

CURRENTS

August / September 2021



*Nearshore reefing
Big Man and Kate's reefs*

CALDWELL

Nearshore reefing

Big Man and Kate's Reefs

By Sam Caldwell

Andy Gessner has spent a lifetime on the waters of Galveston Bay. Early on, his parents bought a waterfront lot in Bayview because they loved fishing. Over the years, he said that his love affair with fishing enriched his life, and he considered ways to leave the bay and Gulf waters better than he found them. He remembers reading about the idea of nearshore reefs in the CCA's TIDE and CURRENTS publications. Seemed like a great idea— even small boats could venture into the Gulf for a day's offshore fishing for the big gamefish quarry of red snapper, cobia, dorado and kingfish.

But, how to go about getting an artificial reef started? Gessner went to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) and began the process of learning. He said that after a couple of tries, he reached Dale Shively, then Head of the Artificial Reefing Program for TPWD. Shively presented the idea to TPWD and found great interest in a new reef. Andy provided seed money, and the project moved forward. Along the way, CCA became interested and brought additional financial resources into the mix.

Andy said, "Dale Shively guided me through the differ-



Nearshore reefing sites are composed of many materials such as these used at Sabine HI20 site.

ent steps necessary to begin an artificial reef. First, we had to post the idea and hold hearings. Of course, at the hearings different locations were suggested, but I wanted the reef to be in state waters, and fairly close to Galveston where a lot of people have small boats but like to go offshore."

He said, "When my grandson was born, he was small and premature, but I called him Big Man then and still do. I de-



These railroad ties show the rapid growth of reef organisms on substrates.



An ancient steel sailboat settles below the surface on Kate's reef.

cided the name of the reef would be Big Man, and we moved ahead."

The basic requirements were determined by biologists at TPWD. It was necessary to have good bottom structure, an area out of shipping lanes and away from interference with shrimpers. State biologists decided to design it with a quadrant structure. "The idea was to place different materials in each quadrant—small stuff in one area, larger materials like railroad ties and rip rap, but large specially-designed pyramids in a fourth quadrant. They wanted to know what size fish preferred which area." He said that literally within days, divers and sampling showed that fish had migrated to the structures.

"People heard from TIDE Magazine and CURRENTS Newsletter about that green dot on maps (the locale of the reef—see page 4) and with success, we managed to get more money from

"When my grandson was born, he was small and premature, but I called him Big Man then and still do. I decided the name of the reef would be Big Man, and we moved ahead."

government and private sources to continue the work. I decided to work toward another reef, and name it after my granddaughter, Kate." The decision was made to have the new reef close to Big Man, in part to determine if there was substantial migration between the reefs.

Gessner said that plans call for adding additional materials as time goes on. One notable addition to the reef systems was the addition of a steel sailboat. TPWD required that the boat be decommissioned and cleaned of any possible pollutants.

Andy Gessner and the CCA have encouraged Galveston area friends to provide funds to the Galveston Bay Foundation project. His new Gessner Center is a part of the 30-acre project, situated on the bay. Andy noted that the center will be one of the most environmentally friendly buildings in the world.

Gessner said that his grandson Drew Mytchak, aka Big Man is now a 6' 2" tall fisherman who loves boats and fishing and is his best fishing buddy.

"What could be better," Andy laughed, "than fishing on a reef named after your grandson? Why, fishing on a reef named after your granddaughter!"



Pyramids headed down.





A load of concrete blocks heads for the bottom of the RGV reef.

Big Man Reef is the dark green #10 dot on the map. It is at a depth of 48 feet, Latitude 29° 5'54"N, Longitude 94° 53'20"W.

Kate's Reef is approximately one mile SE of Big Man.

Andy Gessner and CCA have encouraged area friends to support a new Galveston Bay Foundation Education Center on Galveston Bay in Kemah to be called the "Gessner Center." The Center will be a place where kids and adults can visit to experience Galveston Bay, a place where they can drop a seine net or cast a fishing line and interact with the Bay and its critters. The Center will be one of the most environmentally-friendly buildings on the coast, built to a "Living Building Challenge" standard where people and nature are connected with the built environment. Funds are still being raised to make this Center a reality. Please visit galvbay.org for more information. —**Bob Stokes** President, Galveston Bay Foundation

HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

A Natural Partnership



1. Sabine Lake Deep Reef Oyster Restoration
2. Sabine HI20 Nearshore Reef
3. Sabine Lake Oyster Reef Expansion
4. J.D. Murphree Breakwater
5. East Galveston Bay Oyster Reef Restoration
6. Trinity Bay Discovery Center Living Shoreline
7. Dickinson Bayou Marsh Restoration
8. Moses Lake Shoreline Restoration
9. Sportsmans Road Wetlands Restoration
10. Big Man's Reef
11. Bird Island Cove Marsh Restoration
12. Snake Island Cove Marsh Restoration
13. Oyster Lake Shoreline Stabilization
14. Vancouver Nearshore Reef
15. Cow Trap Lake Shoreline Stabilization
16. San Bernard NWR Shoreline Stabilization
17. Matagorda Nearshore Reef
18. Port O'Connor Nearshore Reef
19. HRI Nearshore Reef Enhancement Study
20. Weed Eradication for Water Flow Restoration
21. HRI Oyster Restoration Site Locator/Mapping Study
22. Matagorda Island Marsh Restoration
23. Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough Restoration
24. St. Charles Bay Oyster Restoration
25. Aransas Bay Oyster Restoration
26. Goose Island Marsh Restoration
27. Copano Bay Oyster Restoration
28. Aransas Bay Debris Removal
29. Nueces Bay Marsh Restoration
30. Nueces Bay Delta Water Management Gates
31. Nueces Bay Demonstration/Restoration Oyster Reef Project
32. Corpus Christi Nearshore Reef
33. Baffin Bay's Unique Serpulid Study
34. Port Mansfield Nearshore Reef
35. Rio Grande Valley Reef
36. Bahia Grande Restoration

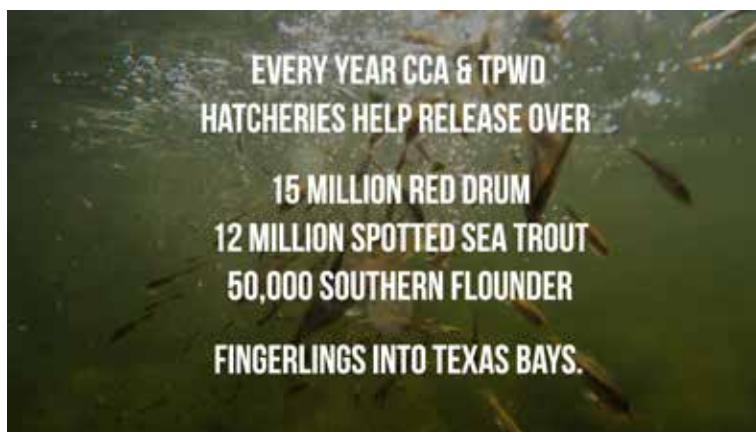


Putting finger- lings back where fish need to be



Hatcheries were an early priority of CCA. Enhancing populations was crucial, but replacing a large percentage of cold-stricken gamefish proved to be a primary benefit of the hatcheries.

Once again, CCA and TPWD are filling the need to mitigate trout, redfish and flounder mortalities. Take a brief voyage with a CCA / TPWD hatchery as technicians replace trout fingerlings. Here's a link to a just-released video that will provide an idea of the process: [Click Here to View](#)



Lower Laguna Madre Cold Water Spell Warning System

By Shane Bonnot

The February 2021 winter storm rocked our state and had dramatic impacts on coastal resources. As we all witnessed in real time, this extreme cold event had devastating effects, killing nearly 4 million finfish according to original minimum estimates. These events are a rare but natural cause of fish kills. As water temperatures begin to decline, fishes seek out refuge in deeper and warmer waters.

Unfortunately, not all fish make it to warmer waters or reside in a bay system that offers multiple locations for refuge. In these situations, fish have increased chances of being exposed to critical temperatures and are certainly more vulnerable to human impact in the few locations that offer thermal refuge. Such is the case in the Lower Laguna Madre (LLM).

Since the winter storm there has been a great deal of conversation regarding barge traffic in the intracoastal and compliance with the voluntary traffic suspension in the Lower Laguna Madre. The official name of the program that provides guidance on traffic suspension is the Lower Laguna Madre Cold Water Spell Warning System and the origins of these efforts date all the way back to the 1980's with analysis by Dr. David McKee, Dr. Hildebrand and others following the freeze events in 1983 and 1989. A mid-2000 grant that included funding from Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Coastal Conservation Association provided means to measure temperature gradients in the Laguna Madre and set-up a temperature prediction system. This included traffic suspension procedures being developed as part of a collaboration between the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA), Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW), the Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association (GICA) and the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Conrad Blucher Institute (CBI). Here is brief step-by-step process of the current procedures.

- 1) Each year, typically as the first significant cold front of the season approaches, officials at CBI e-mail a stakeholder group confirming closure readiness and closure recommendation if predicted conditions warrant action.
- 2) About 3 days prior to air temperature predicted to reach below or close to freezing, CBI will review these air temperature predictions, predictive modeling, the likelihood of water temperatures to go below the 8°C (46°F) threshold for an extensive period (>24 hours) and if traffic suspension advice is likely or not.
- 3) CBI provides an update about every 12 hours until the actual traffic suspension recommendation is issued, or the watch is canceled (typically 2-3 updates).
- 4) The traffic suspension recommendation is issued with a notice of at least 36 hours. It includes a closure time length estimate but not a precise one (newer and improved models will help predict further in time).
- 5) The traffic interruption recommendation should be at least 24 hours and no more than 4-5 days. Historically, 48 hours is the typical recommended time frame.
- 6) CBI provides updates on traffic suspension about every 12 hours during the closure recommendation and issues an end of traffic suspension recommendation with a notice of at least 24 hours.

For this particular event, CBI officials began monitoring predicted air temperatures on February 5, 9 days prior to the onset of critical temperatures. Beginning February 9, daily predictions and analysis were conducted to generate the recommended advisory - which was issued on Saturday, February 13 at 10:30AM - requesting voluntary traffic suspension for 12PM on Sunday, February 14 through 10AM on Wednesday, February 17.

According to GICA officials, there was 100% compliance by GICA members during the latest voluntary suspension. There was one tow/barge that resumed ICW operations on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 17, two on Thursday and nine on Friday/Saturday. It is important to note that not all barge operators are members of the GICA. While the number of non-members is small, it is evident that some were not aware of the voluntary suspension notice or, most likely, irresponsibly chose not to comply with the recommendation and proceeded to navigate through the LLM and Land Cut during the advisory.

Since the start of the program, with a short interruption around 2015-2016, the CBI has provided the modeling and predictions. While current forecasts are still "manual", more sophisticated and automated technologies recently became available and CBI officials are working for a large Artificial Intelligence grant (AI2ES.org) that can support and improve the modeling efforts. They are also welcoming additional funding to expand the program further north. They estimate that they can continue this work for the next four years, while long-term funding and outside institutional support (such as NOAA) will be required to carry the program into the future.

One interesting side note to the barge traffic compliance are the results from a 2007 study, which you can find at www.cbi.tamucc.edu/wp-content/uploads/Lagu-na-Madre-Temp-Monitoring-Performance-Report.pdf. As noted in this report, during cold events the LLM is a homogenous water column with no significant water temperature differences observed at depths from 3-feet to 12-feet deep. This highlights the value of deeper portions of the ICW, ship channels and ports. If any thermocline is going to exist in the LLM, it will be in these locations. As such, reduced water column disruption by human activity is even more important. More information on the study and report can be found at www.cbi.tamucc.edu/cbi/Predictions/water-temperature-forecasts/.

Side notes and lessons learned from this past event:

- 1) The critical water temperature for spotted sea trout is 42°F and 39°F for red drum.
- 2) All the 24-hour air temperature predictions averaged too high by nearly 7°F.
- 3) Water temperatures were at or near critical levels much longer than originally anticipated.
- 4) We need to work with the Coast Guard to pass along advisories to operators that are not GICA members. Non-members must understand the compliance with the traffic suspension notice is vital to the survivability of fishes and sea turtles during these rare events.
- 5) Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission has extended the temporary emergency action for spotted sea trout in the Upper and Lower Laguna Madre for an additional 60 days. [Click Here](#) to learn more about the rule.
- 6) Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission will consider additional coastal fisheries management actions to accelerate the recovery of spotted sea trout, working through the statewide regulatory process.
- 7) The next TPWD Commission meeting is August 25-26, in which there is an opportunity for open public comment.



Texas Parks and Wildlife: Emergency Spotted Sea Trout Regulations Extended 60 Days in Laguna Madre

July 21, 2021 /AUSTIN- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is extending the emergency spotted sea trout regulations in the Laguna Madre for an additional 60 days. These temporary regulation changes for spotted sea trout in the bays and beachfronts of the Upper and Lower Laguna Madre bay systems include:

- a three fish bag limit
- a minimum size length of 17 inches
- a maximum size length of 23 inches
- no fish over 23 inches may be retained.

These modified regulations are a continuation of [changes made by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission that began April](#)

1. The previous regulation changes are in effect from April 1 to July 29. The extension of the emergency rule will take effect on July 30 and are valid for another 60 days running thru September 27.

"The data from our Coastal Fisheries biologists clearly shows declines in spotted sea trout populations in multiple Texas bays," said Carter Smith, TPWD Executive Director. "While the 60-day extension of regulation changes is warranted now in the Laguna Madre, additional focus on trout fishery recovery in the San Antonio and Matagorda Bay systems is needed as well. The Department's next step is working with the TPW Commission this fall to further evaluate the data, to solicit additional public input, and ultimately to secure Commission guidance on what management and regulatory actions may be necessary to facilitate the quickest recovery possible."

This data is preliminary and is still being evaluated by Coastal Fisheries biologists for quality control. But the trends are significant enough to warrant an extension of the April emergency rule in the Laguna Madre which would have expired on July 29. The TPW Commission will be given an update on the freeze impacts in a briefing at the Aug. 25-26 public meeting.

For these regulations, the Laguna Madre boundary is defined as south of the John F. Kennedy Causeway near Corpus Christi (including the adjacent beachfronts from Packery Channel) to the Brownsville Ship Channel on the bay side and to the Rio Grande River on the gulf side of South Padre Island. These changes were implemented to reduce harvesting pressure, thereby leaving more mature fish in the water during the summer spawning season. Along with TPWD hatcheries efforts, biologists believe this is the best course of action to improve recruitment and accelerate population recovery due to the fish kills from Winter Storm Uri in February 2021.

In mid-June, TPWD Coastal Fisheries biologists completed their routine gill net surveys and began analyzing the data for trends. Data from these sampling efforts were compared to sampling efforts from previous years in spotted sea trout populations. Spring gill net sampling when compared to other years shows a decline in spotted sea trout in the Upper and Lower Laguna Madre bay systems. Spring gill net samplings were not completed in 2020 due to COVID-19.

Gill net survey data is available to the public on the [TPWD website](#). The graphs shown in this data illustrates the mean catch

rate per hour for spotted sea trout in a given bay system (i.e. the average number of fish caught in our gill nets per hour compared to the numerical year.

In both the Upper and Lower Laguna Madre, gill net data found that the Spring 2021 spotted sea trout catch rates were both approximately 30 percent lower than the 10-year average. The data also indicated that there were noteworthy declines in the Matagorda and San Antonio Bay systems in 2021 spotted sea trout catch rates. Those catch rates were approximately 40 percent lower than the 10-year average.

For Aransas, Galveston, and Sabine Lake the data showed catch rates that were at or near the 10-year average catch rates. Corpus Christi, in fact, saw a 10 percent increase in catch rates for 2021. Considering the natural annual variation in populations, the freeze impact to these systems appears minimal.

Also of note were low salinity levels in multiple Texas bay systems when 2021 levels were compared to the 10-year historical average. While the extreme weather of Winter Storm Uri in Feb. 2021 played a role in the lower catch rates seen, increased rainfall in May and June likely contributed to lower catch rates due to low salinity levels as well.

CCA Texas Has Been Working Hard to Help our Fisheries Recover from the February Freeze

In direct response to the February Freeze, CCA Texas contributed \$152,000 to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to ramp up their production of juvenile speckled trout and redfish at the Sea Center Texas Hatchery in Lake Jackson, Texas and the CCA Marine Development Center (CCA MDC) in Flour Bluff. This includes a crucial pond liner repair project that allows multiple ponds to be stocked with red drum or spotted sea trout fingerlings before they reach their final destination: Our state's bay systems.

"To help Texas' speckled trout populations recover from the impacts of the fish kill, it is imperative that hatchery production of fingerlings is maximized. Funding these projects will definitely help in the near term, but will also continue to produce long after the freeze damage has recovered." - Robby Byers, Executive Director, CCA Texas

"Speckled trout and redfish fingerling production is a delicate effort that requires knowledge, precision and the correct equipment. We are fortunate to have gifted biologists and operators at Texas' hatcheries and research facilities, and I am excited that CCA Texas is helping fund and increase those efforts again." - Shane Bonnot, CCA Texas Advocacy Director

The CCA Texas STAR Tournament removed several species from the tournament, including speckled trout, and updated the tagged redfish division to be CATCH, CLIP THE TAG and RELEASE.

CCA Texas has been promoting catch-and-release through its best fishing practices program, ReleaseSense and other messaging outreach. Recently, Advocacy Director Shane Bonnot wrote an article entitled "The Release Matters" which highlights techniques to release fish safely and successfully.

Utilizing the best available science, CCA Texas will continue to work with stakeholders and fishery managers to ensure the speckled trout fishery rebounds in an expedited manner.





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When you catch a tagged redfish, anglers are required to clip as much of the tag as possible and **must release the fish** back into the water to be eligible to win, regardless of the fish's condition. Within 24 hours, you need to head to one of our STAR Tournament weigh stations to present the tag.



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/tah-gret/ **noun**

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

FISH WITH NO **TAGRETS**. REGISTER FOR STAR TODAY!



COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

CCA Texas Projects

1. Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough Restoration	\$1,600,000
2. ** Nearshore Reefing - Sabine Pass	\$ 906,000
3. Nearshore Reefing - Rio Grande Valley Reef	\$ 861,000
4. Nearshore Reefing—Port O'Connor	\$ 700,000
5. Oyster Restoration - East Galveston Bay	\$ 500,000
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

** 2021 Projects Contributed to as 2/28/21

TOTAL FUNDED THROUGH 2020: \$8,814,666

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

On Saturday, June 12, 2021, Jefferson County Game Warden Jamal Allen was patrolling the Pleasure Island area near Port Arthur, Texas and boarded a shrimp boat from Brownsville as they were about to offload. During an inspection of the cargo hold, Warden Allen found game fish (cobia) and fish fillets (cobia and red snapper that are illegal to possess aboard a commercial vessel.

The cobia measured from 48 to 52 inches each. The shrimp boat Captain received several citations and the resource was seized and donated. Cases and restitution pending.

On Monday, April 19th, 2021, Jefferson County Game Wardens Joshua Sako and Jamal Allen were patrolling the ship channel near Port Arthur, Texas when they observed a commercial truck about to be loaded with a pallet of shrimp at one of the local wholesale shrimp processing facilities. They stopped to inspect the vehicle and discovered that it already had a cargo of 15 crates of fresh blue crab on board and was about to be loaded with a pallet of fresh shrimp.


The driver of the vehicle, which was registered to a seafood company out of Louisiana, was acting very suspicious and claimed to have bought the crabs legally in Louisiana and transported them into Texas, which would require a Texas Wholesale Fish Dealer License. The driver could not produce a wholesale license or an aquatic product transportation invoice or other documentation from where the crabs had originated. Wardens for Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries were contacted to assist with the investigation from their side.

They interviewed the dealer in Louisiana where the driver claimed the crabs had originated and discovered that the driver was being deceptive. Wardens Sako and Allen seized all 15 crates of crabs and sold them to the highest bidder as required by law. The driver was issued citations for no Wholesale Fish Dealer License and transporting aquatic products with an unmarked vehicle as well as warnings for not having the proper invoices and markings for the aquatic products.

On Thursday, April 22nd, 2021, Jefferson County Game Wardens McKenzie Crow, Jamal Allen, and Josh Sako were patrolling the ship channel near Sabine Pass, Texas for commercial shrimping violations. The Wardens boarded a Texas Commercial Shrimp Boat whose Captain indicated they had just returned from shrimping in Louisiana waters. During the inspection, Wardens

discovered a bag in a compartment below deck that contained 9 undersized flounder and 21 lightning welks, which are illegal to retain and possess aboard a commercial shrimp boat. The Captain of



the vessel received multiple citations for over the bag limit and undersized flounder, as well as illegal possession of lightning welks aboard a commercial shrimp boat. 






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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 37-page, full color newsletter to 67,000 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.

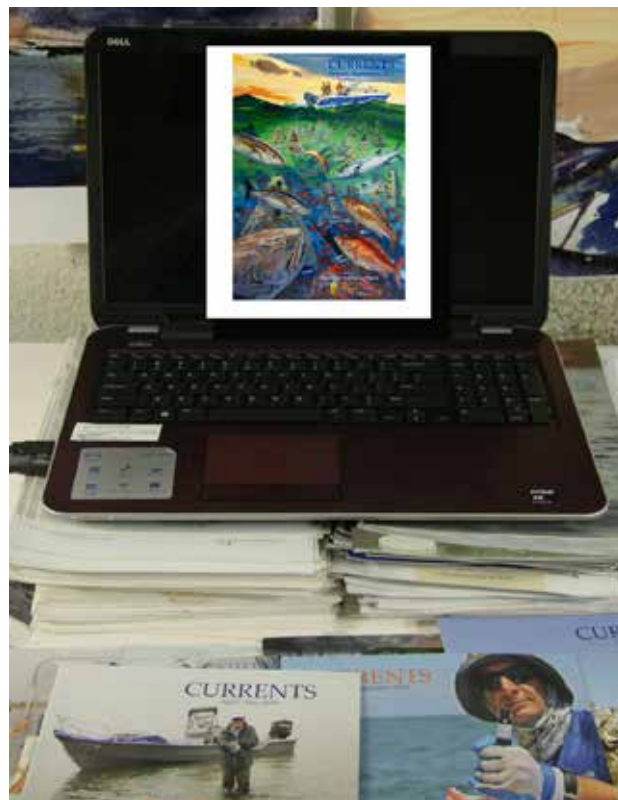
Apart from the cost difference, there are reasons a member could appreciate an internet version of the publication.

- 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.
- 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. Listen to 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.

- **Another big plus—your CURRENTS Newsletter is now as close as your laptop or your cellphone.**



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

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@CCATexas or facebook.com/CCATexas



INSTAGRAM



CCA Texas on Instagram

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Follow us on TWITTER

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!](#)



CCA Texas
@CCA_Texas

What are you reel in' in this weekend ?



: Jen Thomasson

[#JoinCCA](#)



4:30 PM · 7/23/21 · [Twitter Web App](#)

2 Retweets 7 Likes



CCA Texas
@CCA_Texas

🎣 Tight lines 🎣 this weekend y'all !



: Ross Carrithers

[#JoinCCA](#)



4:00 PM · 7/16/21 · [Twitter Web App](#)

3 Retweets 4 Likes



CCA Texas
@CCA_Texas

What weekends were made for...



: Rhonda Knezek Tucker

[#JoinCCA](#)



4:00 PM · 7/9/21 · [Twitter Web App](#)

2 Retweets 6 Likes



COASTAL
CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION

TEXAS

Kevin Hickson
Communications Director
Coastal Conservation
Association
Email:

khickson@joincca.org

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SHIMANO

HARTE

Coastal Conservation Association



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Chapter Updates

Alvin-Pearland

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

The 2021 Alvin Pearland Banquet is in the books! It was great to see everyone in person and raise some funds for the fish! We would like to thank all who attended the event, from those who bought a single dinner ticket, all the way to our sponsors who purchased multiple tables, the event would not have been a success without everyone's participation! A special note of recognition to our long time Title Sponsors: **Waypoint Financial, Sunbelt Valve, and Academy.** These folks step up year after year and their support is much appreciated by CCA and the Alvin Pearland Chapter. To all of our donors, hard-working board members, and volunteers, we thank you as well!

At this time, we have not scheduled any "Anglers' Night Out" events for the remainder of 2021. It is possible we may host a couple in the Fall, but none are on the schedule as of this time. The best way to stay up to date with our latest Chapter Events is to follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/alvinpearland.cca or go to our [Chapter Website](#).

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

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

Don't miss out on our **August 24th Fund-raising Banquet**. It's been a tough 12 months with the freeze in February and Covid. That is why we are so excited to be able to host our **Fundraising Banquet this year on August 24th**. We will continue our tradition of providing you with the best live auction, raffles, food and drink. CCA Austin Chapter's goal is to raise as much as possible to continue our mission with CCA and to help the damage that the freeze caused this year.

[Click here to purchase tables and tickets.](#)

CCA Boat Raffle 2021

This year's boat is a beautiful 24 MOD "V" by Shallow Sport. It comes equipped with a Suzuki 300 hp 4-stroke engine and Lenco trim tabs. It sits atop a tandem axle McClain aluminum custom trailer! Tickets are \$100.00 and only 1,500 will be sold. Call Cheryl for more information at 512-221-7057.

Jeep Wrangler Custom Outback Rig

We are excited to add this to our fundraiser this year. This Jeep is a custom Outback Rig with a tandem axle car hauler. It will be street legal after registration. Tickets are \$20.00 each or 6 for \$100.00.

You can Venmo CCA Austin (be sure and put your contact information in the notes) or call Cheryl at 512-221-7057. If you have any questions please contact Jason Magdalena 512-789-6207 or email at jason.magdalena@gmail.com.



Bay Area

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

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

Students are beginning to show up around town which is a sign that fall is near. Although we normally take a break in the summer months, we have been gearing up for our **29th Annual Chapter Banquet that will be on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the Brazos Center in Bryan, Texas.** There is still time to get involved in helping with the banquet and meeting some great folks.

Individual tickets, reserve and corporate tables and program ads are still available for purchase. We are expecting a great turnout with good food, drinks, raffles, auctions and lots more fun! Please contact **John Ben Strother or Drew Adams** at 713 626-4222 for more information or to purchase tickets. They are also available for purchase online on our Brazos Valley

Brenham

Brandon Marth 979-277-0151
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Brush Country

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

Centex

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

Central Houston

Todd Buster 713-545-189
tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com

Colorado Valley

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zeke.ulrich@gmail.com

Greetings From the Colorado Valley! Well, we finally were able to celebrate and complete our chapter's 20th annual banquet!! We experienced a very wonderful evening with the largest crowd ever along with the best fundraising effort in our chapter's history! Our chapter board (Eugene Ulrich, Danny Olenick, Trish Kubena, Gary Janda, Rusty Kubena, Dave Fehlker, Kenneth LeFrance, Kendall Rhode, and Jeff Burgh) worked very diligently preparing for the event. We would also like to thank our banquet assistants (Connie Janda, John Gold, Kristina Gold, Mike Petras, Norma Petras, Matthew LeFrance, Verlene Ulrich, Lucas Janda, J.K. Brandt, Kalynn Hodges, and Robert Hodges) along with Taylor and his team for all their help with the evening's events.

John Gold once again did an excellent job of putting together the program for us. Our hats go off to all our Grand Slam table sponsors—304 Construction, Academy, Bradley and Neldra Teinert, Calbri Logistics, Chris Dillon, Covert Chevrolet Buick GMC Bastrop, Joe Rogers' Dozer, Masonry Works, Maxwell Locke & Ritter, Murphy's Steakhouse, Oviedo Auto Group, and Rocking "R" Construction Eric Rogers. We could not have made our banquet such a success without all of our sponsors—Murphy's Steakhouse-door prize; LaGrange Ford, National Bank&Trust, Powerscreen Texas, and Round Top State Bank-print sponsors; Burgh's Septic and Wastewater-ladies game sponsor; J&J Metal Works, Lakeview Glass and Mirror, and Oviedo Auto Group-cap sponsors; WHATABURG-ER-pen sponsor; Smithville Heating and Air-eyeglass strap sponsor; M-G Farm Service Center and WE-STITCH-buyer's cap sponsor; Milton's Fine Furniture & Bedding and Pease Custom Floors-game cap sponsor; Burgh's Septic and Wastewater, Calbri Logistics, CJNR Ranch, and



new Captain's Table owner **Maxwell Locke & Ritter, LLP**. **Please mark your calendars because next year's banquet is set for March 31, 2022 in LaGrange.** Please reserve your tables early because we are expecting a very large attendance again!

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

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

The Dallas Chapter has been busy recently both on the water and off. Ten members of the chapter's board traveled to Rockport for the annual Inter Chapter Challenge, catching a five fish stringer and finishing seventh overall out of 28 teams. Back closer to home CCA Dallas hosted an **Anglers' Night Out at Beretta Gallery Dallas**. The event drew 48 attendees and featured a talk about the effects of February's freeze by CCA Texas Advocacy Director **Shane Bonnot**. Robert McMurray won the early bird table buyer raffle and went home with a new Beretta APX. The chapter is busy preparing for its **40th annual banquet, scheduled for Sept. 16 at On the Levee, 1108 Quaker St. in Dallas**. Tables are selling fast, reserve yours before we sell out. For more information, contact CCA Texas Assistant Director Drew Adams at dadams@ccatexas.org or Dallas Chapter President Greg Resnansky at ccadallasboard@gmail.com. Lastly, CCA Dallas members have been traveling, and sharing their passion for fishing with their families. See photos on next page.

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

Hello FW CCA members from your local Board. Have you booked a fishing trip recently or perhaps went out on your own boat? We would love to share in your experience. Feel free to send in pictures of your adventures for those of us that haven't had the chance to get on the water. There has been a lot of interest in getting out on the water over the last year as many of our personal fishing guides are sharing how booked they are. Don't let that deter you from making a call and scheduling your trip, though! Get outdoors and find a tight line.

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

Golden Triangle
Joe Winston 830-624-6570
Joe.winston@heroesonthewater.org

Greetings from the Golden Triangle Chapter! So far, our summer has been a blast on the upper coast of Texas. Despite the rain, the



Colorado Valley Banquet workers.



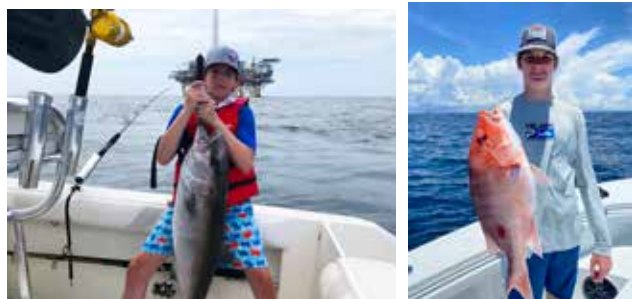
Rusty Kubena, Kenneth LeFrance, Frank Craddock did well for Colorado Valley in the ICC this year.

Doug's Plumbing-towel sponsors; and Oviedo Auto Group-bag sponsor. We wish to thank our banquet program sponsors which include **Heany Group, Pease Custom Floors, Round Top State Bank, Generations Wealth Advisors, Micah Oliver-Edward Jones, Smithville VFW Post 1309, Smithville Heating and Air, SCT Wireless Broadband, and Tri-County Realty**. Our chapter also appreciates the generous donations from **Brown Distributing Bud Light**.

The Knights of Columbus group again prepared and served another delicious Ribeye Steak and Shrimp meal for all to enjoy. We would also like to thank all our returning table purchasers along with the new table buyers we had the pleasure to serve. We need to mention some of our many donors who helped make our evening a success including **Academy Sports, Barry and Melissa Shepard, Brown Distributing, Engel Coolers, HEB, LaGrange ISD, La Petite Gourmet, Prosperity Bank, Rebecca Creek Whiskey, Rhineland Cutlery, Richard Schmidt Jewelry and Design, Smithville ISD, Tito's Vodka, and Old World Antieks**.

Tails and Scales Fish camp (Eric Rogers and Stephen Bratcher) along with **CEN-TEX Marine** donated a terrific 20th anniversary fire pit for the live auction, so many thanks to **Eric and Stephen**. We also would like to again thank our Captain's Table buyer **Oeltjen, Schovajsa & Klesel, LLP** for their dedication and support to our chapter. We are looking forward to our next banquet to celebrate our

Young Dallas anglers scored bigtime. Clockwise:
Landon Resnansky, Moxie Rig Venice, LA. Amberjack, safely CPRd. Carter Haggar, First Red Snapper Seaside, FL. Landon and Braden Resnansky Venice, LA. Cannon Scherer, First Mahi East Cape Baja. Fisher Gordon, Lower Provo River, UT.



fishing has been outstanding on our end. We hope that you have had a chance to spend some time on the water with your family and friends. We have set a date and location for our annual banquet and after missing last years, we are all excited to be able to have it. **The GTC banquet will be on the night of October 7th at the Civic Center in Beaumont.** We will have food, drinks and plenty of prizes and games at our event. If you would like to purchase a table, reach out to **Drew Adams** at dad-ams@cca.org. We are looking to seeing everyone for a fun filled night! Until then, be sure to grab the family and head outside and enjoy the resources.

Greater Sugar Land
John Breland 281-808-2969
geauxingfishing@yahoo.com
It's not too early to save the date for Thursday, March 31, 2022 for our next banquet to be held at The Stafford Centre.
 The Greater Sugar Land CCA Chapter is

excited about getting back out and hosting some of our annual events like our Kid Fish Projects. On Saturday, September 25, we are partnering up with Missouri City and hosting a Kid Fish event at the Community Park. All Greater Sugar Land CCA Members are invited out to help volunteer.

If you know a neighborhood in the Greater Sugar Land area that would like to participate, please let us know. Stay tuned for more information on these events as they start to develop. Our next general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 8** and we are in the process of planning this meeting to be **an Anglers' Night**

can always follow us on [Facebook at CCA Texas Greater Sugar Land Chapter](#). La Les La Bon Temps Rouille and Geaux Fish!

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

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

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

Hope everyone has been doing well in the Heart of the Hills. Chapter members participated in the CCA Inter Chapter Challenge Fishing Tournament in Rockport in June. We all had a great time at the Friday



Heart of the Hills committee: L-R Marshall Plummer, Randy Plummer, Elli Plummer, Kelly Parks, Lisa Parks, Emily Parks, Katie Parks, Josh Criddle

Out with exciting information forthcoming. We encourage you to come join us and bring a friend. Our annual President's Cup Fishing Tournament in Sar- gent is scheduled for Saturday, 18th. You

evening meal catered by Cajun Country Cookers and Marshall Plummer won a Yeti Roadie door prize. Fishing for reds started out slow on Saturday, but picked up during the afternoon when Lisa, Emily and Katie Parks (guided by Kelly Parks and



Greater Sugar Land: The Night before the President's Cup fishing tournament

Josh Criddle) got into some solid redfish. They ended up with 5 reds totaling 126" (Catch-Photo-Release) and brought home 3rd place for the Heart of the Hills team. Thanks to CCA for putting on this fun event for chapter volunteers!

The chapter is preparing for our **Annual Banquet at Don Strange Ranch at 6pm on Thursday, September 16, 2021**. Cajun Country Cookers will be boiling shrimp and we will have plenty of cold beverages. Come prepared to participate in the Live Auction and our awesome raffles. Bull Red Sponsor Tables for 10 people are \$1000, Trophy Trout reserved tables for 10 people are \$800 and Individual Tickets are \$60. Call **Kelly** at 210-669-3732 or the CCA office at 713-626-4222 for ticket information. We look forward to seeing you in September!

Helotes

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

Howdy CCA Helotes chapter members. This chapter is always busy and not just during banquet season.

On July 28, we presented **Bobby J's** with a token of our appreciation, a big metal CCA sign for them to hang in their restaurant. Look for it soon. They have hosted us for nearly every single chapter meeting since we started the chapter. Thank you, **Bobby J's, Old Fashioned Hamburg-ers** for your continued hospitality.

We have plans to have an entry once again in the 2021 Cowboy Christmas Parade. This year it's on December 11, 2021, at 7pm. Come be a part or look for us in the parade. If you haven't been to this parade with your family, you're missing out on some great small-town Helotes culture.

Reminder- Our 2022 fundraiser banquet will once again be held at Pedrotti's Ranch on March 24. Save the date. Tickets will go on sale starting at the end of this year and will certainly sell out fast. You can get on our early-bird ticket list by contacting one of our board members or messaging us on Facebook to ensure a spot beginning in December. There are also some great opportunities for sponsorships. Please contact the chapter for details.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and take a kid fishing, it will put a smile on their face and yours.

Hill Country

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Houston Homebuilders
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Houston Real Estate
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KLaguarda@landadvisors.com

Katy

Gary Mancini 281-850-2212
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Laredo

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Lee County

Jake Horne 979-540-6117
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Live Oak

Taylor Kotrla 979-732-7265
taylorkotrla@hotmail.com

Lower Colorado

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On Friday, August 6, the Lower Colorado Chapter returned to its annual tradition of putting on a spectacular banquet and auction. It was a sell out! There were more sponsors and guests than ever before. We want to thank all the CCA members current and new that came out to join in the fun. There was lots of food and drink along with lively bidding in the auctions. Big winners took home some great trips and other goodies. We want to especially thank all our sponsors, donors and volunteers who helped make this such a successful event. Our Platinum sponsors, **Gulf Coastal ACE Hardware, LLC** (who is our Guides Cup Sponsor), **HEB, Boggy Bend Wildwings, Busha Boat Works** and ever present **Bill VonGoten** along with the up and coming **Matagorda Bay Distillery** had the best seats in the house.

Bidding got lively amongst our Gold sponsors, **Texas Trio, KM&L LLC, Triangle Turf, Capital Farm Credit, Wayne's Bait Camp, McAda, Matagorda Tackle Shop, Anthony's Auto Werx, Texas Farm Bureau Ins. RnR Septic, Colorado River Land Trust** and the folks from **Phillips 66**. But not to be out done in the action were our Bronze sponsors.

Though our banquet may be over till next year, inside chapter activity planning continues with monthly meetings. We have the October Guides Cup Tournament happening and a future Kids Fish in the works. More interested volunteers are needed so please contact **Stephen Zapalac** szapalac@ykc.com or **Blake Burnside** burnside@ccatexas.org to join in.

Till next time, the Lower Colorado Chapter continues to represent all of Matagorda County's Rivers, Creeks and Bays.

Lower Laguna Madre
Oscar Garcia 956-491-8148
oscar@shallowspportboats.com

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

Matagorda Bays

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

Greetings from the Matagorda Bays Chapter! On June 24, we held our first in-person banquet since summer 2019 and the night went off with out a hitch. The banquet was the most successful in our chapter's history, setting fundraising records for conservation that will be tough to beat or repeat.

None of this success could have been achieved without our dedicated and generous boat sponsors, table sponsors, hat & tumbler sponsors, chapter members, and the communities that our chapter serves.

The Matagorda Bays Board Members, as usual, brought their A-game to this year's event and I would like to thank all of them for their work ethic, dedication, and passion for conserving our Texas coast. Again, a BIG thank you going out to this year's boat sponsors; **POLASEK CONSTRUCTION INC., SUTTON WEALTH MANAGEMENT, CHRIS'S MARINE & HAYNIE BOATS, COASTLINE TRAILERS, MERCURY OUTBOARDS, DMR SERVICES - CUSTOM ALUMINUM.**

Our 2021 Boat Raffle Prize winners are listed below.

JAIME BURES is the winner of the 2021 Haynie 25 Magnum w/ 400 HP Mercury Verado on a Coastline trailer. **GARY SAHA** - Texas Lifetime Resident Combo Hunting & Fishing license. **JAMES MCADA** - CCA Life Membership (and custom CCA 6.5 Creedmore vanguard weatherboard rifle) **TUCKER KORENEK** - Waterloo Rod & Lews Reel. **SARAH HAJOVSKY** - CCA Framed print.

Matagorda Bays - Conservation Quote:
"Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance."
— **Theodore Roosevelt**

Please visit our [Facebook page](#) and [chapter webpage](#) on the CCA Texas website for all chapter 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

Happy summer, fellow coastal conservationists! The Mid Coast Chapter hosted our annual banquet on May 20th at Spring Creek Event Center in Victoria. This was the first time we held our banquet at this venue and it was a sell-out crowd! Thanks to all our volunteers and sponsors and supporters for making this a successful event! We hope to continue changing up our banquet in future years based on feedback from this year's event. We are in



2021 Matagorda Bays Chapter Board Members w/ Haynie 25 Magnum. Below, the 2021 Matagorda Bays Banquet Hall.



Mid coast chapter Vice President Mike Brawner with a 26" speckled trout released back into Aransas Bay.



Mid coast chapter Vice President Mark Saddler with a beautiful 29" speckled trout released back into Matagorda Bay.

the rebuilding mode here at Mid Coast and are looking to host some upcoming events where our local members can meet our board and hopefully decide to step up and be a part in the future.

We will be participating in the **2nd annual Port O' Connor shorelines cleanup** organized by the **San Antonio Bay Partnership** on September 18th. Boats, kayaks, and volunteers are needed. Sign-up now by advising **Allan Berger** of your Team and your preferred area. If you have a boat and need crew, Allan will match volunteers to your boat. Please email allanberger@outlook.com to confirm your participation. Planning is underway for Lunch. Volunteer gifts of either a POC Bay RAT water bottle or a POC Bay Rat T-shirt have been ordered. See Details of program at Cleanup Plan 2021 on SABayPartnership.org. It will be fun and rewarding!

Stay tuned by watching our [FaceBook page](#) and the [CCA website](#). We need CCA now more than ever as our fishery recovers from the 2021 freeze event! Please practice conservation while you are out on the water and practice catch and release!

Northeast Houston
Jason Law 713-898-8594
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Northwest Houston
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sziy@sbcglobal.net

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

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

It is right around the corner, don't miss this event, mark your calendars, set reminders on your phones....let's do this!

Our 4th Annual Chapter Banquet Friday Au-gust 13th, 2021 at 6pm in the Bauer Community Center here in Port Lavaca. Gather up your friends and family for the CCA fundraising fun. We still have some tables available and also individual tickets left. Don't miss out on the chance to win big and help to save what we all love to do so much, fishing. For ticket or table purchases please email: Blake Burnside: bburnside@ccatexas.org

Come on out and support more smiles like this one. I look forward to seeing everyone soon!

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

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



Great Photo from Port Lavaca chapter: *Easton's first red snapper this season and a great way to preserve the memory with the gyo-taku art print.*

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

The Redfish Bay Chapter continues to support CCA conservation efforts in Texas. A special thanks to parents who brought their young fisherpersons to the Take a Kid Fishing event on June 4 and 5. As usual, we had a great time! **Glenn Martin** of Woody's Sports Center is always the driving force on this event! Thank you to the Texas Game Wardens for participating, and taking kids fishing. Mark your calendars for 2022 on the first weekend in June.

Our Banquet is on July 31, and may be over by the time you receive this, but we always have a great time. **Chris Marine** was our Title Sponsor as usual, and I am so glad that we have a Title Sponsor that we can count on year after year. Thank you to our Houston support staff, the Redfish Bay Chapter Board, supporters, donors, and attendees!

Our Beeville Fish Fry will be in the fall. We usually plan for the Thursday before dove season. More info to follow. Call me if you have questions at 361-790-2748.

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

Sabine-Neches
Darin Johnson 409-790-9855
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Sam Houston
Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908
bkolaja@huntsvilletx.gov

Well, it's that time of year and we are excited to host this year's banquet. We are gearing up for bigger and better due to being unable to have an event last year. You will not want to miss this event. It will be held **Thursday, September 2, 2021 at the Walker County Fairgrounds**. This will be a great chance to gather with friends and show your support for our organization. As always there will be a great meal, and plenty of cold beverages. We will also have live/silent auctions and plenty of chances to win coolers, guns, rods/reels, and some great trips. Please contact us for tickets and sponsorship opportunities.

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

Here we are. CCA San Antonio banquet time, 6pm August 5th. I walk into the Freeman Expo hall and I smell the Tomahawk Ribeye Tacos and Oysters "Louie" sauteed in butter. I hear the sound of laughing and lively conversation. I see the decorated tables celebrating our coastal values. Along the walls are the various items that lucky supporters will be taking home. The huge screens are showing photos of past trips, and previewing tonight's auction items. It looks like old times, and as this CURRENTS goes to press, there may be time for you to be a part of it.

A thank you to our sponsors including Gulf Coast Marine, Groomer's Seafood, Don Strange Catering and Events, Maximum Altitude, Silver Eagle Beverages, Frost Bank, Tito's Handmade Vodka, Academy Sports and Outdoors, HEB, Twin Liquors Fine Wine & Spirits, TG Canoes and Kayaks, Boone Dox trailers. Please be safe. Keep those lines taut, take the family fishing. Best from our CCA Fam-ily to yours!

San Bernard
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San Gabriel
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Southwestern
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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

Greetings. By the time this reaches everyone, **our banquet will be back and very soon. On Friday the 13th of August**, we're betting we'll be lucky enough to have a huge turnout as we continue to move

back to more normal times. After our last Banquet in 2019, we decided fortunately and unfortunately, we had outgrown our venue for the last five years. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Nuevo Leon in Baytown for all the great times. If you were at the back of the hall back in 2019, you will surely agree, it was time for a change. Last year, before COVID, we had already scouted out a new location we liked. We are moving to **Armenta's Reception Hall at 825 Sheldon Road, Channelview, TX 77530**. We will have ample room to make everyone comfortable. Also, after twenty plus years of Cajun boiled shrimp, we are also going to change the menu to fajitas. Boatloads of gratitude goes out to returning and new sponsors this year. So, if you haven't secured your tickets or bought that table, the clock is ticking. Call the office or call me, and we'll get you hooked up (see how I worked that in:) Until next time, good luck and good fishing. Audios.

Trinity Valley
John Hebert Jr 936-334-2528
jjhebert@imsday.com

West Houston
Ruben Delgadillo 281-808-1434
ruben@liftpull.com

West Houston CCA board member, Branon Pesnell, and his two sons Carter (16) and Caplan (13) went fishing in Key West for tarpon with Key West Pro Guides. Capt. Dave, Capt. David and Capt. Tyler were awesome guides. Success! Great father-son trip with Damon Parker, Grey Parker, Nils-son Stokes, Grady Stokes, Miller Stokes and Harvey Pesnell.



West Houston tarpon action.

West Texas
Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499
Craig@McDonnold.net



West Houston chapter members had a fine trip to Key West. Thanks to Harvey Pesnell for some Great Action Photos. The Photo Editor especially liked the Selfie photo at the end.

Gulf Identification Guide



Grouper



Tito's All-Time Favorite



Mahi-Mahi



Tito's Martini



Red Drum



Hair of the Dog



Speckled Trout



Tito's Salty Dog



Flounder



Tito's Screwdriver



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



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RELEASE 'EM.
PASS IT ON.**

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Upper Coast Capt. Glenn Hammond

Tri-Bay Area: salty business as usual

Late summer rains have led to unusual events in this area. That is, as rain from North and Central Texas eventually finds its way to the Gulf of Mexico, all the rivers and tributaries flow strong with fresh water. The Brazos, Colorado, San Bernard and Oyster Creek rivers and tributaries have just begun to recede at the end of July.

The damage in the area has taken its toll on local bait camps and businesses, as the lack of salt in the water made it really tough to keep bait alive. As the shrimp boats pulled their nets in, whatever they brought in either died in the nets or in the tanks at the bait camps due to all the fresh water. Salt water had to be trailered or brought in from other areas. Live bait at the end of July was still in short supply. Hello, artificials!

Only recently has fishing in the Tri-Bay area started picking up. With less rain and lighter winds, water conditions are improving. Bay temps ranged from 85-88 degrees on recent trips. Fish have been located in the bays most of the summer as water temp slowly climbed. As August gets underway, deeper channels and bays are still places to concentrate on.

As fall eases in, winds lighten up, water clears, birds work over migrating shrimp. After the shrimp are gone it's time to break out the artificial bait, if you haven't done so already. Concentration on ditches and drains this time of year could be very successful for trout, reds and flounder.

Please practice catch and release, and of course always get a photo before returning fish to the water. Take a youngster fishing—they are part of the resource. And, take care of all baby fish, our future resource.

My fishing reports can be heard on The Outdoor Show, 610am radio. Live reports between 4-4:15am, or podcast the show (audacy.com/sportsradio610) Tight lines and heavy stringers.—
Capt. Glenn (the Hammer) Hammond 713-208-0683

Middle Coast Capt. Chuck Naiser

A "tail" of two seasons

August brings a myriad of challenges to the middle Texas coast – the doldrums of Summer, punctuated by unscheduled water level changes brought forward by tropical influences. The heat and stagnation of summer water will cause grass fragments to float and the water to lose its clarity. The early bird fisherman will get the best of it.

Lower water levels bring elevated water temperatures into focus. These temperatures can dramatically affect the survival of released fish if you are practicing Catch and Release. Get the fish into your hand quickly and spend a little extra time reviving it before release. It is always a good sign when a fish blesses you with a splash or two of water on your glasses.

Tropical systems, while temporarily interrupting your fishing, can bring a lot of energy into the coastal bend waters. Flood tides will accompany those systems causing prolonged changes to your fishing spots. The incoming water will bring fresh, cooler water into the otherwise stagnant pools of the tidal lakes. My theory is that game fish move into the current, and bait fish move with the current. Make that a consideration in your routine.

The best fishing in the barrier islands will be when the water level readjusts following the passage of a system. Wait for it! Fish will relocate into the shallows. When water comes in, fish go deep...water goes out, fish stay shallow.

September brings the gateway to fall. September 22 is the Autumnal Equinox in 2021, ending the summer pattern. Tidal influences are stronger on a daily basis, the days are getting shorter, and water temperatures are moderating. We will still have the potential for tropical influence. The bottom line to all of this is to find the current, then fish the changes in water level. I don't care what you use for bait – it's current, current, current. The commercial fishermen caught them on oleander leaves, plastic tape, and cranberries on their trot lines. The best bait of all is one moving through the water. Pitch and roll my friends! —**Capt. Chuck Naiser**

Chuck was one of the early GCCA founders. A dedicated fly fishing guide, he loves the flats all year-round.
361-230-9392 info@flatsworthy.com

Lower Coast Capt. Mike McBride

Manage your expectations

August greetings from the Lower Laguna Madre, where sunscreen and water are essential. Let's consider a few things to help put a 'cooler' factor into the next couple of months. The freeze took a huge percentage of our speckled trout, but it may be akin to a forest fire, where everything comes back greener than remembered. Our world class fishery will rebound, as it always does.

Reds will be the mainstay game for now. The three-fish trout limit, from 17" to 23", will prevail until decided otherwise. It's important to use discretion during this interim. Big trout are indeed survivors, so a few years from now we may have the best big trout fishery we've seen for awhile. The beachfront appears to be enjoying one heck of a surf run. The surf, especially near the jetties, has been holding excellent numbers of larger redfish. It's this writers' suspicion that many fish were displaced to the Gulf during the freeze and just haven't come home yet.

September will be along. Temperature and things will change with Fall bull tides, but the best opportunities will come from longer boat rides, both North and South. Perhaps as the Fall Equinox approaches and tides bull up to a 'High-High,' more will follow. Example—the recent dredging operations took us to 22' deep from the Gulf to the Harbor, with glaring visible effects. Our ever-expanding RGV reef, a mere seven miles off the beach, is within easy reach of many bay boats. Snapper, kingfish, Spanish mackerel, showering schools of bonito...the Continental Shelf is closer to our beach than any other place in Texas.

We need to manage our expectations, especially concerning trout, re-think our strategies and even our perceptions as to what fishing is all about in the first place. —**Capt. Mike McBride**
956-746-6041. Ed. Note: Cap'n Mike is known by many LLM fishermen as Mike McTrout.



Daybreak wade near Coast Guard Flats. Bob Brumby, Blake and Kelly Harris, Chester and Chris Smisek. Olympus TG-5, Sam Caldwell

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Fish Everywhere!

As we near the close of this year's STAR, one thing is certain: we can be proud that our fellow CCA members embraced the new Catch-Clip-Release format that just had to happen. On the heels of the February fish-killing freeze, we honored our CCA mission to make sure that the fish come first—no matter what it takes. Give yourselves a pat on the back. We all had to be unusually nimble to create a new tournament deserving of our cherished STAR anglers.

Even more meaningful for our precious Texas coastal waters, many other local tournaments threw in to join CCA by going to catch and release formats, with thousands of anglers laying off the affected species, especially trout. Each of us plays an essential part in making sure our fisheries have the chance to reload as soon as possible. Never has an angler base responded to such trauma so quickly, and proactively. Please take a bow—we sacrificed by choice, not by mandate. And we will reap the dividends.

The field-test in STAR is almost over, and thanks to each of you, our first "cast" in the new structure hit pay dirt for more anglers than ever. At this writing 33 tagged fish have been caught. Over 14 claims have been made on trucks, boats, scholarships and gift cards. Once we have the benefit of seeing what the next round of TPWD net-sampling surveys show, we will evaluate the status of all STAR fish populations and start planning STAR '22. We know many anglers miss the competition in the inshore species. We listen. YOU are the reason why this is such a fun wholesome family event. Again, thank you for supporting our effort to redirect nature's fury into a conservation success story!



Randall Laurrell became the first winner in Texas Ford Dealers Red Tag Division.

STAR has also been blessed this year with the distribution of catches across the coast. There have been tagged reds caught from Sabine Lake, the southern reaches of the Lower Laguna Madre, and every major port area in between. Below are just a few of the stories from some of this year's lucky anglers!

Patrick Fisher of Cypress: Patrick caught his new 19 Shoalwater Cat, Mercury motor, and McClain trailer in the Green Tag Division, thanks to a thunderstorm. During a family getaway he made the call to sleep in instead of taking the boat out in the morning storms. Luckily for him, his desire to fish was still strong and decided he would head down to the dock and try to at least catch something. Catch something he did!

Randall Laurrell of Port

Aransas: Randall became the first winner in Texas Ford Dealers Red Tag Division. Here is the story as told by the angler: "Two years ago, my Dad's best friend gave me a 1980

model 14 foot Alumacraft with a 10 horse motor that he inherited from his Dad. That was the start of the adventures of the tiny, but mighty fishing vessel in Port Aransas. My wife Amy and I spend as much time fishing as we can, we love it. Last summer, my Dad suddenly passed away from cancer. After he passed, I got busy with work and life. I still went fishing every chance I could, but it was hard not having him to call every day to report my daily catch.

Everybody always jokes with me and my wife about being careful so we don't die every time we take the boat out, so I have been boat shopping for a while, just never could find the exact one I wanted. Two weeks ago, my Step-Mom told me the boat I needed would "fall from the sky when it was the right time." Friday, I had to come home from work early to meet a repair man at the house, my daughter Lyndy and her boyfriend Wyatt came down to visit. As soon as the repairman left, Wyatt insisted we needed to go fishing NOW, so we did. We left the house around 3 pm, got on the water and ready to fish around 3:30. It only took a couple casts and I caught the fish of a lifetime. I was so excited, my stepmom was right—it was all falling into place.

"Now I will have a boat big enough for the whole family and friends to take fishing and I have God to thank for it all. Thank you CCA, Texas Ford, Haynie, Coastline and Mercury for such a generous donation of a grand prize."

Andrew McRay of Pearland, age 15: Andrew made history in the newly formed STAR Youth Scholarship Division. Andrew will be the recipient of a \$30,000 scholarship, sponsored by Academy Sports + Outdoors, adding to the total STAR scholarships of \$7,150,00 given to date. With the McRay family boat in shop, Andrew convinced his mom to drop him off with Captain Jason Bartlett for an afternoon of fishing. After trying a couple spots they ended up on a popular Galveston area shoreline. Andrews first cast at the new spot proved to be a \$30,000 cast.

Heath Henderson of Spring Branch:

Heath caught his new Ford F-150, 23' Haynie boat, Mercury motor, and Coastline trailer while fishing in the Upper Laguna Madre with Captain Adam Doelle. Many STAR anglers try to 'call their shot' when it comes to catching a tagged red. Well, Heath did exactly that with both Captain Doelle and the other anglers with them the day before.





Heath Henderson: a new Ford F-150, 23' Haynie boat, Mercury motor, and Coastline trailer for a red-tagged CPR



Ellen Stacy is a winner in the CCA Texas STAR Blue Tag Division.



Ellen Stacy of San Antonio: Ellen is a winner in the CCA Texas STAR next Blue Tag Division! "I've been fishing with my dad in Rockport my whole life. I was in town for the day and he took me to this spot that he swears

by even though the heavy rains seemed to slow the bite the last few days. He's been fishing the CCA Star Tournament for years and has both seen and heard of people not registering then catching a fish and being unable to enter it so he insisted my sister, girlfriend, and I all register before going out. We hadn't caught anything of keeping size all morning, it was hot, and we were supposed to be leaving soon, so I took a single shrimp to a corner that I had a good feeling about and threw my line in. Within two casts, I had a bite and knew it was a big Red immediately. I was excited enough to just have caught my first keeper of the day, but when I landed the fish, I saw the blue tag and started yelling "It has a tag! I got a tag!" We always make the most of even short trips out together, but this takes that to another level. So grateful my dad took me out and we got to share this experience!"

Jeffrey Hain of Aransas Pass: Mr. Hain decided he would just drive to one of his favorite easy access fishing spots instead of taking his kayak out for the day. Well it didn't take long for him to hook into what he thought was just a nice fish, and then he saw the tag. Mr. Hain was able to make his way to a spot where he could safely bring the fish ashore, remove the tag, and release the fish. STAR staff informed Mr. Hain that pending an upcoming polygraph, he would be the fourth Blue Tag Division winner and receive a \$750 Academy Sports + Outdoors gift card. However, this was not the end of Jeffrey Hain's quest in the CCA Texas STAR Tournament. The very next day, Mr. Hain did it again with a second tagged redfish! Luckily for him, this one had a green tag and netted him a brand new 19' Shoalwater Cat, Mercury motor, and McClain trailer package. Who says that lightning doesn't strike twice?



Alan Radwanski: a 19' Shoalwater Cat, Mercury motor, and McClain trailer package.

Alan Radwanski of Pearland: Alan was trying to salvage a day of fishing in the Chocolate Bayou area while he made his way back to the boat ramp after having some engine troubles. He noticed a spot that looked to have all the elements necessary to hold fish that he had learned about in the popular show [Bite Me ... Saltwater Fishing Podcast](#). "This isn't a spot I normally fish but seemed like a good location given the incoming tide and East wind." Alan's listening skills proved to be right on point as it netted him a new 19' Shoalwater Cat, Mercury motor, and McClain trailer package.

Kavin Vann: Kavin is one of many winners in the Green tag Division. "Where do I start, it was by chance that this fishing trip even happened! My brother lives in Glen Rose so we plan a week long fishing trip on the coast every summer and we had already done that back in May so I was surprised when he said he had a job in the area and would have a few days to fish af-

terwards. So we hooked up the old Allweld and headed to the Texas City Dike. We had been at it for about 3 hours and just about out of shrimp and had some sand trout, croaker, and a nice flounder in the ice chest and were thinking about calling it a day or getting some more shrimp. Now we always talk about catching a tagged red and always say this is the trip we get it done but it's never happened, until now!!! My cork disappeared I reeled up the slack and set the hook and the freight train took off, now at the time a tagged red wasn't on our minds only getting this fish in the boat, so in the dip net it went and down on the top of the ice chest it set, that's when both of us saw the green tag and we stared at each other for a few seconds and I said holy crap I'm not believing what I'm seeing then the high fives and the celebration started"

Aaron Lueckemeyer of Meyersville: Aaron and his brother woke up at 4:30 am to hopefully get an early start out on the bay for a day of fishing in the Lavaca Bay area. After catching a few fish, Aaron's brother started to feel ill and laid down on the boat. Despite feeling ill, he told Aaron to keep fishing. Concerned for his brother, Aaron said "if I catch a tagged redfish we'll go in." Well that is exactly what they did!

Be sure to keep following STAR until the end! As you know, any unclaimed prizes in the Blue, Green and STAR Youth Divisions, will be awarded via drawing at the end of the tournament. For \$10, your child could win one of nine unclaimed \$30,000 scholarships!

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](http://www.startournament.org).



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.



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For more information, go to www.startournament.org. Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament!

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Barbecue Crabs, ala Hewitt

Clean the crabs, remove the claws and shell, cut off the legs, remove the gills, face and all of the apron and guts. Rinse well. Set the claws aside to boil.

Put the cleaned bodies in a pan and pour Italian dressing over them. Marinate in the refrigerator for at least an hour. I usually leave them overnight, stirring every so often to make sure they all get dressing evenly distributed.

Get the grill good and hot and lay out the bodies with the smooth side down first. Grill for 10 minutes until the underside starts to get some brown grill marks. Turn them over and grill for 10 more minutes until they start to get lightly browned. You will notice that the meat is white now and that means they are done. Remove and cover with foil for 10 min.



They are ready to eat when cool enough to handle. I usually break in half and use scissors to cut the leg joints off, then break the body into segments. Enjoy!

Great Recipes Editor, Liz Hewitt

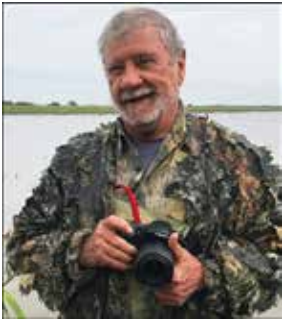
Outdoor Book Signing Indoors

Debuting at Rainbow Lodge, Houston:
two books for the outdoor person in each of us.

The Trip, by Sam Caldwell / The Lost Rider & Friends by Herman Brune

Sam Caldwell's novel was awarded First Place, Outdoor Book by the Texas Outdoor Writer's Association. The writer has two award-winning books to his credit but is also known to Rainbow Lodge devotees as Texas State Artist, 2004 and has numerous paintings gracing Rainbow Lodge walls. The book is enhanced by the art of four of Texas finest outdoor artists; Al Barnes, Herb Booth, Ben Kocian and Sam Caldwell. Caldwell said of The Trip: "Seven Houston outdoorsman travel to the hunting of South Texas and the fishing of Mexican beaches. Six return."

Herman Brune's collection of adventures is the third in a series. Home base for Herman is the Brune Land and Cattle Company ranch near Columbus, Texas. His stories encompass his childhood of the yaupon thickets of Colorado County and the wild country of Wyoming and Montana, where he guides pack trips for elk. Legendary writer Larry Weishuhn says of Herman; "He's a purveyor of experiences and tales reminiscent of literary greats Russell Anabel, Robert Ruark and the wit of Patrick McManus."



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An advertisement for Rebecca Creek Fine Texas Blended Whiskey. The background is dark blue with a large, detailed illustration of a fish. On the right is a bottle of the whiskey with a red ribbon tied around the neck. The text "IT'S A KEEPER" is prominently displayed in large, white, block letters. Below it, in smaller white text, is "THE GIFT THAT'S GUARANTEED TO MAKE A SPLASH THIS HOLIDAY SEASON." At the bottom left, it says "FINE-TUNED WHISKEY". At the bottom right, it says "PROUD OFFICIAL SPONSOR" above the "CCA TEXAS" logo. At the very bottom, in small white text, is "DRINK RESPONSIBLY • MUST BE 21 TO PURCHASE • DISTILLED IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY • REBECCACREEKWHISKEY.COM" followed by social media icons.

Drop by the Rebecca Creek Distillery website at rebeccacreekdistillery.com



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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



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