx 77414

Lower Coast

Capt. Bryan Robinson

Let's give Mother Nature a hand

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.

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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TOWA Top Awards go to TIDE and CURRENTS Communicators in Port Arthur

—**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.

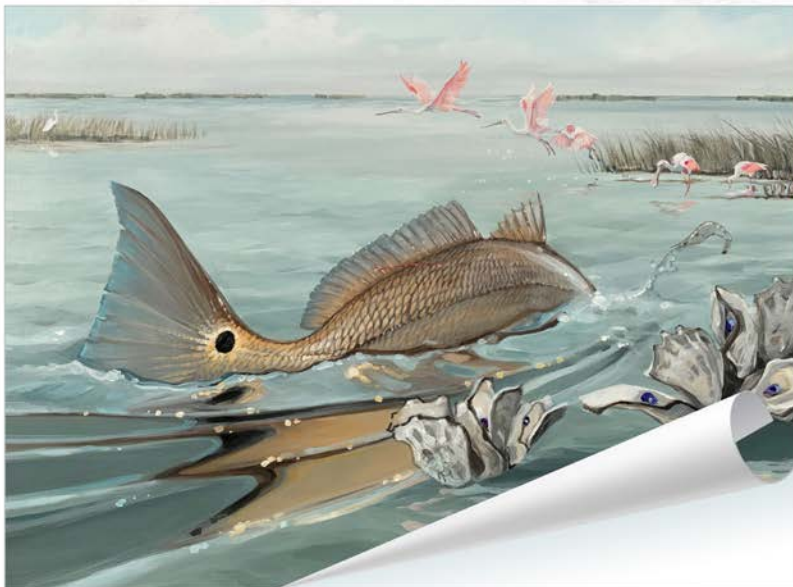
The Texas Outdoor Writer's Association encourages communicators of all media to be members of the group. Drop by the TOWA website for full information: <https://towa.org/>



Pat Murray, Sam Caldwell and Herman Brune. Below, the TOWA Board of Directors in Port Arthur.



Here is a **SNEAK PEEK** at the
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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---all of 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**

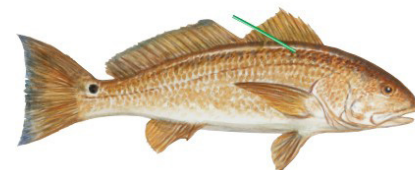
entered, having the tag described above, will receive a 22' Mowdy V hull, 150 hp Mercury motor, and Coastline trailer!

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

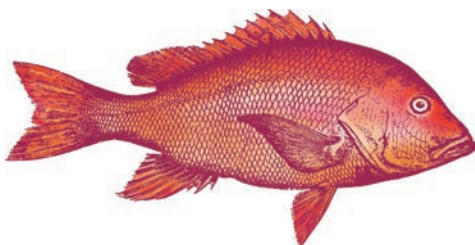
redfish will be released into Texas coastal waters. The tags placed on the redfish will read "CCA TX/STAR (Tag Nos. GR1251 – GR1350)". The **FIRST THREE GREEN-Tagged Redfish** entered, having the tag described above, will receive a 19' Shoalwater Cat, 115 hp Mercury motor, and McClain trailer! Just like 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 angling

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. 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, if you are considering a purchase.



BEST IN TEXAS

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.



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 abc13, Chris's Marine and Kryptek.*

*For more information, go to
www.startournament.org.*

*Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR
 Tournament!*

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**No boat? Young Sam Lack, on a pier, took this
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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



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VISIT WWW.JOINCCA.ORG/STARTOURNAMENT

**TO REGISTER FOR 2021 STAR
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DRAWING TO WIN THIS
DARGEL SKOUT BOAT,
MOTOR & TRAILER PACKAGE!**



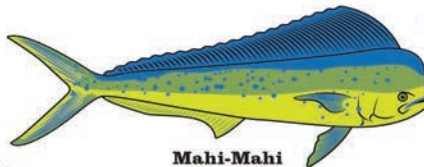
Gulf Identification Guide



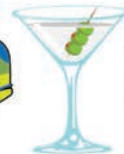
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Tried and True Creamy Scallops

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

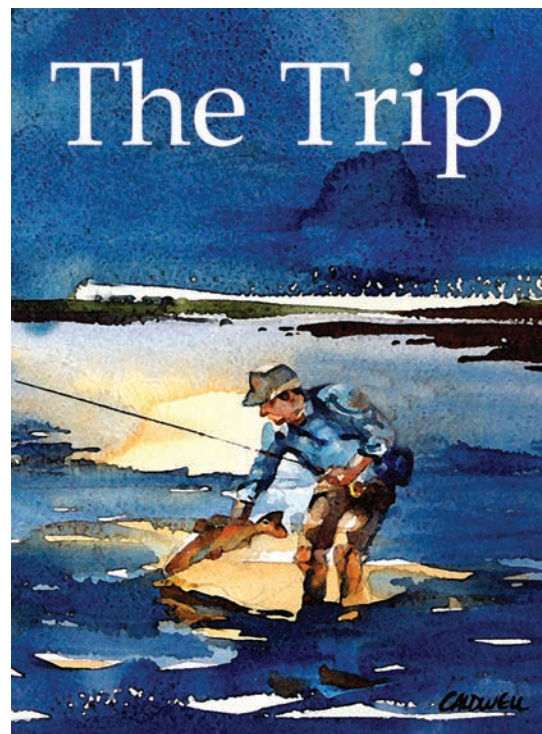
First Place art, "A Search for Rainbows" and Second Place for "Autumn Wolves" OWAA, 2019
Giclees are now available.

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samcaldwell.com

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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)

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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