

# CURRENTS

December 2021 / January 2022



*Mid Coast Vice President Mark Saddler returns a flounder for further duty.*



# Reflecting on 2021

As our year comes to an end, it is important to reflect and assess our results as an organization. What could we have done better this year and what do we need to do to improve next year?

With all the challenges we overcame these last two years, what really stands out above everything else is the incredible support we received from YOU, our loyal members, volunteers and sponsors. Through hard work and dedication, CCA Texas has experienced tremendous growth in recent years.

This growth has resulted from more conservation-minded anglers joining CCA and our members attending their local chapter banquets, making donations and upgrading to become life members. Additionally, more companies have signed on to become sponsors and partners in conservation.

In good times organizations will grow and succeed. CCA is no different. However, when times get tough, as they did over the last two years with COVID-19, it will test the fabric and business models of every organization.

Not only was CCA Texas able to navigate through this incredibly challenging event, but I'm proud to say we are going to end our 2021 season with the BEST fundraising year the organization has ever had.

We would like to thank you for doing your part to help CCA Texas successfully get through these unprecedented times. It is truly a testament to the strength of our amazing organization.

We are looking forward to an even better 2022 and we hope to see you at one of our events soon.

Have a great holiday season! —**Robby Byers**

*Executive Director, CCA Texas*



## ADVOCACY

# Oyster Fishery Decline Addressed

**Conservation  
Organizations Join  
CCA Texas and  
FlatsWorthy to Address  
Critical Concerns Over  
Continued Decline  
of Oyster Fishery**

*By Shane Bonnot  
Advocacy Director*

**C**CA Texas, FlatsWorthy and numerous committed conservation groups took an important first step in addressing critical concerns with the **continued decline of public oyster reefs** in a letter to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. The letter is the beginning of a broader and crucial dialogue necessary to:

- Prioritize the **structural** value of reefs
- Prioritize the **ecological** value of reefs
- Provide opportunities to **safeguard** more reef systems
- Provide opportunities to **create** more reef systems

Our letter was complimented by supporting documentation from oyster reef ecologist and restoration expert,



*Photos by Texas Parks & Wildlife Wardens*

Dr. Jennifer Pollack of the Harte Research Institute, which you can find by [clicking here](#).

**Here is the full letter:**

**November 11, 2021**

**The Honorable Arch H. "Beaver"  
Aplin, III, Chairman  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Commis-  
sion**

**4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, Texas 78744**

**Dear Chairman Aplin,**

There is shared concern by the undersigned organizations for the condition of public oyster reefs along the Texas Coast. Having personally witnessed excessive loss of reefs in Galveston Bay, Matagorda Bay, San Antonio Bay, Mesquite Bay, Carlos Bay, Aransas Bay and Copano Bay, our groups can attest that previously wadable reefs are now inaccessible.

Reefs that once offered sanctuary for shore birds no longer breach the water's surface. Additionally, reefs that used to protect shorelines from erosion are no longer high enough to absorb wave energy across the bays. Numerous personal accounts and scientific justification for oyster reef ecological value have warranted a closer examination and perhaps alternate management strategies for this fishery.



*Photo By Kara Thompson*





*A massive oyster reef protects a Texas shoreline. Photo By Kara Thompson*

We strongly encourage Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to recognize the ecological and structural value of public reefs and consider establishing management criteria which is congruent with oyster reef ecology and morphology. In doing so, we ask TPWD to consider incorporating metrics for reef depth and vertical relief in harvest status of public reefs.

We also ask TPWD to consider identifying a network of living reefs in multiple bays systems that can be permanently prohibited from commercial harvest, serving as sanctuary reefs for their respective bay systems. There is undeniable scientific justification for designating sanctuary oyster reefs for the services they provide, including, but not limited to, being a seed source for adjacent reefs, serving as habitat for hundreds of aquatic species, providing recreational fishing opportunities and offering other numerous ecosystem services with ecological benefits far greater than the harvest value. Furthermore, these structures are critical in determining current, acting as baffles slowing water surges and stemming shoreline erosion.

Understanding that numerous public reefs have already been dredged to the point where there is no longer suitable substrate to recruit newly settled oyster spat, we believe now is an appropriate time for TPWD to consider developing a dual track lease program – one for purposes of restoration (conservation leases) and one for purposes of commercial operations (commercial lease), both of which could be designated under TPWD's authority in Chapter 76 (certificate of location).

As identified by TPWD in previous discussions, there are over 20,000 acres of suitable bay bottom across bay systems from Sabine Lake to Aransas Bay for lease development. The creation of a conservation lease program will allow NGOs, universities, non-profits, and others to invest in restoration activities in bay systems adjacent to public reefs with the assurance that their investments will be permanently protected from commercial harvest and the newly developed reefs reach their ecological potential.

Development of the commercial lease program (i.e., expansion of the existing certificate of location) would allow commercial operations to invest their resources (shucked oyster shell or suitable cultch) into areas where they have exclusive harvest authority. Akin to terrestrial farming, oyster operators work their leases to ensure a successful crop and employ sustainable practices that promote successful recruitment year after year. When examining these behaviors, compared to harvest practices on the public reef system by commercial fishermen, the contrast in attitudes towards oyster resources is clear.

We appreciate TPWD's efforts to manage our public oyster reefs and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission's (TPWC) actions to ensure the health and prosperity of Texas oyster resources for current and future generations. The fact that our state is one of the last public reef system strongholds is a testament to prior actions taken by the TPWC. While our current system isn't perfect, it has afforded us time to incorporate refined metrics into existing management strategies and provided us with a unique opportunity to expand oyster reef systems through protection,

restoration and leases.

Thank you for your consideration of these alternate management strategies. We remain committed to working with TPWD, coastal stakeholders and commercial oyster operators to ensure that we have a sustainable fishery for generations to come.

**Respectfully,**  
**Coastal Conservation Association**  
**FlatsWorthy**  
**Galveston Bay Foundation**  
**Matagorda Bay Foundation**  
**San Antonio Bay Partnership**

**International Crane Foundation**  
**Western Photography Company**  
**Texas Foundation for Conservation**  
**Backcountry Hunters and Anglers – Texas Chapter**  
**Saltwater Fisheries Enhancement Association**  
**Texas Association of Bass Clubs**  
**San Antonio Metropolitan League of Bass Clubs**  
**Texas Black Bass Unlimited**  
**Safari Club International – Houston Chapter**  
**National Wild Turkey Foundation**  
**Palacios Marine Agriculture Organization**  
**Lone Star Bowhunters Association**



### **Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission considers additional post-freeze management measures for speckled trout recovery**

During the week of February 14th, 2021, the state of Texas experienced extreme winter weather that killed a minimum estimate of 3.8 million fish. Speckled trout were by far the most affected recreational game fish, and in response, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (TPWC) took emergency action on March 24th to temporarily restrict spotted seatrout harvest in the Upper and Lower Laguna Madre for 120 days beginning April 1st, 2021. The new regulations reduced the bag limit to three fish and restricted the harvest size to 17-23 inches. In July, the department extended the emergency rule for an additional 60 days based on an approximately 30 percent reduction in catch rates reported from spring 2021 gill nets. Since the emergency action limits expired September 27th, 2021, the TPWC will consider additional measures at their next meeting (January 26-27, 2022) to help speckled trout stocks recover from the historic freeze event. Visit <https://ccatexas.org/news-events/> for all the latest information on this proposal and *[actions CCA has taken to help stocks recover post-freeze.](#)*

Rapidly responding to the 2021 freeze event, CCA Texas' Board of Directors approved \$152,000 to aid the Sea Center Texas Hatchery in Lake Jackson, Texas and the CCA Marine Development Center in Flour Bluff, Texas to ramp up their production of juvenile speckled trout and redfish.

With these critical funds, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists at Sea Center Texas were able to purchase and install new pond liners for three 1-acre rearing ponds, allowing them to immediately increase critical fingerling production. Additionally, CCA Texas funded the replacement of four vital heat exchangers for the speckled trout brood tank systems at the CCA Marine Development Center to ensure proper temperature control and allow hatchery staff to increase the spawning period and maximize egg production of speckled trout brood stock.

As a result of everyone's focused efforts, the 2021 hatchery production season was an enormous success with TPWD staff releasing over 10 million speckled trout and over 15 million red drum across the Texas coast!



*A post-freeze trout, courtesy of Wade Harrell*

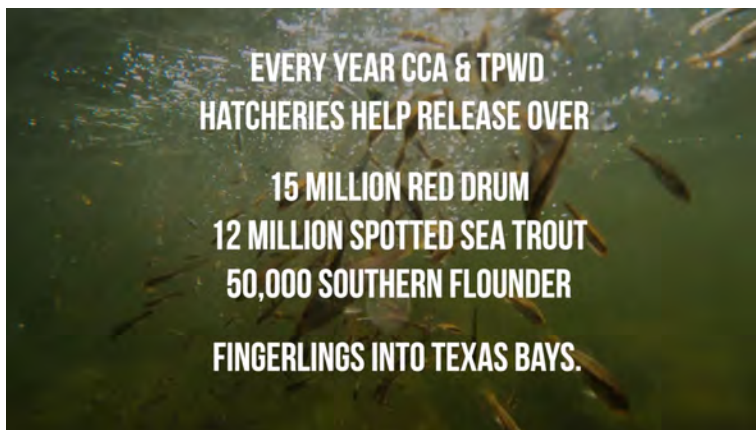


# Putting fingerlings back where fish need to be



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](#)





# HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

CCA Texas and Building Conservation Trust	
Nearshore Reefing Support	
• Sabine Pass HI20 (2021 deployments: Culverts & pyramids)	\$ 906,000
• Rio Grande Valley (2021 deployments: Railroad ties & boats)	\$ 861,000
• Port O'Connor	\$ 700,000
• Galveston Big Man & Kate's (2021 deployments: Pyramids)	\$ 329,000
• HRI Nearshore Reef Enhancement Study	\$ 250,000
• Matagorda	\$ 200,000
• Coprpus Christi	\$ 100,000
• Freeport / Vancouver	\$ 60,000
• Port Mansfield	\$ 50,000
<b>Total contributions to Nearshore Reefing:</b>	<b>\$3,456,000</b>





# 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](mailto:jdblaha@ccatexas.org)





**DID YOU  
KNOW?**



- ★ **Runs May 28- Sept. 5, 2022**
- ★ **Over 120 tagged reds released!**
- ★ **More prizes than ever!**
- ★ **Red and Blue Tags for different prizes**
- ★ **Catch, Clip and Claim Format**  
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.



**SCAN HERE OR VISIT [STARTOURNAMENT.ORG](https://startournament.org) TO SIGN UP!**



CHECK OUT MORE TEXAS STAR TOURNAMENT NEWS AND HAPPENINGS ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM.

**tag.ret**  
/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**





# A Special Gift for New CCA Texas LIFE MEMBERS

brought to you by



WEATHERBY



**OFFER ENDS DECEMBER 15TH!**



CCA logo on  
floorplate

For a limited time a new CCA Texas Life Member (\$1,000 + \$50 shipping) can receive a custom Weatherby Weatherguard 6.5 Creedmoor with a 24" barrel in a tactical grey cerakote finish. MSRP: \$900. Tax deductible amount \$100

## PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Your gun must be picked up from an FFL dealer. Please expect 6-8 weeks for delivery. Guns will ONLY be shipped to addresses in Texas.

You must return this form via email, phone or by mail to the CCA Texas office completely filled out to receive your gift.  
Contact: 713.626.4222 | [lifemember@ccatexas.org](mailto:lifemember@ccatexas.org) (This offer is NOT available online)

## CCA LIFE MEMBER APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ CCA ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Method of Payment (\$1,050.00)

☐ Check

☐ Cash

☐ Visa

☐ MasterCard

☐ Amex

☐ Discover

\_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card Number

\_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ CVV

### PLEASE SHIP MY GUN TO THIS FFL DEALER

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

You can pick up your gun from Johnny's Sports Shop (101 Booth Dr. Eagle Lake, TX) or Academy Sports + Outdoors has agreed to accept the Life Member guns at all Texas stores with no FFL transfer fee. **If you choose to send your gun to a different dealer, YOU MUST send a copy of their FFL with this form.**

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

FFL Dealer \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

CCA Texas | 6919 Portwest Dr., Suite 100 Houston, TX 77024 | [lifemember@ccatexas.org](mailto:lifemember@ccatexas.org) | 713.626.4222



# PARTNERING TO PROTECT OUR COASTS

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

[SHOP NOW](#)





# Caught Redhanded! 🦋 Reports from TP&W Game Wardens

The flounder season was closed, but five fishermen tried to take advantage of flatfish migration to the Gulf.

Note: If someone sees you catch a flounder, regardless of size and you don't return it, it is an obvious violation. —**Ronnie Luster**

On November 11, Galveston Wardens cited five individuals for retaining 18 flounder during the November-flounder closure. The flounder were found to be hidden in their vehicle. Cases pending.



On October 26, Galveston County Game Wardens Ross Sidman, Bobby Kana and Harris County Game Warden Jordan Bagwell filed on three individuals coming in from offshore. The three were in possession of a 24-gallon freezer bag of red snapper and cobia fillets. All three individuals were issued multiple

citations for possessing headed or tailed fish onboard before final destination, as well as landing fish in Texas without a valid Texas Fishing license. The bags of fillets were donated to a local women's shelter. All cases are pending. 🦋







Shop **Smile.Amazon.com** and .5% of the price of your purchases go to **Coastal Conservation Association**.

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

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

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

  
**REPORT  
ILLEGAL  
FISHING!**

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

**REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING IN GULF OF MEXICO:**  
Inside 9 nautical miles – Texas Parks & Wildlife > **800.792.4263**  
Beyond 9 nautical miles – US Coast Guard > **361.939.0450**





# Enjoying Your Digital CURRENTS Newsletter

**C**CA 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 40-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.

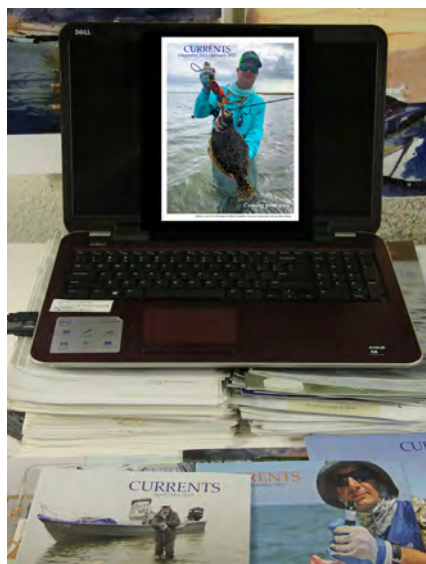
- An e-newsletter can be opened in seconds. Articles can be accessed rapidly. Images can be viewed large. Text can be enlarged for easier reading, blocked, copied and shared. Past issues are a click away on the CCA Texas website.
- A favored article can be forwarded to others, or readily accessed later 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.

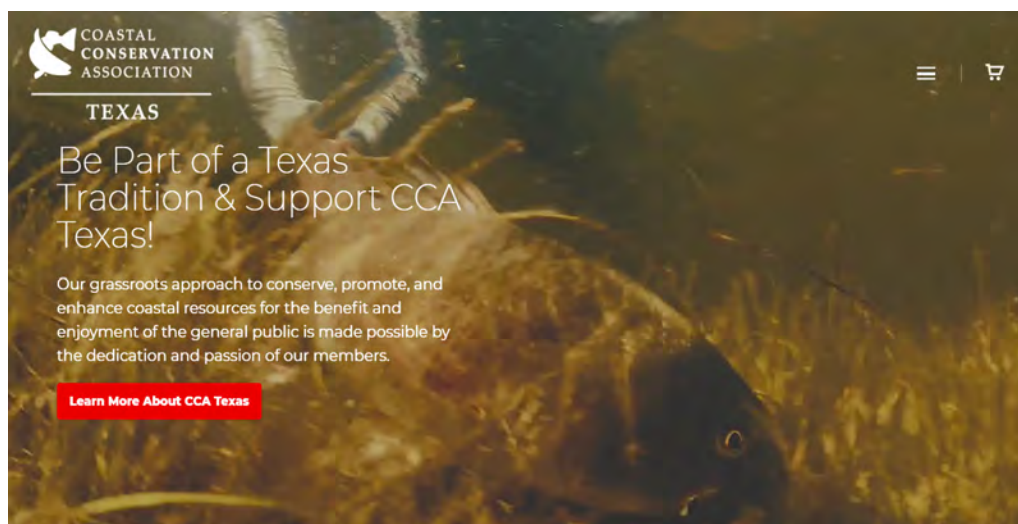
- ***Another big plus—your CURRENTS Newsletter is now as close as your laptop or your cell phone.***



***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](http://ccatexas.org) and bookmark it now.







FOR  
THOSE  
WHO NEED  
WATER  
TO BREATHE



**COSTA**  
SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE

[COSTASUNGLASSES.COM](http://COSTASUNGLASSES.COM)  
AVAILABLE IN PRESCRIPTION

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# Are You Following CCA Texas on Social Media?

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. Recently, our Instagram account reached 13,000 followers! Let's keep pushing by telling your friends and family to follow [@cca\\_texas](#) on Instagram so we can get to 15,000 followers!

Our following is **GROWING FAST**, so join thousands of CCA Texas members around the state by following us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). Every **LIKE** and **FOLLOW** helps.

## FACEBOOK CCA Texas on Facebook



Head over to our CCA Texas Facebook page and LIKE us today to stay informed on all the latest CCA Texas news with special photo and video updates and informative links! LIKE us on Facebook TODAY!  
[@CCATexas](#)

**CCA Texas**  
November 18 at 7:00 AM · 🌐

👋 We have a 🎁 **SPECIAL DEAL** 🎁 for you !

👉 Join, renew or add a year of membership\* AND register for the 2022 CCA Texas STAR Tournament to get... 📄

1 🏆 TWO entries for a chance to win the CCA Texas STAR Early Bird Boat Package – Dargel Skout boat/Mercury motor/McClain trailer combo

2 🏆 TWO sheets of our limited-edition Texas Redfish decals

📄 [Membership.JoinCCA.org](#)

\*Membership must be Standard Level (\$35) or more.

This 🎁 **SPECIAL DEAL** 🎁 **ENDS** on December 17th, so **DO NOT WAIT** 📄

[Membership.JoinCCA.org](#)

#JoinCCA



Double  
Early  
Bird Entry  
On Now!

**JOIN CCA**  
[www.CCATexas.org](#)

33 7 Comments 3 Shares

**CCA Texas**  
November 8 at 2:00 PM · 🌐

📄 **LOCAL CHAPTER UPDATE**

🎉 **CONGRATULATIONS** 🎉 to our CCA Galveston Chapter for recently putting on their Inaugural Heels & Reels CPR Women's Fishing Tournament !

🙌 **THANK YOU** 🙌 to all the incredibly talented lady anglers who participated to make this Tournament a BIG success and 🙌 **STAY TUNED** 🙌 for information on next year's event !

#JoinCCA



**CCA Texas**  
November 15 at 8:00 AM · 🌐

🚨 **ADVOCACY UPDATE** 🚨

CCA Texas, FlatsWorthy and numerous committed conservation groups took an important first step in addressing critical concerns with the 📄 continued decline of public oyster reefs 📄 in a 📄 letter to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.

The letter is the beginning of a broader and crucial dialogue necessary to:

- 📄 Prioritize the **STRUCTURAL** value of reefs
- 📄 Prioritize the **ECOLOGICAL** value of reefs
- 📄 Provide opportunities to **SAFEGUARD** more reef systems
- 📄 Provide opportunities to **CREATE** more reef systems

Taking action will ultimately lead to a 📄 healthier oyster fishery 📄

We will update our membership of any developments as we continue to work with conservation partners, stakeholders, and Texas Parks and Wildlife.

🙌 Stay tuned...and learn more here 🙌 <https://ccatexas.org/letter-conservation-organizations-join-cca/>

📄 Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

#JoinCCA



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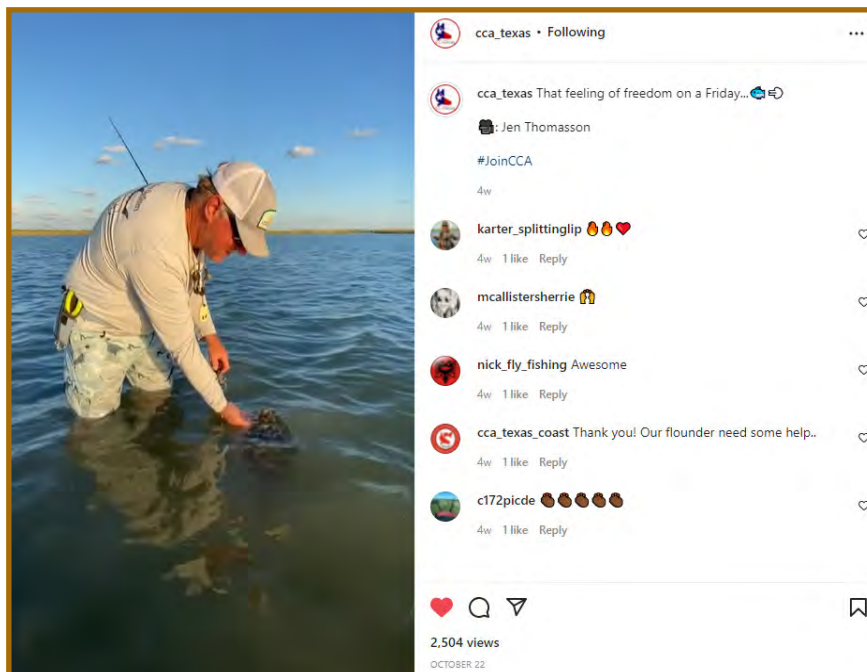
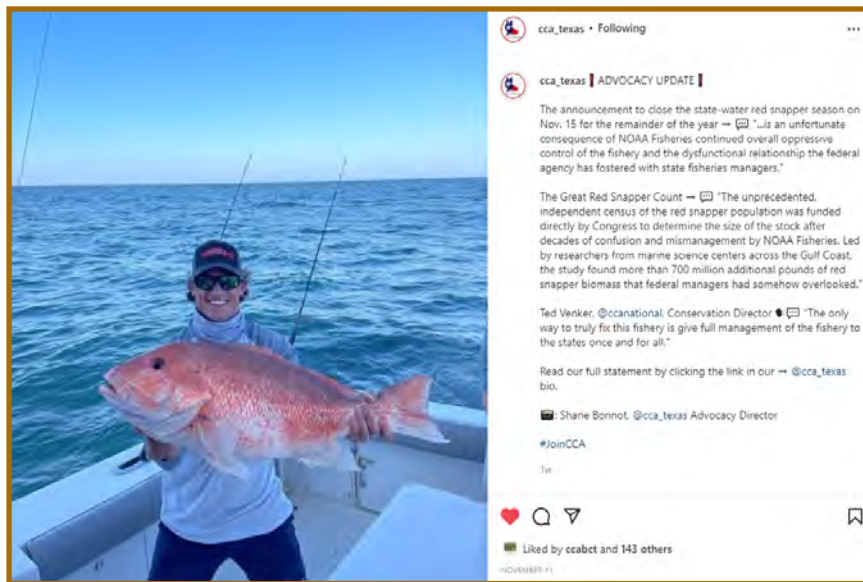
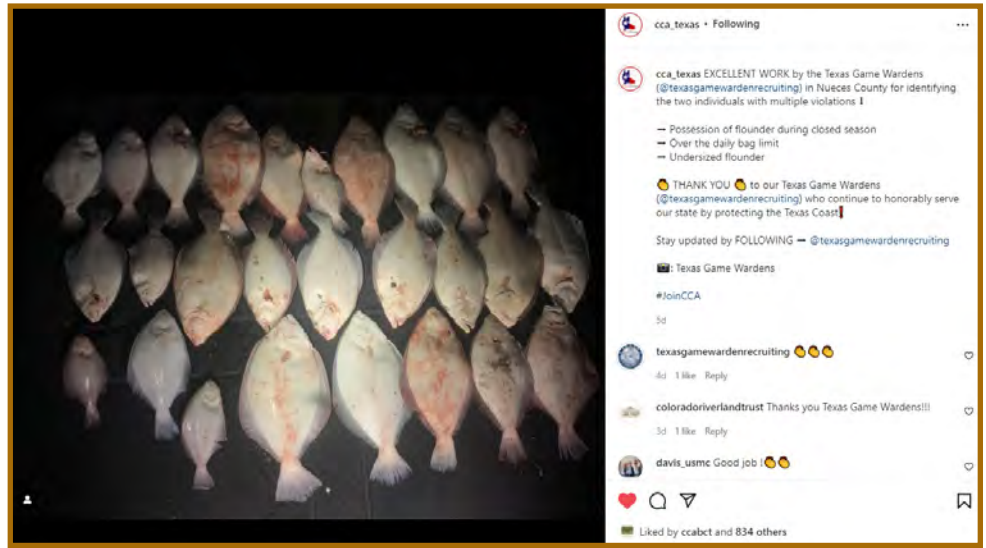


# INSTAGRAM



## CCA Texas on Instagram

We have a NEW goal, reaching 15,000 followers on Instagram! Help us out by adding @cca\_texas to your feed to see CCA member-submitted photos and videos that you will NOT want to miss. FOLLOW [@cca\\_texas](#) on Instagram.



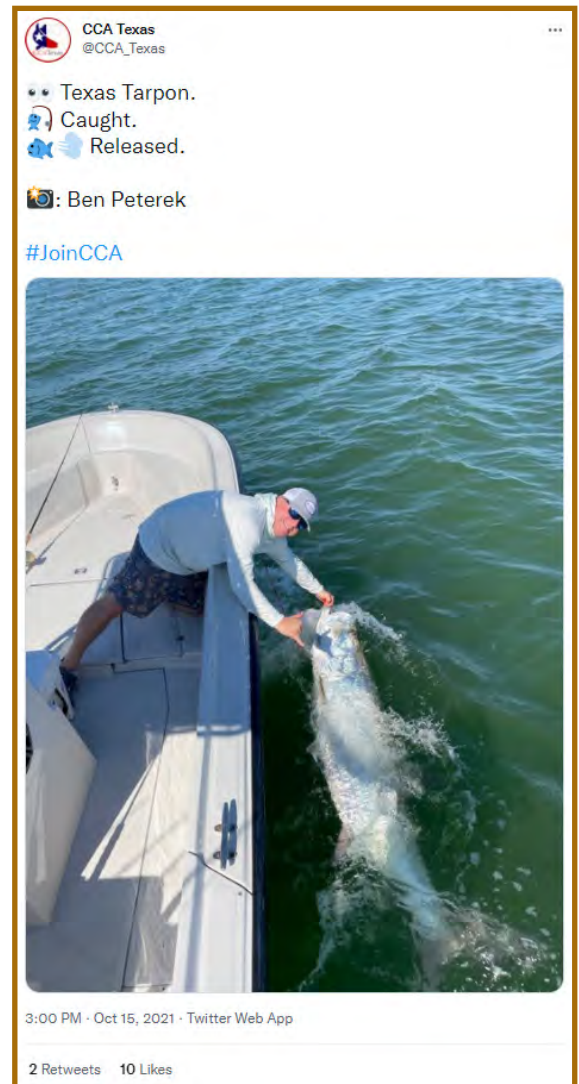
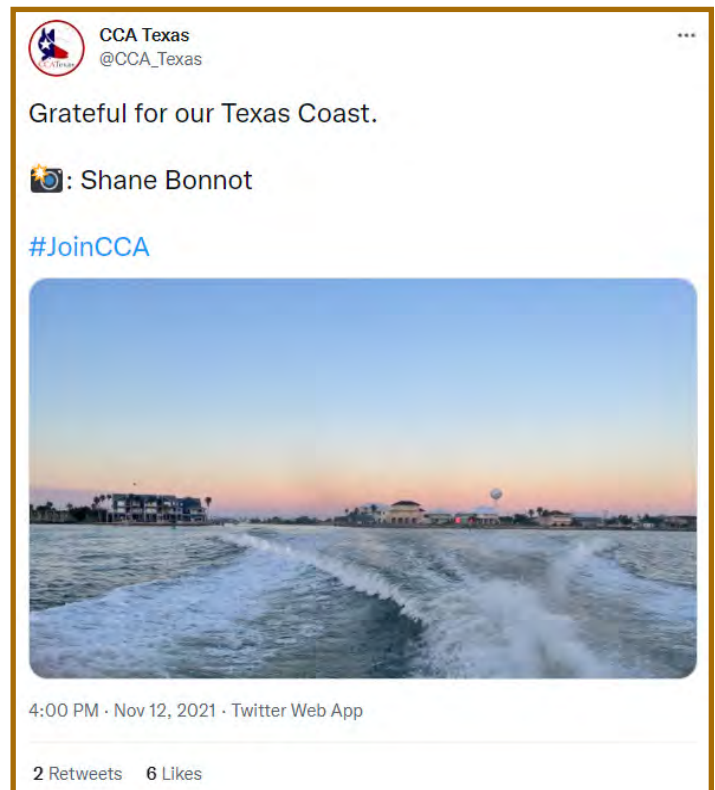


# TWITTER



## 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!](#)



**Kevin Hickson**  
Communications Director  
Coastal Conservation  
Association  
Email:

[khickson@joincca.org](mailto:khickson@joincca.org)





# A Twenty-Year Tradition Continues

The comprehensive and systematic approach to removing traps has been expanded to include San Antonio, Aransas, Lavaca and Matagorda Bays. Search areas are defined out of Port O'Connor, Charles, Seadrift, Austwell, Rockport, Port Lavaca & Palacios, with removal activities continuing throughout the closure period. Funding for this year's effort will come from a NOAA Marine Debris Removal grant. Volunteers are asked to collect data on each trap removed and mark its location using a cell phone-based app. This data will help to determine the root causes of trap dereliction. Send the email address of the data coordinator in your crew so we can create a username and password for accessing the data program. And, the mobile phone of the Captain for last minute changes and on-the-water emergencies.

Contact Allan Berger to sign up for your area. Details are available on [sabaypartnership.org](http://sabaypartnership.org). Looking forward to the event—it will be fun again! Call or email questions.—Allan Berger [allanrberger@outlook.com](mailto:allanrberger@outlook.com) 713-829-2852

**Save the date: the closure period is February 19-27. In case of bad weather, Feb. 26 is the fallback day.**

Although traps can be removed at any time during the 10 day closure, several partner organizations will be holding

volunteer events on the first Saturday of the closure (February 19th) with the second Saturday acting as a back-up day if a cancellation occurs due to weather. A list of trap drop off locations will be published in a news release on February 1st. News releases can be found here: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/news-media/releases/>

If anyone is interested in volunteering, they can complete a survey and I will follow up with them to help them figure out where they should go or if additional registration is needed for our partner's volunteer events. A link to that survey can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/g/JPtYJ9VSgr>

To date, we've removed over 40,000 traps coastwide with the help of about 4,000 volunteers. This equates to 657,820 crabs saved since the beginning of the program. —Holly Grand / Coastal Outreach Coordinator, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department 361-825-3993

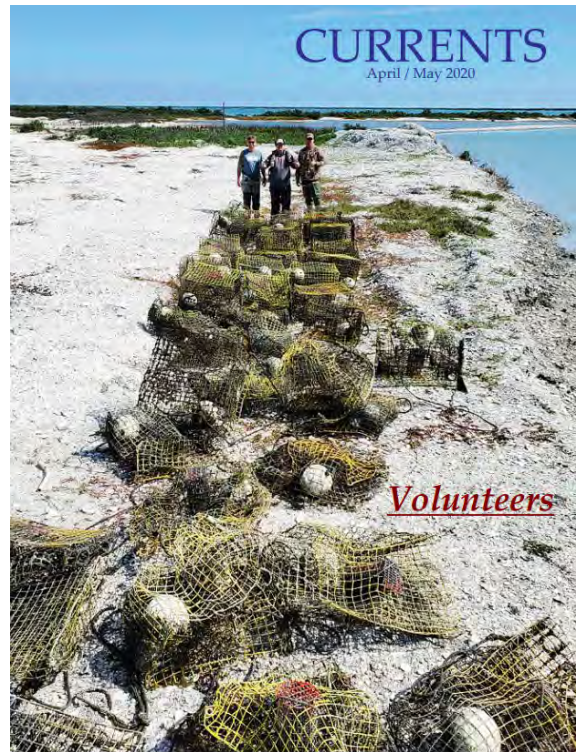


Photo courtesy of GRBA.

Photo courtesy GRBA Program.

## Abandoned Crab Trap Drop Off Sites 2022

As of December 1, the list of drop off sites has not been completed. A complete list will be available in February. The link to the Abandoned Crab Trap program is [https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/water/conservation/Crab\\_trap/Crab\\_trap.phtml](https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/water/conservation/Crab_trap/Crab_trap.phtml)



San Antonio Bay  
Partnership



Dropoff site in Port O'Connor, 2019. Photo by Lannie Green. Camera, Olympus TG-5



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# Chapter Updates

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**Aransas Bay**

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Happy holidays from our Aransas Bay Chapter! We are so thankful for an incredible group of volunteers really



*Cierra Borak with a beauty of a Redfish on fly! Below: Miss Hannah Wright with a flounder about to be released in Galveston Bay.*



*Aransas Bay CCA President, Mike Ferri and Vice President, Bill Burge during the crab trap clean-up. Photo, Jenn Thomason*

stepping up during the last two years! We have quite the crew and whether it's putting together a record-breaking banquet, to all coming together to pull off a huge event like Babes on the Bay, none of this would happen without all of the wonderful, generous volunteers.

Exciting things are happening in 2022! The Aransas Bay Chapter has purchased a new golf cart with the help of Ace Hardware for the 2022 banquet and will begin selling raffle tickets over the holidays. **Salemi's Ace Hardware** in Rockport is a huge contributor to Aransas Bay CCA and has signed up as Title Sponsor for our Banquet in 2022! Huge thank you to them and excited about including **Lectrics**, **The Reserve at St Charles Bay**, **Guild Mortgage Rockport** and **Big Tree Realty** as banquet sponsors this year! **Save the date, we will be at the beautiful waterfront Fulton Convention Center on April 2, 2022 for an exciting night of fun for a great cause!**

Babes on the Bay also has some exciting news! Thanks to **Salemi's Ace Hardware** and **Reel Sportswear**, all the Babes will be sporting some beautiful shirts this year from Reel Sportswear! Also, a huge shout out to **Rockport Tackle Town** as our cap sponsor, **Waterloo Rod Company** for rods for our winner's circle, **Bay Flats Lodge** as our bag sponsor, **Poor Man's Country Club** as Koozie sponsor, **Miss Kitty's Fishing Getaways** as Buff sponsor, **Sandy Oaks Kennel & Spaw**, **Orvis Swan Point Landing**, **Yeti**, **Goin' Coastal Outfitters** and more! **Saturday, May 14, 2022** we will be giving away some incredible trips, thanks to Sandy Oaks Kennel & Spaw, but you **MUST** be present to win. Welcome Miss Mac Elliot who will be our Trophy Artist this year



*CCA Aransas Bay Chapter volunteers.*





*Photos from the recent Austin Chapter ANO: Successful crowd and great entertainment*



with her beautiful photography! **Babes on the Bay will be held on May 13-14, 2022 at Fulton Convention Center on Aransas Bay.** We will continue to do what's best for the resource with an all catch and release format using the Fishing Chaos App. Registration will open January 1, 2022. Keep an eye out on our social media for details!

That's a wrap for 2021, we hope you will all join us for an even more amazing 2022! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

### Austin

**Jason Magdalena 512-789-6207**  
**[Jason.magdalena@gmail.com](mailto:Jason.magdalena@gmail.com)**

As 2021 is coming to an end, we are thankful for the continued support from our sponsors, supporters and volunteers

to have had a successful in-person banquet this past August. **We are gearing up for our 2022 fundraising banquet on Thursday May 12, 2022.** We are offering special pricing for tables and individual tickets until January 7, 2022. You can go to the [website to purchase tickets](#) or you can email [cherylcca@austin@gmail.com](mailto:cherylcca@austin@gmail.com) for more information and table forms.

Its official! We've got our 2022 boat raffle tickets and we are ready to start selling. You can purchase your tickets through a board member or call Cheryl at (512) 662-0006. Only 1500 will be sold. This year's boat is **SCB S22 with a Mercury Verado 250hp engine.**

More information and pictures will be coming soon. The early bird drawing for a Sitka Rambler Rolling Bag ends February 28, 2022 so get your tickets early.

We want to thank everyone who came out to our Anglers' Night Out on November 9, 2021 at Warren Wildlife Gallery. We had a great turn out with plenty of raffle prizes, food, drinks and our guest speaker, [Chris Bush](#) with The Speckled Truth Podcast. "Take what you need and release the rest. The goal is to create a connection between you and a fishery."

If you are interested in volunteering and joining the board of the Austin Chapter of CCA we would enjoy having you with us. We meet **the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at Warren Wildlife Gallery, 1401**

**Bouldin Ave, Austin, TX 78704. Our next meeting will be January 11, 2022.** If you have any questions on the Austin CCA chapter, please contact Jason Magdalena, President at [jason.magdalena@gmail.com](mailto:jason.magdalena@gmail.com) or at (512) 789-6207.

### Brazoria

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### Brazos Valley

**John Ben Strother**  
**979-220-1738**

**[jbsunlimited@yahoo.com](mailto:jbsunlimited@yahoo.com)**

With the arrival of fall and cooler weather, fishing changes and there's a good challenge in figuring it out. Here in Brazos Valley we are taking a couple months off from meetings for more fishing, of course!

Our next chapter meeting is Jan 11, 2022 at Vortex in Bryan, TX at 6 p.m. We will be planning our **annual banquet, which is being held, March 4, 2022 at the Brazos Center in Bryan.** We will have banquet tickets and flyers printed and ready to hand out, at the January meeting. We are also starting to look for sponsors for an awesome cause: the conservation of our shores, and marine life. So, our children, grandchildren, and great grands, etc. can enjoy what we sometimes take for granted: an awesome, clean and thriving outdoors. Looking forward to another exciting evening of great food, drink and camaraderie. See you at the January meeting and the March banquet. Til then, be thankful for family and friends, have a great Christmas, and a happy new year! Take kids, family and friends fishing!

### Brenham

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## Central Houston

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## Colorado Valley

**Eugene Ulrich 979-249-7425**

**zeke.ulrich@gmail.com**

Greetings from the Colorado Valley! We sincerely wish that everyone is enjoying the cooler weather and had time to enjoy this fall's fishing season. Going to give the fish a break now and concentrate on hunting for a few months. Hopefully sneak a few days in here and there when the weather is good to get out on the water and enjoy while keeping the boat running well. Our chapter is looking forward to and beginning to plan **next year's banquet. It will be held in La Grange on March 31, 2022**, so plan on getting your tickets and tables early. Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all!

## Corpus Christi

**Valerie Chilton 405-831-4158**

**vkchilton@gmail.com**

We would like to thank all the participants for the Babes on Baffin Ladies Fishing Tournament out of Marker 37 in October. We had a great turnout, and despite a few bumps in the road with the new format, the lady anglers were happy with the catch and release. **Mark your calendar for next year's event on Oct 7-8, 2022!**

We also had a great turn out for the Poco Rojo Kidsfish Tournament held at the TPWD/CCA Fish Hatchery in Flour Bluff. The kids had a great time and there were some real bruisers caught (and lost). Thanks to Barrett Fines for securing the sponsor, **Flint Hills Resources**, and of course to the great hatchery staff that helped us. Shoutout to **The Bait Bucket** and **Roy's Bait & Tackle** for their assistance with bait and some great prizes for the kiddos. Thanks to hatchery manager and CCA-Corpus Christi board member Ashley Fincannon, as well as Mike Felts for heading up the efforts from their end. We appreciate the hospitality.

**Last, but not least, we are already getting cranked up for our 44th annual fundraiser banquet on March 24, 2022.** We are hoping to get everything back on track and get back in the groove of raising money for the fish! We will be changing a few things up this year, and we will also have some new and exciting things in our

live auction. We will also be conducting our silent auction via text, and you don't need to be present to win. As always, look for the eblasts to come from our fearless leader, John Blaha as time gets closer. If you would like to help, donate, or have any questions, please contact us.

## Dallas

**Jason Gray 214-384-4164**

**Jason.Gray@hilltopsecurities.com**

Many of our Dallas members have settled in to hunting season but being out on the saltwater is never far from our thoughts.



*Golden Triangle: A table reserved for our fallen veterans. Below: A great shot overlooking the 2021 Golden Triangle banquet.*



We are planning an Anglers' Night Out in mid-January, stay tuned to our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages for the details. If you are interested in becoming a Dallas chapter board member, please reach out and we can discuss what that entails. Good luck to everybody in the field and on the water! Tight lines!

## East Texas

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## Fort Bend

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## Galveston

**Corey Carpenter 832-671-8980**

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## Golden Triangle

**Joe Winston 830-624-6570**

**Joe.winston@heroesonthewater.org**

Greetings from the Golden Triangle chapter! This year we were finally able to hold our annual banquet and what an event it was. We set a new attendance record for the chapter, and it was a fun-filled night. The Golden Triangle Chapter would sincerely like to thank everyone who was able to come out and support this great





*Greater Sugar Land President's Cup group photo.*

cause! On another note, winter is finally here and fishing on our end of the coast has been phenomenal. We hope that you and your family are able to get out, stay warm and enjoy your time on the water. Cheers!

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

As 2021 starts to fade in the sunset the Greater Sugar Land CCA Chapter would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday season. Hope you get to spend time with you family and get out on the water.

As things got back to the new normal the Greater Sugar Land CCA Chapter had a very productive year with a successful banquet, Kid Fish events, Anglers' Night Out and recently held our Annual President Cup Challenge in Sargent, TX. Congratulations to our new Presidents Cup recipient Bob Hrachovy. A great day of competition and fellowship with an after party and bar b que dinner hosted by Bob and Barbara Hillard.

It's not too early to mark your calendars for the **annual Banquet on March 31, 2022 at the Stafford Centre**. I can smell those boiled crawfish already.

A special thank you to the Board of Directors of the Greater Sugar Land CCA Chapter for all of your hard work and dedication to all that is CCA. Have a very safe holiday season and La Les La Bon Temps Roulle and Geaux Fish!

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**Heart of the Hills**  
**Kelly Parks 210-669-3732**  
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We hope you are enjoying the holidays with family and friends. 2021 will go down as a very interesting and challenging year - thanks to all who supported our CCA Heart of the Hills Chapter this year! A special thanks to **Ford of Boerne** for being our 2021 Title Sponsor. We hope that you have a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2022!

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*Long time Matagorda Bays CCA Board member and past President Wes Smolik with his unique "spotless" redfish that was caught, photographed, and released!*

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

Matagorda Bays Chapter board members are getting a little R&R in before we kick off next year's events and we want to wish all our chapter members and CCA supporters a safe and happy holiday season! Matagorda Bays Chapter is proud to announce that Chris's Marine and Haynie Boats of Aransas Pass are meticulously building our 2022 raffle boat

as you read this. Raffle tickets will go on sale in early December, so stay tuned to our [Facebook page](#) for ticket availability. We are also seeking out a second boat raffle sponsor for this year and if you would like more information, please contact the chapter president at the information listed above.

Matagorda Bays conservation quote: "We don't fish for the fish. Ninety percent of what I like about this sport—and it is a sport—is sitting in the boat doing nothing. And the icing on the cake is when God smiles on you and you hook

one. And then when you're reeling it in, everything else falls away." —**Hank Hill** (King of the Hill). 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**

I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful fall weather and catching and releasing some fish! The Mid-Coast Chapter has some exciting events coming up we hope you will be a part of!

We are excited to announce that we will once again have a pre-banquet raffle highlighted by a 2021 Haynie Bigfoot powered by a 2021 Mercury 150 sitting on a 2021 Coastline custom trailer along with 4 other great prizes! We will have tickets and will be showcasing the boat around Victoria by the time you read this, please call Cheryl Guthrie (361) 935 3342 or Mike Brawner (281) 787 1671 for more information or to purchase tickets (\$100/each). Please keep an eye on our chapter [Facebook page](#) for special upcoming events around the area where we will be showcasing this beautiful boat!

Please plan to join us for dinner and drinks **on January 11, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. for our annual membership meeting at Sky restaurant at the Victoria airport.** Kelley Kowal, San Antonio Bay Ecosystem Team Leader for Texas Parks & Wildlife will be presenting on the "state of our bays and fisheries" and sharing important information about how you can be involved in conserving our shared resource. Please contact Cheryl Guthrie (361) 935 3342 or myself for more information and tickets to the event.

Our chapter will again be partnering with the San Antonio Bay Partnership to assist with the February abandoned crab trap cleanup in Aransas, San Antonio & Matagorda Bays. **The big event will be the first Saturday of the closure on February 19, 2022 in Port O'Connor.** If you want to bring your boat and participate, Allan Berger has laid out cleanup routes to follow. You can contact Allan at (713) 829-2852 (text preferred) or [allanrberger@outlook.com](mailto:allanrberger@outlook.com) for more information.

Mark your calendar for our **2022 banquet the evening of Thursday, April 21 at the Victoria Community Center.** Until next time, tight lines!



*Left: Mid Coast President Wade Harrell with a Catch & Release Fall redfish. Right: Mid Coast Vice President Mark Saddler with a Catch & Release flounder. Check the front cover of this issue of CURRENTS for a bigger picture of Saddler's catch.*



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**Port O'Connor**  
**Bill Moore 361-983-4690**  
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The 2022 Port O'Connor Chapter Banquet has changed dates. Please keep your eye on the [Port O'Connor Chapter webpage](#) for an update on the banquet, date announcement and tickets will be available very soon. We look forward to 2022 and we hope to meet you all at the next banquet. See you next time in POC "Where it all began".

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

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

The Redfish Bay Chapter had a great year again in 2021. Our banquet, Beeville Fish Fry, and Take-a-Kid-Fishing (TaKF) events were all successful! The number of kids was a little low at the TaKF event, but the kids that did attend had a great time. Our Banquet, especially, was a great success, with attendance and revenue at all-time highs.

I want to thank our board members (banquet and Beeville) for their efforts this year. There were a lot of unknowns with the virus scares, but they came through anyway with successful events. We are always proud

of our support from Houston staff, with John Blaha leading the charge. **Chris Marine** continues to be our Title Sponsor for the banquet year after year! As always, we are thankful for our many donors and sponsors. Mark your calendars, our **2022 banquet is already scheduled for May 21**. We are already looking forward to 2022 events! Have a great Christmas and New Year!

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

Best wishes to you and your family for the 2021 holidays! Save the date for the **Sabine-Neches Banquet: Thursday, March 3, 2022!** More information to follow. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



*Above: Night scene; Seadrift Texas November 2021. Below: Captain Jeff Larson had one of his customers catch a 2021 tagged redfish...STAR is over but the lasting memory will remain! Congratulations Mr. Thornton!*



**Rio Grande Valley**  
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**San Antonio**  
**Robert Lozano 210-632-4246**  
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Wow, what a year! We would like to thank all that attended our CCA San Antonio's Anglers' Night Out at Mamacicta's Restaurant, located at 8030 IH-10 West on November 16, 2021. We had a great turnout for the meeting. We gave out awesome door prizes with many winners thanks to CCA Texas, and lures thanks to Captain Wayne Davis and Hook Down Charters. Our special thanks to Danny Shaw at Operation Game Thief (OGT) and Game Warden Patrick True for their excellent presentations. Fun, food, drink, and great information was shared by all. Such inspiration to protect our resources and enjoy our Texas hunting and fishing opportunities.

Planning is underway by our banquet committee for the **2022 San Antonio banquet, which returns to its spring date of April 28, 2022, at Joe Freeman Expo Hall.** We are also planning our clay shoot for 2022 another great event serving the purposes of camaraderie and support for our causes.

Follow [CCA San Antonio on Facebook](#) for future events, meetings, information and get yourself on our mailing list if you have not done so yet. We wish you safe and happy holidays to you and your families! Keep those lines taut, take the family fishing. Best from our CCA family to yours!

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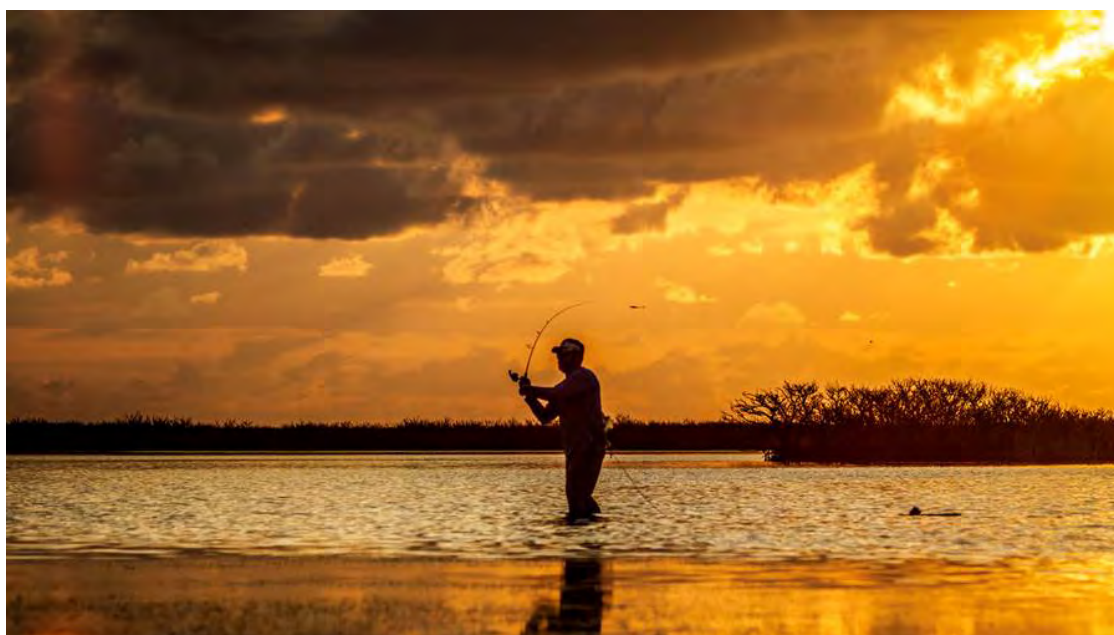
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*Sight casting reds under a painted sunrise by Devin Kleinfelder.*



## Gulf Identification Guide



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## Upper Coast Capt. Glenn Hammond

### *Tri-bay area: Northerners concentrate bait*

Late summer hurricanes and tropical storms left us soggy and fresh. Lots of rain means a bunch of fresh water everywhere. With our bay's shallow depth of 3 to 5 feet, fresh water pushed fish to the far reaches of the bay. Made for very difficult conditions.

Now, December brings cool weather and cold fronts. These hard blows from the north will lower our tides and concentrate the bait. Hovering sea gulls will point the way for quick action for sand trout, speckled trout, and redfish. A pair of binoculars or a good set of eyeballs really come in handy this time of year.

Bird action will continue until water temperature drops and shrimp completely leave the bay. During this process, I highly recommend using light or white soft plastics. Glow chartreuse would be a great call this time of year.

In January, the cold fronts will have pushed through and lowered the tide and the water temperature even further. In our area, these conditions will concentrate game fish to deeper water. So, no matter if it's a bayou, cut, gut, or drop-off working your bait slower is always better in cold conditions. It may take some time to figure out color of lure and retrieve. Once you have a pattern, this will help you figure out the rest.

Thanks for all the support from coastal fishermen who treasure the resource as we do. Remember to tune in and get current conditions, tips and updates. Friday and Sunday mornings 4-4:15 on 610am Radio *The Outdoor Show with Capt. Mickey Eastman*, or the or podcast anytime. Tight lines and heavy stringers—**Capt. Glenn (the Hammer) Hammond** 713-208-0683

## Middle Coast Capt. Tommy Countz

### *Slow and sloower works now*

December in the Matagorda Bays; if we haven't had any extreme cold spells, it can be like fishing on a Fall day. One of the best bets is fishing the Colorado River. Drift along with the current and make casts towards the shore. I prefer using a 3/8 ounce leadhead rigged with a bright colored paddle tail soft plastic like a Margarita Norton Sandshad Jr. Remember that the colder the water, the deeper the fish will be.

There's a good chance you can find some bird action in East Matagorda Bay. Look for streaks of off color water and drift those areas.

With low tides, wade fishing on the south shore of Matagorda Bay can produce some really good redfish action. I like to concentrate my efforts in drains and guts coming out of the peninsula. My go-to baits are 1/4 ounce weedless gold spoons or dark Norton Sandshads rigged on 1/16 ounce leadheads. If you can work in a few days on the water, I think you will be happy that you did. January is our coldest month, so slow down your retrieve and feel the fish on.

The Colorado River is a premier place to fish in the winter along with the Diversion Channel. The fish will be deeper because the water cools in thermal layers. Heavy leadheads rigged on chartreuse or hot pink paddle tails should be the ticket.

Drifting scattered shell in East Matagorda Bay can also be effective. Use heavier leadheads and work your bait slowly. If you're a wade fisherman, remember that leaking waders have spoiled many a winter fishing trip.

If you'd like to book a trip with me, call or text 281-450-4037 or email me at [tcountz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tcountz@sbcglobal.net) — **Capt. Tommy Countz**

## Lower Coast Capt. Danny Neu

### *Weather is boss, but trophies are here*

Wintertime fishing is upon us. It can be some of the best fishing of the year, especially if you're seeking a trophy speckled trout. Shallow grassy flats with mud and baitfish are the recipe for big specks. Search for those conditions near deep water access. The gamefish like to fall into channels and drains when fronts blow through. Following a cold front, flats will be the first place hungry fish show up. Look for concentrations of mullet and you will find the fish.

Our trout fishery took a big hit following the February freeze. The true giants are still here and their numbers are rebounding. The fish we have are healthy and we'll just have to wait on them to grow. Better news; baitfish are abundant. Redfish have been plentiful and chasing them has occupied most of my days this year. Norton Sand Eel Juniors in red and white and LSU colors have been productive for cloudy days. I go to gold spoons in shallow flats on sunny days. For those delicious flatfish, you'll have to wait until after December 14 when the flounder are available again. If you have a spotted beauty grab a lure, send it back healthy and wiser. Be sure that flounder is longer than 15 inches, and five is a stringerful.

Through January, weather is boss this time of year. Attention to warm gear for your crew and a healthy boat is the first consideration of a captain. Cold fronts with wind and rain come along, but sea fog is a different problem. Always navigate with care and stay aware of your location. I've seen GPS units "lie" in the fog. You will remember to conserve and protect the resource and be respectful of others on the water. —**Capt. Danny Neu** 979-942-0165 [dneucharters@yahoo.com](mailto:dneucharters@yahoo.com)



*John Blaha is winding down the day, looking for a sunset red or trout. Photo by Jen Thomasson. First Place Scenic, Great Photos Contest.*



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## 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo Round-up

While most people are preparing for Christmas and the New Year, STAR staff and volunteers are running on all cylinders in preparation for the 2022 tournament year. For all of us challenges abound, and 2021 was no different. As tournament planning started to really get rolling, in came Mother Nature with a devastating freeze across much of the coast. After many hours of head scratching STAR volunteers and staff came up with the revised format that you saw for 2021. We want to thank each one of you for being so nimble and stepping up to do what was right for the resource this year, and a special thank you for our incredible runner-up and scholarship sponsor, Academy Sports + Outdoors! With the 2022 STAR tournament coming just around the corner, STAR volunteers wanted to try and get back to a more traditional format with more intense competition, not just the tagged redfish bonanzas. While the final details for 2022 have not been fully ironed out, expect to see some familiar fish return and maybe even a whole new species!

**Academy**  
SPORTS+OUTDOORS

### From the Director's Desk

*"We want to extend a hearty welcome to all our NEW members! As you discover more what the CCA family is about, you will learn why we love to fish. Catching is great, where we all started, and you can get plenty of tips to improve your skills. You'll begin to see the passion that moves us...yes, the fish "lure" us into the quest but the camaraderie of sharing a love for our precious coastal resources, and doing something about them, is the epoxy that makes us strong.*

*Check out the various projects underway by all the chapters. Attend a meeting (when they resume, and they will) and join in on a chapter event or project. Get your kids out on the water with you; let them see the difference between virtual and real! There is a reason why we are drawn to the healing waters...find out for yourself. Texans are so very blessed.*

*Did you know that on top of our countless habitat projects, CCA-built hatcheries are raising and releasing 30-50 million baby fish each year back into our bays and estuaries?*

*This is only accomplished with the help and support of members like you! We want you to experience why Texas has some of the best saltwater gamefish populations ever recorded. Get involved!*

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

**— Bill Kinney, STAR Tournament Director**

CCA Texas and STAR would like to thank our fine sponsors, weigh stations, ticket stations, and the countless volunteers for their hard work and dedication in not only helping to enhance our marine resources but helping these lucky kids with their education.

Without you, the CCA member, there would be no CCA or STAR, and we want to thank every single one of you for all that you do for our great resource. We especially thank those getting kids out on the water to ensure that future generations can enjoy the same things we do!

### Here's to our 2021 STAR winners!

*See photos of all the winners on pages 32 through 35.*

2021 Ling Winner Chris Nelson  
2021 Dorado Winner Chase Carlisle  
2021 Red Snapper Winner Lauren Foster's Husband and Guide  
2021 Kingfish Winner Bill Massey  
2021 Early Bird Winner Jena Briley  
2021 Member Bonus Winner Lloyd Toborg  
2021 Green Tag Winner Patrick Fisher  
2021 Green Tag Winner Jeff Hain  
2021 Blue Tag Winner Ellen Stacy  
2021 Blue Tag Winner Jeremy Mahon  
2021 Blue Tag Winner Dorothy Neal  
2021 Red Tag Winner Kirk Bell  
2021 Red Tag Winner Heath Henderson  
2021 Red Tag Winner Alexis Meave  
2021 Red Tag Winner Randall Laurrell  
2021 Red Tag Winners with Ford Representatives

*One often overlooked area of STAR, is the critical role that our great weigh stations serve. For all of your hard work this year we thank:*

***SGS Causeway in Port Arthur, Sportsman Supply in Sabine Pass, Stingaree Marina in Crystal Beach, Linda's Sylvan Beach Bait & Tackle in La Porte, West End Marina in Galveston, Surfside Marina in Surfside Beach, Harbor Bait & Tackle in Matagorda, Indianola Fishing Marina in Indianola, The Port O'Connor Fishing Center in Port O'Connor, Terry's Seaworthy Maine Supply in Fulton, Woody's Sport's Center in Port Aransas, Roy's Bait & Tackle in Corpus Christi, Westican Outdoors in Kingsville, Harbor Bait & Tackle in Port Mansfield, and South Shore Bait & Tackle in Port Isabel.***



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

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



**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](mailto:subscriptions@fishgame.com).



**TILSON HOMES \$1,000**

**in FREE UPGRADES!** - Every CCA Texas member who purchases a Tilson Home is eligible for \$1,000 in free upgrades such as ceramic tile, hardwood floors, cabinets and more. See their ad in the CCA Texas CURRENTS newsletter for more details or call 1 (888) 540-6705.

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

*Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Home Corporation, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, Mustang CAT, Kryptek, Mercury Marine, Hoffpauir Polaris, Shiner Bock, Shoalwater Boats, Haynie Boats, Mowdy Boats, Dargel Boats, Texas Fish & Game Magazine, Coastline Trailers, McClain Trailers, KTRK-abc13, and Chris's Marine.*

For more information, go to [www.startournament.org](http://www.startournament.org)

Thank you for another great year of support for CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament!

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

**Congratulations to our  
2021 STAR winners!**



*2021 Ling Winner Chris Nelson*



*2021 Dorado Winner Chase Carlisle*







*2021 Red Snapper Winner Lauren Foster's Husband and Guide*



*2021 Member Bonus Winner Lloyd Toborg*



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2021 Red Tag Winner Heath Henderson



2021 Blue Tag Winner Dorothy Neal



2021 Red Tag Winner Alexis Meave





2021 Red Tag Winner Randall Laurrell



2021 Red Tag Winners with Ford Representatives



*We are Blessed by your Support*

**THANK YOU AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



**BEST IN TEXAS**

**TILSON**

CUSTOM HOME BUILDERS

**Academy**

SPORTS+OUTDOORS

































**CCA TEXAS  
STAR**

*Bill, Dylan & Peggy*



# Bayhouse Shrimp & Redfish Chowder

## INGREDIENTS

- ¼ C Butter (1/2 stick)
- 8 Slices of Bacon, chopped
- 1 C Celery, diced
- 1 C Onion, diced
- 1 C Leeks, diced
- 1 Tablespoon Garlic, minced
- 3 C Chicken Broth
- Small bottle of Clam Juice
- 4 Med. Red Potatoes, diced
- 1 C Carrots, diced
- ¾ Tablespoon Black Pepper
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 ½ Tablespoon Thyme
- 6 Bay Leaves
- Tabasco, 4 shakes
- Slap Ya Mamma seasoning to taste
- 1 lb. Shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 2 lbs. Redfish, cut in 1" cubes
- 2 Quarts Half & Half
- ½ C Flour
- 1 C Milk



Melt butter in large stock pot and add next 5 ingredients, sauté til veggies have softened. Add chicken broth, clam juice, potatoes, carrots, pepper, salt, thyme, bay leaves and Tabasco. Bring to a boil and reduce heat to a simmer. Cook 20 minutes. Season the shrimp and fish with the Slap Ya Mamma seasoning and add to pot, simmer an additional 10 min.

Add the half & half and stir. Combine the flour and milk, making a slurry. Slowly add to the pot, stirring constantly until desired thickness. You might not need all of the slurry. Taste and add more salt if desired. Serve with a crusty bread or in a bread bowl. — **Great Recipe Editor Liz Hewitt**

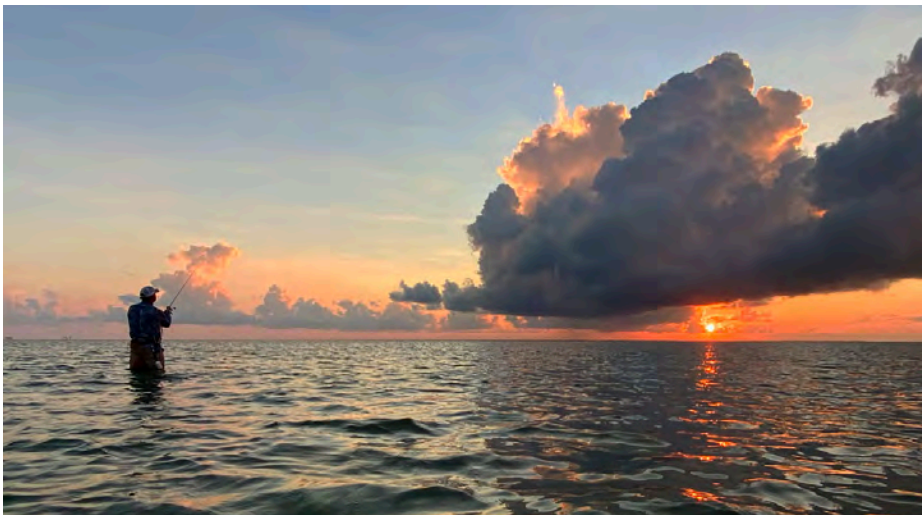


# Great Photos Contest 2019-2021

CCA volunteers have provided many of the images that have made CURRENTS one of the top outdoor publications in Texas. Over the years, your newsletter has won numerous accolades, including *Best Newsletter in Texas* honors from the Texas Outdoor Writers Association. It's time for the Great Photo Editor to acknowledge and award a few of the great photographers and photographs of the past twelve issues. First Place and Best In Show receive a Sam Caldwell fine art print. Winners, send an email to [sam@samcaldwell.com](mailto:sam@samcaldwell.com)

## HONORABLE MENTION

Robert Lozano	Fisher Gordon
Chris Bird	Bob Stokes
Tylar Dick	Jason Gray
Steve Hillman	Dr. Maury Guzick
Tyler Thorsen	Scott Null
Valerie Chilton	Wade Harrell
Mike McBride	Brenda Ballard
Jen Thomasson	Allan Berger
Branon Pesnell	Phil Shook
Eugene Ulrich	David Sikes
Randy Plummer	Rene Hinojosa
Landon Resnansky	Miller Bassler
Cannon Scherer	Tommy Countz
Carter Haggard	Vizi Lange-Caldwell
	Liz Hewitt
	Chris Smisek
	Paula Smisek



**FIRST PLACE SCENIC:** John Blaha is winding down the day, looking for a sunset red or trout. Photo by Jen Thomasson.

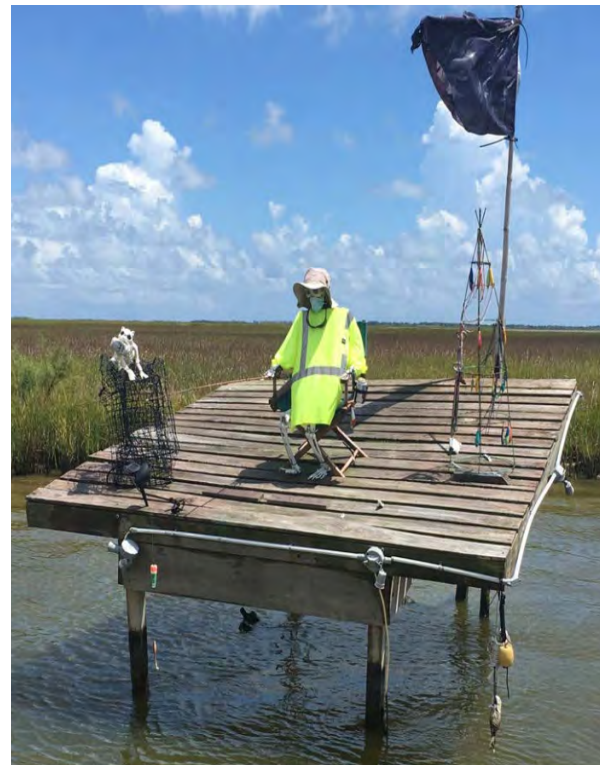
**BEST IN SHOW:** Fishing Locos Member Cynthia Michelle Caught, Tagged and Released this 53" blacktip shark. Fish was released on South Padre Island—all fins still attached.







**FIRST PLACE CPR: Double Catch and Release:**  
Cousins Banks Tessier and Jack McPherson located these reds near Dagger Island. Photo, John Blaha.

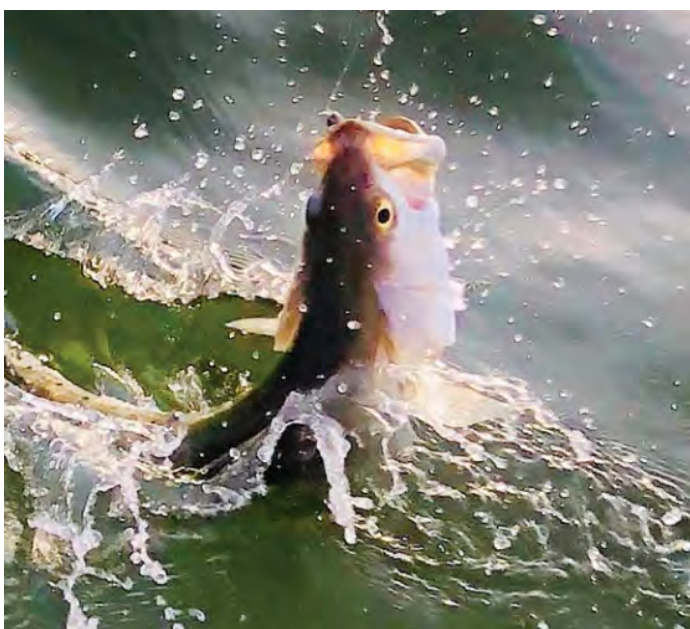


**FIRST PLACE HUMOR:** Jim Black reported that "Doug Upp, the Ghost of the Saltgrass has been spotted in Matagorda again. He doesn't eat much so hasn't done much harm to the fish population." How about the dog, the stringer, the mask and Christmas Tree?



**FIRST PLACE WILDLIFE:** Capt. Rene Hinojosa releases a green sea turtle to applause. Anonymous

**FIRST PLACE KIDS:** Jeremy Janda oversees Will Janda with rod and Reed with net. Photo by Grandfather Gary Janda.



**FIRST PLACE ACTION:** Takes patience and lots of shooting to capture a powerful image. Photo by Charlie Everts





## Top National Award For CURRENTS Illustration

MISSOULA, MT — The Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA) awarded Sam Caldwell Second Place in the OWAA's 2021 national Excellence in Craft contest. The win followed an OWAA First Place for Caldwell's 2020 illustration of a Santa enjoying a gift while his reindeer look on. Both illustrations appeared in December editions of CURRENTS. Another in Caldwell's illustrations is on the last page of this December / January issue.



*Short Break on a Long Trip*



# IT'S A KEEPER

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

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WHISKEY**



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FINE TEXAS  
BLENDED WHISKEY

HANDCRAFTED  
306  
40%  
80 Proof  
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Drop by the Rebecca Creek Distillery website: [www.rebeccacreekdistillery.com](http://www.rebeccacreekdistillery.com)





## Three Major National Awards:

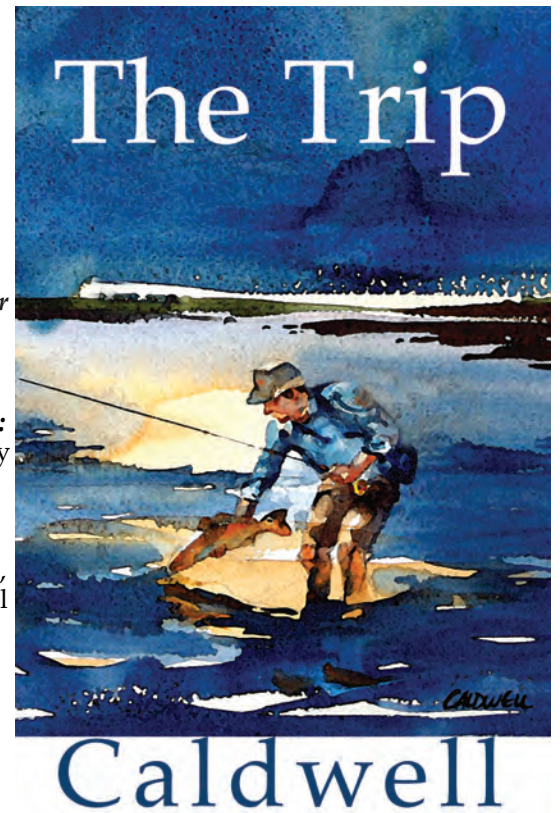
*First Place, Outdoor Book TOWA, 2018*

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

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

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

**samcaldwell.com**  
Texas State Artist 2004  
DU State Artist 2010-2011  
Dallas CCA Conservationist 2015  
2016 Perry R. Bass Wall of Fame  
281-455-9390



## 2021 TOWA/CCA Catch A Kid Contest & Stampede

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

For young visitors, CCA provided the Catch A Kid Contest, complete with Academy sacks, lures and rod and reel prizes. Invented

by the Northeast Houston chapter years back, the young "fish" were strapped into a flotation vest and attached to an offshore rod. Each youngster scrambled for "chummed" prizes. For a video of the Kidfishing and rodeo action, click on the young fisherlady's smile.



Stampede visitors enjoyed the CCA Booth with HTFT videos.







# Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Drive, Suite 100  
Houston, TX 77024

December 2021 / January 2022

*Your friends at  
Coastal  
Conservation  
Association  
wish you a Fine  
Holiday Season  
and a Great  
New Year*



*Texanta takes timeout for a few surf casts.*

## U.S. Coast Guard Air & Sea Rescue

National Response Center: 800-874-2143  
Port Isabel: 956-761-2668  
Corpus Christi / Marine Safety Office:  
boating emergencies, chemical and  
oil spills: 361-888-3162  
Port Aransas: 361-749-5217  
Port O'Connor: 361-983-2616  
Freeport: 979-233-3801  
Houston, Galveston: 409-766-5620  
Sabine: 409-971-2195

The Texas Parks & Wildlife website is your starting point for almost anything you need to know about outdoor Texas, including links to many areas.

Visit [www.tpwd.texas.gov](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov)

To focus on fishing and boating, visit

[www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish)

[www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat](http://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.ogtx.com](http://www.ogtx.com)



## COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (including STAR Entry)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ (Member ID for renewing members only) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### Method of payment

☐ Check/Money order  
☐ Charge to my:  
☐ MASTERCARD  
☐ VISA  
☐ AMEX  
☐ DISCOVER

MEMBER:	\$35	Membership card, decal, bumper sticker, Texas CURRENTS newsletter & TIDE magazine.
ASSOCIATE:	\$20	Per each family member. All membership privileges except TIDE and CURRENTS.
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.

CONSERVATION MEMBER: \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
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](http://www.ccatexas.org)