

# CURRENTS

August / September 2022



*Gus Bob Horne starts the day with a topwater at Sam's Cove, Port Mansfield. Gus released three reds in five minutes. Sam Caldwell photo*

**CURRENTS IS INTERACTIVE!**

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

*41 years of aiding  
Texas Game Wardens*

# Operation Game Thief

By Danny Shaw, OGT Executive Director

**O**peration Game Thief is Texas' Wildlife Crime-Stoppers Program which began in 1981, offering rewards of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction for a wildlife crime.

The program began as a result of laws passed by the 67th Legislature to help curtail poaching and is a function of the Law Enforcement division of The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

OGT is highly successful, having been responsible for the payment of over \$195,000 in rewards thus far. The program is privately funded, meaning it is dependent on financial support from the public through the purchase of OGT merchandise and memberships, donations, sponsorships, and gifts.

The program is designed to pay rewards for confidential information leading to the arrest and conviction of individuals and organizations for the violation of natural resource laws. OGT has enjoyed tremendous public participation in reporting potential violations. In the past six years there have been 8,130 calls for an average of 1,626 each year or almost five per day.

**O**ther important facets of our program are outreach and education, financial support to families of game wardens lost in the line of duty, and purchase of equipment not funded by the Law Enforcement operating budget.

Our symbiotic relationship with Texas Parks and Wildlife game wardens has developed a direct link for the public to engage in action to protect our diverse resources.



*"CCA and its  
passionate members  
have been among our  
strongest partners."  
—Danny Shaw*

The ongoing and increasing profit of individuals and criminal organizations is causing great harm to our resources. The illegal taking and trafficking of shark fins, red snapper and oysters are just a few examples.

A recent important case was solved in Galveston County. Oysters were being harvested from an area considered closed. These shellfish were deemed unfit for human consumption, and had the violators not been caught, the oysters very likely would have found their way into a market for sale.

*OGT effectiveness: In the past six years there have been 8,130 calls for an average of 1,626 each year or almost five per day.*

OGT is committed to leading and partnering to protect our unmatched natural and cultural resources. CCA and its passionate members have been among our strongest partners. Saltwater fishing sustains and improves our quality of life in ways that are unattainable in most other places in the world.

We will continue to operate and focus on our core values of confidentiality, service and integrity. We pledge to use CCA's support of our program in an effective and transparent manner.

We believe conservation is a team sport. Please help us to protect our valuable resources by going to [ogttx.org](http://ogttx.org) to make a gift or donation. We encourage you to attend one of our fundraising events which are posted on our website. As a member of our team, you can also report a violation on our confidential tip line at 800-792-GAME. Operation Game Thief is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

## CCA Assistance

CCA has provided strong support in the form of equipment and financial aid since OGT began. In fact, CCA has funded over \$750,000 of equipment to coastal game wardens. These funds have been used to purchase boats, 4-wheelers, night vision, video recorders, body cameras, range finders, sonar units, navigation equipment, life jackets, generators and airboat repairs to name a few. "Our CCA Board takes great pride in being able to help provide state-of-the-art equipment to our coastal game wardens. This equipment helps level the playing field against the perpetrators to protect our coastal resources," said Robby Byers, Executive Director of CCA Texas. "Operation Game Thief (OGT) provides a great service to all Texans. They are the tip of the spear in helping to enforce our laws and educate the general public on how to be good stewards of Texas. We are very proud to be one of their partners."

## Assistance to Game Warden families from Operation Game Thief

A Game Warden is officially a peace officer, tasked with duty whether on city streets or in a marsh, bay or forest environment. As part of their job description, War-

dens often deal with armed individuals and work in difficult conditions. A major purpose of Operation Game Thief is to provide immediate aid to families of Wardens who are lost in the line of duty. OGT aid continues with follow up programs.

**Ronnie Luster, CCA Liason** "Since the inception of the Texas Game Wardens in 1919, there have been 19 fatalities. Four were killed by poachers, including Warden Justin Hurst in 2007. Others were on duty in auto accidents, drownings or in one case, a heart attack. This included my good friend Warden Jim Birmingham in Port O'Connor."

**The People behind the program Harry Tennison:** Tennison was the founder of OGT and served as its first Chairman. Early on, he paid rewards for poaching tips out of his own pocket.

**Gib Lewis:** Gib has been on the OGT Board for over 30 years.

**Joe McBride** "Joe McBride is the heart and soul of OGT. When a need arises, Joe is the first person to step forward, and he is there till the need is filled." — **Danny Shaw**

The current Chairman of the OGT board is Jimmy Hasslocher, San Antonio. Vice Chairman is Jeff Birmingham, Houston. Joe McBride is Chairman Emeritus, Austin.



Harry Tennison



Gib Lewis



Joe McBride

### Texas Conservation Hall of Fame Inductee

The Operation Game Thief program was inducted into the Texas Conservation Hall of Fame in April, 2017. The program was recognized for supporting Texas Game Wardens for more than 35 years.

### Operation Game Thief encourages public participation

#### Sporting Clays events, 2022

Sporting Clays events hosted by OGT and CCA provide hundreds of Texas shotgunners an opportunity to compete, improve their shooting eyes and contribute funds to OGT projects. Austin, San Antonio and Houston are among the cities with annual events.

**OGT SPORTING CLAYS**  
*Continued on next page*



Click for the OGT Website: <https://www.ogttx.org/>



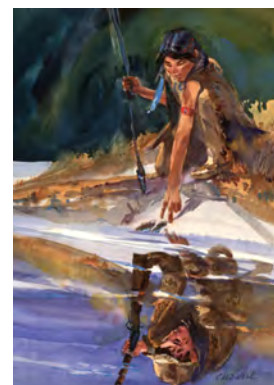
FACEBOOK link: <https://www.facebook.com/OGTTX/>



Link to OGT Sporting Clays: <https://www.ogttx.org/>



CCA Texas Executive Director Robby Byers made it to the final shootout in 2014, but said he missed an easy shot to place second. Photo by Vizi Caldwell



Two Operation Game Thief art prints, "Traditions Continued" provided funds for enforcement programs.



CCA Texas sponsored teams for the 2014 Houston event. Team Captain Sam Caldwell said his team missed a lot of easy shots. Photo by Vizi Caldwell



OGT's Portable Wall of Shame Exhibit travels around the state to provide visual examples of problems faced by Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Wardens. The Warden is Leann Winkenworder. Photo by Vizi Caldwell



## OGT Sporting Clays events, 2022

### San Antonio Area Clay Stoppers Shootout

September 9, 7:30 AM – 2:00 PM  
 National Shooting Complex, 5931 Roft Rd, San Antonio, Texas. 100 clay target course, lunch, live auction and raffle.

### Houston Area Claystoppers Shootout

September 23, 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM  
 Texas Premier - Promatic Training Center, 7311 TX-36, Sealy, Texas. 100 clay target course, lunch, live auction and raffle.



Photo by Vizi Caldwell

Further Information on the events can be found at the OGT website:

[ogtx.org](http://ogtx.org)

Austin, Houston and San Antonio will again host Sporting Clays events in 2023.



CCA has fielded a Sporting Clays team at OGT events for the last ten years. Tim Strickland Captained the team, and has won the event a couple of times for CCA.



## CCA Texas Weighs in on Draft EIS for Channel Deepening Project



*The full public notice, proposed plans and alternative analysis with larger charts can be found on the CCA website, or by clicking here.*

In late July 2022, CCA Texas provided comments to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Corpus Christi Ship Channel Deepening Project (Project). If you are scratching your head, wondering what is this Project, then [click on this link](#) for a quick refresher and reasons for the CCA Texas opposition position.

In our recent letter to USACE, we expressed our serious concerns that Sections Three, Four and Five of the Draft EIS are deficient and contrary to requirement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Draft EIS does not address the full scope of the overall impacts to fisheries and habitats of Texas coastal ecosystems. Briefly, we find deficiencies in impacts to oyster reefs, recreational fisheries, salinity regimes in Corpus Christi Bay, estuarine fauna, and most importantly, significant deficiencies in the overall cumulative impacts of related projects on coastal processes, physical oceanography, water quality, wetlands, seagrasses, and aquatic resources.


## CCA National Addresses a Proposed Rule to Implement Red Snapper Calibrations and Harvest Levels

The saga with red snapper continues for many Gulf States. On July 28, Bill Bird, CCA National



Government Relations Committee Chairman, sent a letter to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) highlighting failures by the agency in guiding the states through a process in determining how states' data systems would be measured against NMFS's Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) and creating a nonsensical calibration dilemma for the Gulf Council. While this does not have any immediate effects on Texas landings or calibrations (since we have never allowed MRIP in Texas), it could spell significant trouble for our friends in Mississippi and Alabama. CCA offers several suggestions to NMFS, including findings in a National Academy of Sciences that specifically address calibrations issues and bias issues with MRIP. The letter is worth a read and you can find it by [clicking here](#)

## Oyster Regulatory and Oyster Restoration Ad-Hoc Panels Begin Meetings

In late July and early August, two Ad-Hoc Panels began to meet at the directive of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (Commission). While these are not long-term advisory committees, these groups have some important work ahead of them as they will provide the Commission with recommendations on how to proceed moving forward on any future oyster fishery management actions (license buyback, ideas to improve sustainability and oyster reef protections) and restoration activities across the coast. We expect that department staff will update the Commission on the initial findings of these panels at the August 24-25 Commission meeting in Austin. 



*@patrickdmurray*

# HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

## CCA Texas Projects

1. Cedar Bayou Vision Slough Restoration	\$3,000,000
2. Nearshore Reefing - Sabine Pass	\$ 900,000
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. ** Oyster Reef Creation - St. Charles Bay (Rockport)	\$ 425,000
7. Nearshore Reefing - Galveston / Big Man & Kate's Reef	\$ 329,000
8. HRI Nearshore Reef Enhancement Study	\$ 250,000
9. Dagger Island Shoreline Protection & Marsh Restoration (Redfish Bay)	\$ 250,000
10. Shoreline Stabilization - Oyster Lake (West Galveston Bay)	\$ 200,000
11. Oyster Restoration - Deep Reef Sabine Lake	\$ 115,000
12. Nearshore Reefing - Matagorda	\$ 100,000
13. Shoreline Stabilization - San Bernard NWR	\$ 100,000
14. Marsh Restoration - Bird Island Cove (West Galveston Bay)	\$ 100,000
15. Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation - Moses Lake (Galveston Bay)	\$ 100,000
16. Bolfin Bay Scarp Reef Habitat Conservation/Restoration Study	\$ 100,000
17. Oyster Restoration - Pepper Grove / Galveston (BCT)	\$ 100,000
18. Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Shoreline Protection (San Antonio Bay)	\$ 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. Balise Grande Restoration (Port Isabel / Brazosville)	\$ 90,000
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 / Vanover	\$ 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. B. Margulies WMA	\$ 50,000
33. Shoreline Stabilization - Can 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 - Owen & Gang's Bayou (Galveston)	\$ 42,000
37. Trinity Bay Discovery Center Living Shoreline	\$ 40,000
38. Sweetwater Preserve Shoreline Protection and Oyster Reef Enhancement	\$ 30,000
39. Marsh Restoration - Nueces Bay (Corpus Christi)	\$ 24,000
40. Marsh Restoration - Snake Island Cove (West Galveston Bay)	\$ 20,000
41. Weed Eradication for Water Flow Restoration (Guadalupe River Delta)	\$ 15,000
42. Bay Debris Removal - Aransas Pass	\$ 5,000
43. Building Conservation Trust's Texas Habitat Fund (BCI & CCA Texas Secured Funds)	\$ 500,000

\*\* 2012 Projects Contributed to an ARI/22

**TOTAL FUNDED THROUGH 2022: \$9,114,666**

If you are interested in contributing to our Habitat program,  
Contact John Blaha at [jdblaha@ccatexas.org](mailto:jdblaha@ccatexas.org)

# 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

*A Natural Partnership*

BUILDING  
CONSERVATION  
TRUST  
*CCA's Habitat*

COASTAL  
CONSERVATION  
ASSOCIATION  
TEXAS  
*Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow*

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

- Completed
- Upcoming
- Ongoing



# WADING TOWARDS A BRIGHTER FUTURE



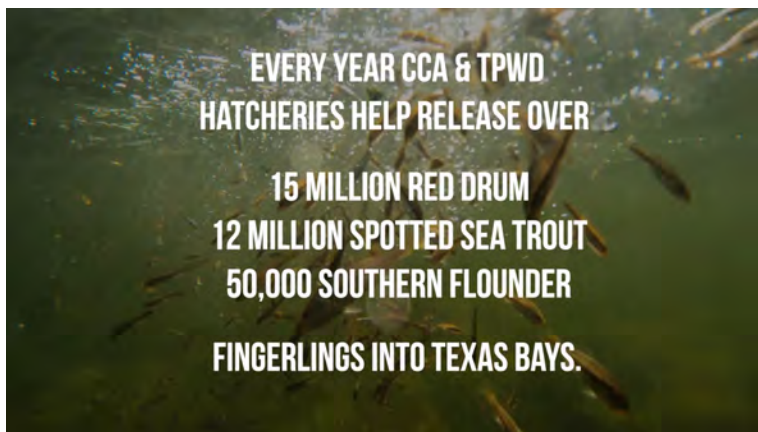
frogg toggs supports  
CCA's Efforts Toward the  
Conservation of our Sacred Waters



# 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](#)





**QUALITY COOLERS THAT LAST!**



**DRINKWARE**

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- BPA FREE
- TRITAN
- FOAM
- NEOPRENE

**OPTIONS AVAILABLE!**



**SOFT SIDED COOLERS**

- VARIOUS SIZES
- HAND SEWN
- LEAK PROOF



**OPTIONS AVAILABLE!**



**HARD SIDED COOLERS**

- VARIOUS SIZES
- VINYL WRAPPED
- PREMIUM LATCHES
- FISH RULER

**OPTIONS AVAILABLE!**

**FRIOICECHESTS.COM**

# Caught Redhanded! Reports from TP&W Game Wardens

On July 8, at approximately 2 AM, Brazoria County Game Warden Jim Bob Van Dyke received a call from dispatch in reference to a local complaint about two individuals that were fishing and keeping undersized and over the limit of Speckled Trout at the Surfside Jetties. Warden Van Dyke quickly saddled up and patrolled towards the area which was approximately 40 minutes away. Before arriving in the area, approximately 15 minutes away, the complaint called again and stated that the two individuals were packing up to leave. Warden Van Dyke then contacted a Surfside police officer and asked if he would patrol the area and watch for the two violators walking to their vehicle.

As the Surfside officer arrived in the area, Warden Van Dyke received another phone call from the complaint and stated that the violators had spotted the officer and appeared to be hiding out on the jetties until the path was clear to leave. Warden Van Dyke then called the Surfside officer and asked him to pull away from the area and keep watch from a distance.

Minutes later, Warden Van Dyke arrived at the location and was able to contact the violators. Upon inspecting the catch, it was discovered that the two violators had a total of 46 Speckled Trout in their possession, and of those, 34 Speckled Trout were undersized. Furthermore, neither of the violators had a fishing license. Several citations were issued for undersized and over the limit of Speckled Trout, and no fishing license. Civil restitution was also filed.

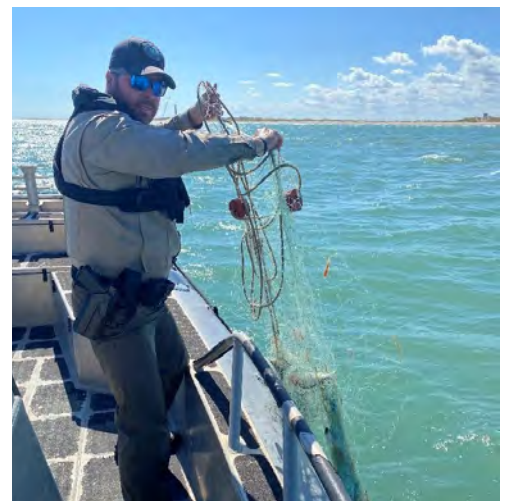
Nueces County Wardens last November caught two individuals gigging flounder during the Fall Closure. Violations included: possession during closed season, over the daily bag limit and undersize flounder.

Cameron County Wardens recently caught an illegal commercial fisherman from Mexico attempting to set gill nets offshore from South Padre Island. TPWD wardens continue to work with USCG to combat this activity daily. These nets are indiscriminate and found with numerous marine species caught in them including marine mammals, sharks, and turtles. These illegal nets and long lines are often several miles in length.

Texas game wardens continue to work closely with other agencies such as USFW and CBP at our Ports of Entry. Texas game wardens are regularly making cases on the illegal importation of aquatic products. Especially important is the prevention of oysters imported from Mexico from entering the food supply in Texas. These oysters are unmarked, unregulated, and often are believed to come from polluted waters.



Note: Texas Wardens patrol both federal and state waters under the Joint Enforcement Act, and regularly partner with USCG for enhanced patrols both inshore and offshore.





## Presenting the NEW CCA Texas license plates!



We are incredibly excited about this new, updated design which proudly displays our CCA logo to show everyone you're a conservation-minded Texas angler.

Get yours TODAY by going to [ccatexas.org](http://ccatexas.org) and clicking the link on the homepage.

For each plate sold, CCA Texas will receive \$22 which will be crucial support for our work of ensuring the health and conservation of our marine resources and anglers' access to them here in Texas. Additionally, by purchasing your CCA Texas license plates for your SUV, truck, car, or trailer, you'll also be raising awareness for CCA and our conservation efforts each time you're out on the road!



## Supporters of CCA Texas

### I got my NEW CCA Texas license plates. Have you gotten yours?

If not, you can order our NEW CCA Texas license plates with an updated design that proudly displays our CCA logo for everyone to see.

[CLICK HERE](#) to get yours today. Why?

1. Show everyone you're a conservation-minded Texas angler.
2. Raise awareness for CCA and our conservation efforts each time you're out on the road.
3. Support our work of ensuring the health and conservation of our marine resources and anglers' access to them here in Texas. For each plate sold, CCA Texas will receive \$22.

Order yours TODAY by [CLICKING HERE](#).

If you already have CCA Texas plates with the previous design, you can definitely keep them, but you also have the opportunity to get the new one by going to your local county tax assessor-collector's office and ordering a replacement for \$6.50.

Help out CCA Texas and upgrade your car, truck, or trailer by [CLICKING HERE](#) to get your custom CCA Texas plates TODAY at MyPlates.com.

Your friend in conservation, —**Robby Byers**  
Executive Director CCA Texas



**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

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 38-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 Texas 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.

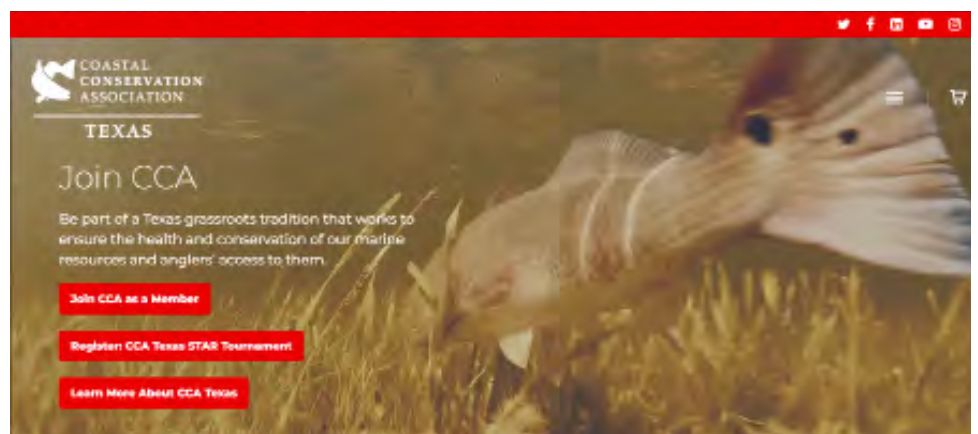
- Photos can be larger and more numerous, allowing for more of the membership's Great Photos to be shared.
- In the Social Media Happenings section, links directly open up to posts on our social media platforms.
- *Another big plus—your CURRENTS Newsletter is now as close as your laptop or your cell 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.



# Are You Following CCA Texas on Social Media?

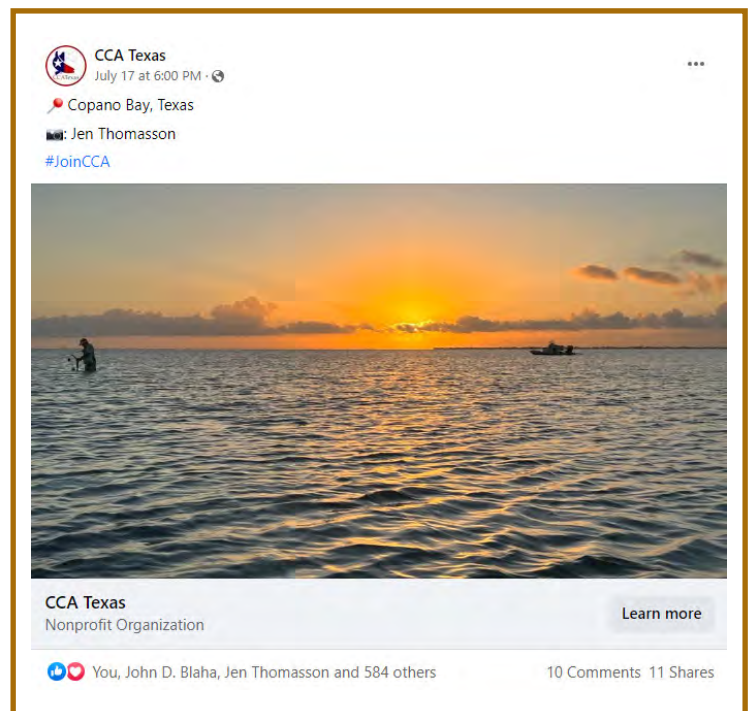
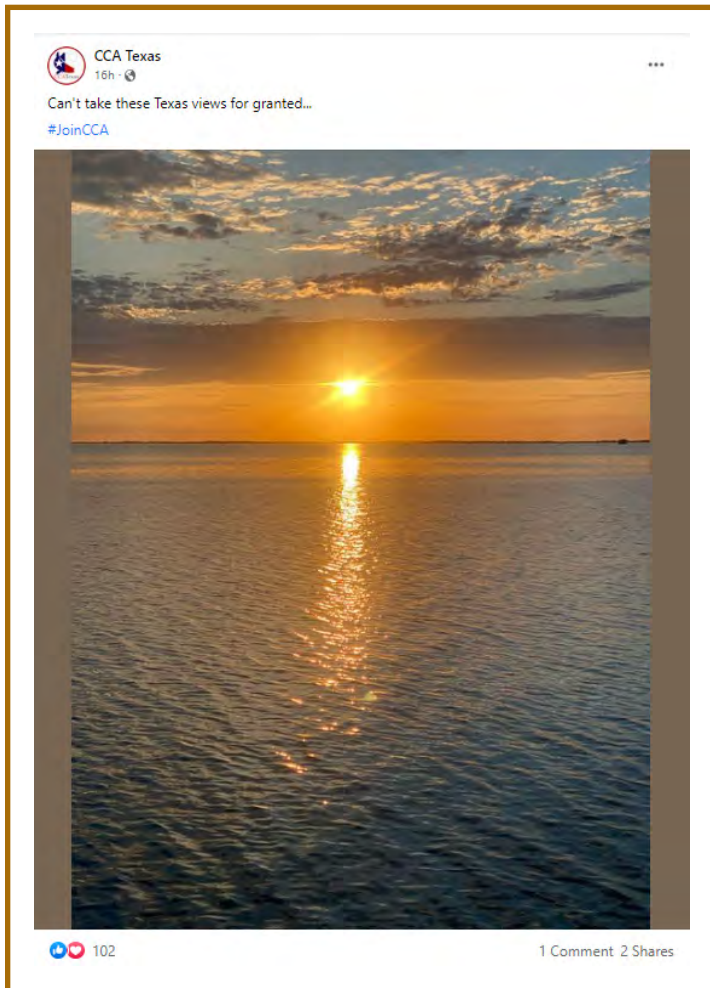
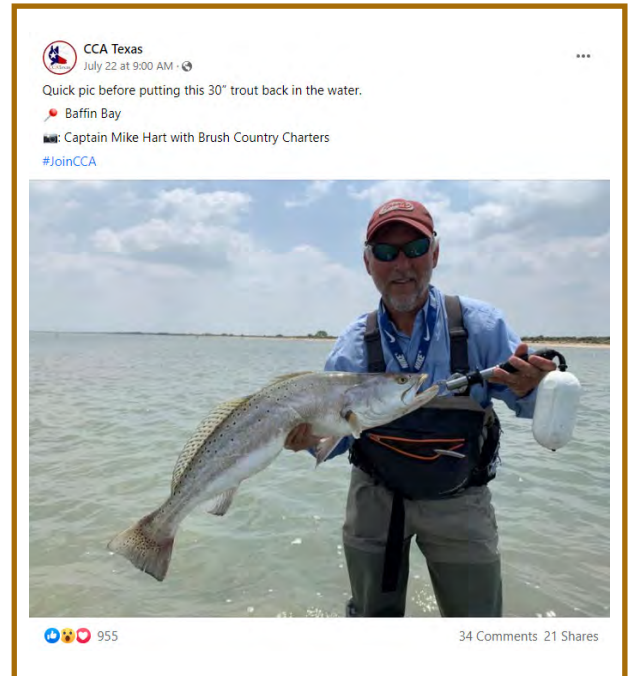
The BEST way to stay informed on the latest with CCA Texas is by connecting with us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. We regularly post photo and video updates on our 50+ local chapters, conservation projects, member photos, and advocacy efforts to keep you informed and engaged. With the CCA Texas STAR Tournament underway, you won't want to miss any of our updates!

Our following is GROWING FAST, join thousands of CCA Texas members around the state by following us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter! Every LIKE and FOLLOW helps to raise awareness for our conservation efforts.

## FACEBOOK CCA Texas on Facebook



Join over 26,000 anglers by LIKING our CCA Texas Facebook page to stay informed on all the latest CCA Texas news with special photo and video updates and informative links! LIKE us Facebook TODAY!  
[@CCATexas](https://www.facebook.com/CCATexas)

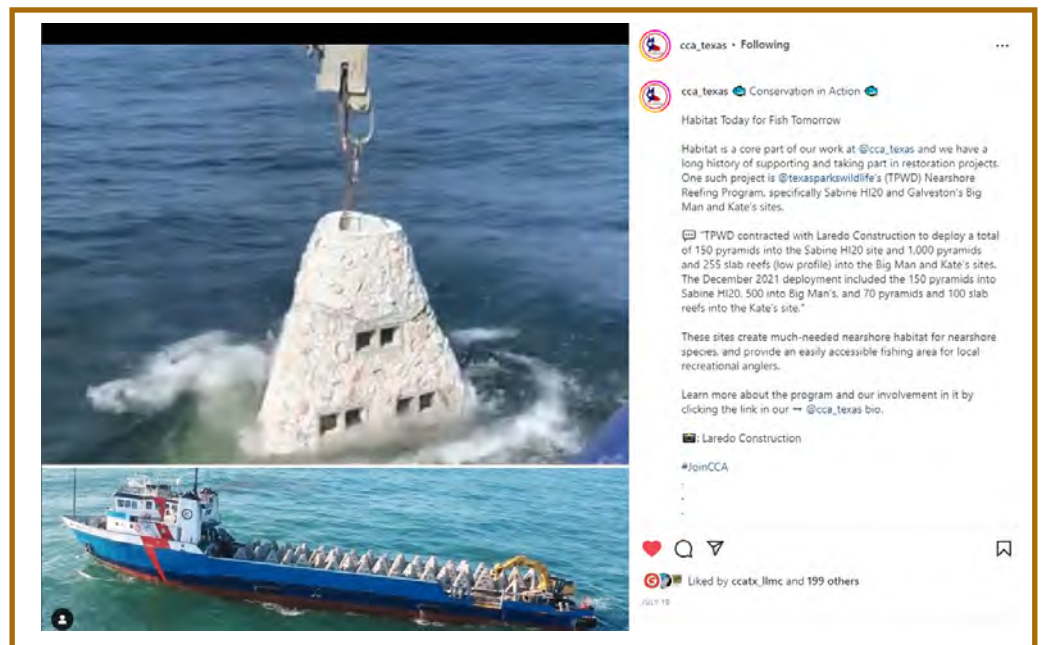
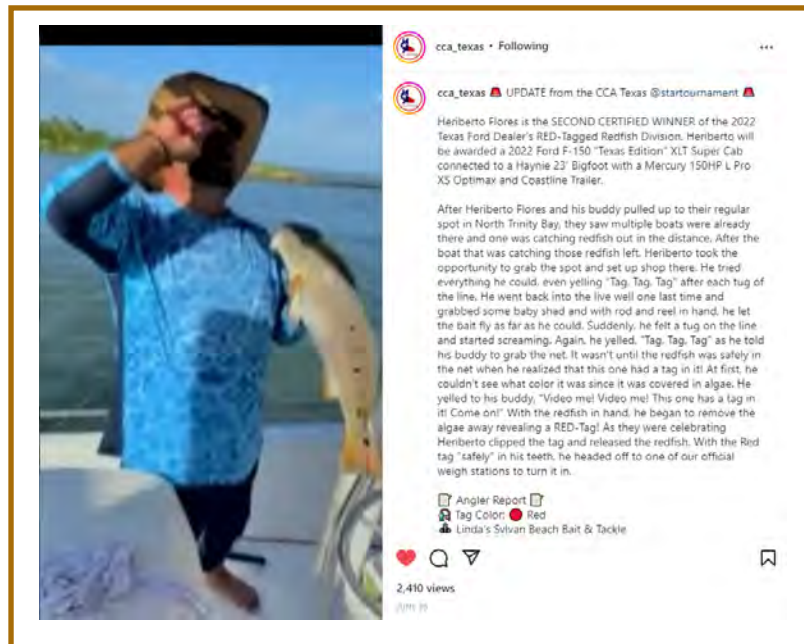
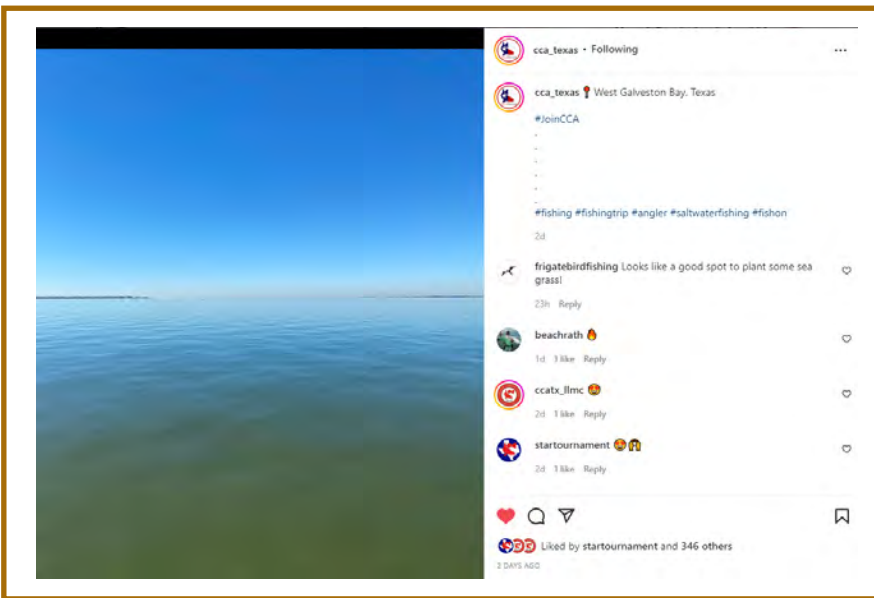






## CCA Texas on Instagram

We are about 200 followers away from our goal of 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 us on Instagram TODAY!***



# 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!**

CCA Texas @CCA\_Texas

Cast 'n catch!

Jen Thomasson

#JoinCCA



0:19 241 views

9:07 AM · Jul 21, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

2 Retweets 14 Likes

CCA Texas @CCA\_Texas

A good reminder...

#JoinCCA



9:00 AM · Jul 10, 2022 · Twitter Web App

2 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 9 Likes

CCA Texas @CCA\_Texas

Truth!

#JoinCCA



5:38 PM · Jun 26, 2022 · Twitter Web App

5 Retweets 12 Likes



*Kevin Hickson*  
 Communications  
 Director  
 Coastal  
 Conservation  
 Association  
 Email:  
[khickson@joincca.org](mailto:khickson@joincca.org)

# PARTNERING TO PROTECT OUR COASTS

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

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TEXAS

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SPORTS+OUTDOORS

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Editor / Sam Caldwell

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# Chapter Updates

**Alvin-Pearland  
Rex Richards**

**alvinpearlandcca@yahoo.com**

The 2022 Alvin Pearland Banquet is in the books! It was great to see everyone 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 and Academy Sports + Outdoors**. 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!

**Our upcoming Anglers' Night Out events will be held on Tuesday, September 6 and Tuesday, October 25.** Keep an eye out for more details.

The best way to stay up to date with our latest chapter events is to follow us on [Facebook](#) or go to our [chapter webpage](#).

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

As Summer comes to a close, we are thankful for a great year so far in Rockport-Fulton! We were blown away once again by all the support from our locals here in Rockport at our Aransas Bay Chapter Banquet in April. **Next year's Banquet will be held once again at the beautiful waterfront Fulton Convention Center on April 1, 2023.** Mark your calendars for a night of fun, auctions, raffles and fundraising for conserving our beautiful Texas Coast!

Our amazing Aransas Bay Chapter Volunteers worked hard putting on Babes on the Bay in May, the largest all women's tournament in the USA! Keeping conservation in mind, the tournament was catch and release (Redfish only) for the second year in a row using the Fishing Chaos App. We had a fantastic year with just under 1,000 anglers coming from all over the country and over 300 teams! Lady Anglers from Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin joined us for an incredible weekend of fishing and fun with friends and family in Rockport-Fulton! We have growing Fly Fishing and Babette Divisions as well and hope you can join the fun next year! **Next year's tournament will be held May 19-20, 2023, at Fulton Convention Center under the big tent.** Once again, we will have live music, great vendors, food and drinks, and will be giving away more awesome trips on Saturday! For more info please follow our [Facebook](#) and Instagram Page "[@babesonbay](#)" for updates. If you are interested in sponsoring our 2023 tournament, please call or text Jen Thomasson, Tournament Director for more details at (361) 205-0182.

Special thanks to our generous sponsors this year: **Ace Hardware, Sandy Oaks Kennel & Spaw, Rockport Marine and Boater's List.** We were able to give away eight awesome trips to registered anglers and raffle ticket buyers. We had a huge list of big-hearted sponsors this year, including **Salemi's Ace Hardware, Reel Sportswear, Waterloo Rod Company, Rockport Tackle Town, Yeti, Costa Sunglasses, Orvis Swan Point Landing, Chris's Marine, Goin' Coastal Outfitters, Miss Kitty's Fishing Getaways, Sandy Oaks Kennel, Poor Man's Country Club, Guild Mortgage, Simms Fishing, The Reserve at St. Charles Bay & more!** We are so grateful for your generosity and are looking forward to next year!

As you may have heard, our Aransas Bay Chapter has been working closely with CCA Texas Advocacy Director, Shane Bonnot, FlatsWorthy, and other organizations to address our concerns regarding oyster fishery harvest pressure in our bay systems. Rest assured, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is working to address some of these concerns. Please visit [ccatexas.org/oysters](http://ccatexas.org/oysters) for all the latest information regarding oysters and thank you for your continued grass-roots efforts to create a sustainable oyster fishery for current and future generations. This work would not be possible without your help. Truly, thank you.

If you would like to get involved in the Aransas Bay CCA Chapter, please contact President, Mike Ferri at (361) 790-4404, Bill Burge, Vice President at (713) 828-3823 or Secretary or Jane Jackson at (210) 240-7722. You can e-mail



*Aransas Bay anglers, left to right: Thad Faleski, Janelle Weller, Michelle Swearer showing off recent catches. For a large image of a sunrise Aransas Bay fishing trip, see the Fishing ForeCasts on page 34.*

[aransasbayccatexas@gmail.com](mailto:aransasbayccatexas@gmail.com) for more information. Our meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at Poor Man's Country Club at 6:30 p.m.

We always have a lot going on with Aransas Bay CCA and would love for you to join in the fun! Tight Lines fishing friends, hope to see you soon!

**Austin**

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

**Bastrop County**

**Cole Williams 512-913-3684**  
**colew65@yahoo.com**

It has been a busy month preparing for the 1st Annual Bastrop County CCA Banquet held on July 28, 2022, at the Bastrop Convention Center. As of July 17th, we had sold out on tables. We are kicking our first banquet off with over 500 attendees. We appreciate all the support of our Bastrop County CCA team accomplishing this feat. A big thank you to all of our sponsors, local community and donors that have graciously stepped up to the plate to ensure our first banquet is an amazing event.

**Brazoria**

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

**Brazos Valley**

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

Although we are not in banquet season, we continue to be thankful to our banquet sponsors, table sponsors, game sponsors, raffle sponsors, food and drink sponsors, etc....



*Some trout fishing away from the Brazos Valley regular haunts!*

the list goes on. CCA would not exist without you folks. It takes a lot of people and effort to put on a banquet but oh how rewarding it is. You can look back in this and past CURRENTS at the accomplishments that CCA Texas has made knowing that they would not of happen without you.

**Save the date for next year's Banquet at the Brazos Center, Friday, March 3, 2023.** We already have folks committing to sponsorships. If you would like to get on that list, get in touch with one of the committee members.

We are planning to have our next regular meeting at the Brazos Center Pavilion October 11. Surely it will be cooler by then? If you would like to get on our

Brazos Valley email list, send a request to Scott Sigle at [sig@suddenlink.net](mailto:sig@suddenlink.net) for chapter updates.

On a sad note, in June we lost one of our longtime members and friends, Brad Phair. For years, he was an instrumental member and fishing companion. He will be missed.

**Brenham**

**Ryan Saunders 979-251-2389**  
**ryansaunders1@att.net**

**Brush Country**

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

**Centex**

**Wayne Webb 361-296-4037**  
**sheyhunt@aol.com**

**Central Houston**

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

**Colorado Valley**

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

Greetings from the Colorado Valley! My wife and I have been taking some of our grandsons out but not having much luck. I'm blaming the high pressure dominating the weather, but it may be something else? They really enjoyed the fishing experiences including catching bait and all the other things included in the outings.

Our chapter recently attended the ICC and thoroughly enjoyed the event. The names of our fishermen included George "Bubba" Gold, John Gold, Danny Olenick, Dave Fehlker, Stephen LeFrance, Mathew LeFrance, Michael Menefee, Lucas Janda, Gary Janda, and Nick Baker. Also attending the event were Anissa Menefee and Brenda Fehlker, and Mason Fehlker. Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all!



*2022 CCA Colorado Valley ICC Team*

**Come and Catch It**  
**Jared Brumme 210-825-9088**  
**jaredbrumme@yahoo.com**

**Corpus Christi**  
**Cody Roesener 916-531-0078**  
**cbrouftters@yahoo.com**

**Dallas**  
**Jason Gray 214-384-4164**  
**Jason.Gray@hilltopsecurities.com**

A few weeks ago, we had an awesome Anglers' Night Out



*Some happy raffle winners at the latest Dallas Chapter Anglers' Night Out. CCA Dallas member Matt Scherer recently enjoyed a trip he won at last year's banquet with his nephew off the coast of Baja.*

at Beretta Gallery and there was a great crowd. Thanks to **Tito's Vodka** and **Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits** for sponsoring our cocktail bar. Our raffle prizes included YETI coolers, a CHAMA Vaquero chair, and a TFO inshore casting rod paired with a 13 Fishing Concept A reel. Stay tuned for the announcement of our next ANO and we will be sure to have more great prizes like this.

**Our Dallas banquet is quickly approaching on September 22.** We encourage you to buy your table now because we will sell out. Go to the [Dallas Chapter webpage](#) to purchase a table or individual ticket. The banquet will have some fantastic fishing trips to bid on and all kinds of fishing and hunting gear in the raffle packages and auctions. Please contact Erich or Jason if you need help with a table purchase or are interested in a sponsorship or donation for the banquet. Tight lines to all!

**Fort Bend**  
**Blake Tumlinson 979-332-2236**  
**Btumlinson86@gmail.com**

Hello everyone, we hope you all are well and staying cool out there, man has it been a hot one! Regardless of the heat this summer, we've seen some pretty good fish come in and some pretty good times have been had on the water. We've shared some pictures of board member Nick Parr and his kids enjoying a day out and catching a few flounder in Bastrop Bayou. It is always good to see kids enjoying the resources we help to preserve.

In tournament news, your Fort Bend executive board members participated in CCA's Inter Chapter Challenge Tournament (ICC) in June and took 2nd place. Congratulations guys, well done! The Kidfish tournament

in July also went very well this year, hot for sure but the kids hardly notice, we're looking forward to doing it again next summer. Last, the Fort Bend Fishermen group has the Ladies only fishing tournament, The Lingerie on The Bay (LOTB) coming up August 27, 2022 held in Matagorda TX. Flyers and Entry forms will be posted on the [Fort Bend Fishermen Facebook Page](#), so get yourself signed up!

Last, and I can't say this enough but thank you all for the endless support. We continue to see our members go out of their way to ensure that CCA and coastal conservation succeeds. On behalf of the Fort Bend CCA chapter, thank you all! For news and information about the banquet and other events please visit our [chapter webpage](#) and remember to keep the waterways clean and be respectful to your fellow anglers. Hope to see you on the water!

**Fort Worth**  
**Andrew Rico**  
**817-313-7112**  
**andrew@**  
**rosshealypools.com**

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

**Golden Triangle**  
**TS Bell 409-291-0448 tsbell70@yahoo.com**  
**John Martin Busceme 409-767-0353**  
**jmbusceme@easthamforge.com**



*CCA Fort Bend Board Member Nick Parr and his kids with some nice Flounder.*

Greetings from the Golden Triangle Chapter! It's been hot this Summer but so has the fishing on the upper coast. We have seen some great fish entered into S.T.A.R. and are thankful for everyone who has entered.

We would like to extend the invite out to everyone to join their local CCA chapters in a **beach clean-up. The event will take place September 17, 2022 on McFaddin Beach in Sabine Pass, TX.** There will be food, beverages, and door prizes for all the volunteers; we will also follow

the day up with some surf fishing on the beach. Go to the [Golden Triangle Chapter Facebook page](#) for more event info or email our chapter president. We look forward to seeing everyone there! We also hope that you have had the opportunity to spend time with family and friends in the outdoors this year. Stay safe and have fun!

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

Wishing you all had a fantastic summer and looking forward to some Fall cooler weather. **Save the date for our Fall Anglers' Night Out to be held Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 6 p.m.** It will take place at the Sugar Land Knights of Columbus Hall and a fried catfish meal will be provided. This event is designed to grow our Sugar Land Chapter with new members. For all new members who sign up that night they will be automatically entered into a drawing for a Full Day Guided Fishing Trip by Top Water Matagorda Charters in Sargent. You can find more information on them at [topwatermatagorda.com](#). Our Anglers Night out will also feature a speaker, bucket raffles, good ole hospitality and plenty of fish stories.

Want to see the smiles on children's faces when they catch their first fish?



*2021 GSL President's Cup Winner, Bob Hrachovy.*

Then come on out and lend a hand **Saturday, October 15, 2022** as we partner with Missouri City for their fall Kid Fish Event. Set up is at 8 a.m. and fishing starts at 10 a.m.

Our annual **President's Cup** is scheduled for **Saturday, November 12, in Sargent, Texas** and is a great chapter event every year. The 2021 winner was Bob Hrachovy.

The next **Greater Sugar Land Chapter Board Meeting** is set for **7 p.m. on September 13 at La Escondido in Missouri City**. If you would like to

get involved in a growing chapter, please join us.

Our 2022 Annual Banquet was a sell out this past March and plans are already underway for our **2023 Annual Banquet to be held at the Stafford Centre on Thursday, March 9, 2023**. We continue to grow our banquet and you can be a part of making history as we continue to grow and enjoy some FUNdraising for CCA Texas.

And as always, a very 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. La Les La Bon Temps Roulle and Geaux Fish.

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

**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 is having a good summer in the Heart of the Hills. A group of chapter volunteers participated in the CCA Inter Chapter Challenge fishing tournament on June 10 & 11 in Rockport/Fulton. Everyone had fun fishing and enjoyed some good food and fellowship. Thanks to the CCA crew from Houston home office for putting on this event!

If you haven't purchased your tickets for **the Heart of the Hills Annual Banquet**, please call (210) 669-3732 or [purchase them online](#) as soon as possible. We will have our dinner, auctions and raffles out at **Don Strange Ranch on September 15, 2022 at 6 p.m.** We are still accepting donations for auction and raffle items and sponsorships are available. If you would like to help, please call (210) 669-3732. Tight lines and see you at the banquet!

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

Howdy Helotes, the chapter is in cruise control mode right now. We are enjoying the hot summer and gearing up to begin planning for the **2023 Banquet: save the date for March 23, 2022, at Pedrotti's Ranch**. Until then, take a kid fishing. It will put a smile on their face and yours

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

**Houston Homebuilders**  
**Jimmy Reid 281-932-3395**  
**jreid@newmarkhomes.com**

**Houston Real Estate**  
**Kirk Laguarda 713-515-3830**  
**KLaguarda@landadvisors.com**

**Katy**  
**Lyn Goldman 713-591-8550**  
**lgoldman@contrexenergy.com**

**Laredo**  
**Javier C. Villarreal 956-206-7953**  
**Jcvillarreal13@gmail.com**



Left: 2022 Matagorda Bays Chapter Board Members with Haynie 25 Magnum. Right: 2022 Matagorda Bays Banquet Raffle Ticket Sales Team.



**Lee County**

**Jake Horne 979-540-6117**  
**jake@aubainesupply.com**

Lee County members enjoyed the Bludau Palooza tournament in Port Mansfield. Miller Bassler and Marty Bludau announce the Largest Trout winner, Caleb Holman.

**Live Oak**

**Denise Krc 979-733-3358**  
**liveoakchaptercca@gmail.com**

**Lower Colorado**

**Anthony Kimmey 979-241-2239**  
**anthonykimmey@ymail.com**

**Lower Laguna Madre**

**Oscar Garcia 956-491-8148**  
**oscar@shallowssportboats.com**

**Mainland**

**Trey Mitchiner 281-636-2165**  
**treym642004@aol.com**

On August 9 our guest speaker at our Anglers' Night Out will be Kim Smith with the Veterans Summer Slam, they will talk about how their fishing tournament they put on for local veterans went and show us a slideshow.

On August 13, Mainland Chapter CCA will be having their Annual Kid Fish Tournament at the Sea Star Base at 7509 Broadway St. in Galveston. Rods and reels, PFD

were provided by Sea Star Base and Boyd's One Stop donated the bait. Event shirts were sponsored by Orthopedic Specialist of Texas.

And please join us at our Anglers' Night Out on September 13, Mark and Tina Schaeffbauer with Bait Butler will tell us a little bit on how they started and how they came up with the best bait bucket on the market.

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

This is a hot and dry summer greeting from the Matagorda Bays Chapter! On June 30 our chapter held yet again another SOLD OUT banquet! Our chapter members helped us set fundraising records two years in a row by showing their generosity and caring for conservation. Our chapter is one of the most successful in the State of Texas because of our dedicated and generous boat sponsors, table sponsors, hat & tumbler sponsors, chapter members, and the small-town communities that our chapter serves. The Matagorda Bays Board Members volunteered their time and sweat to ensure we held the best PARTY in El Campo, Texas for our supporters...we wish to thank all of them for their hard work ethic, dedication, and passion for conserving our Texas coast for the future.

Thank you to this year's boat sponsors; ILS Capital, Capital Farm Credit, and Del Papa Distributing. Our 2022 Boat Raffle Prize winners were: Robert Mock won the 2022 Haynie 25 Magnum with 400 HP Mercury Verado on a Coastline trailer. Katie Kainer won the Texas Lifetime Resident Combo Hunting and Fishing license. Donald Sutton won the CCA Life Membership (and custom CCA Weatherby rifle). Cody Hundl won Waterloo Rod and Lews Reel. Gordon Roddy won the CCA framed print. Our final event for 2022 will be our Jim Ehman Memorial Gudies Cup being held at Matagorda Harbor Bait and Tackle. We have a total of 19 teams ready to compete this year and are looking forward to the great comradery and memories that will be made!

Matagorda Bays - Conservation Quote: "Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land." -Aldo Leopold

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.





Left: Mid Coast CCA President Wade Harrell with a catch and release trout from port O'Connor. Right: Mid Coast CCA Vice President Rod Graci recently hosted Jeff Frazier, an old friend from St. Croix, on a trip to POC where he caught and released a personal best trout! Lower left: Wade and Griff Harrell recently doubled up on a couple redfish out of a large school on the move in port O'Connor. Right: Sam Harrell with his first top water Redfish.

**Mid Coast**  
**Wade Harrell 361-935-1125**  
**wcharrell@hotmail.com**

I don't know about you, but I can't wait for that first fall cool front to arrive! It seems like the summer doldrums have set in and it's time for a change! Some of our board members plan to participate in the 3rd annual Port O'Connor shoreline cleanup organized by the San Antonio Bay Partnership on October 1, 2022. Please reach out to Allan Berger ([allanberger@outlook.com](mailto:allanberger@outlook.com) or (713) 829-2852) if you'd like to help! I think you'll find it very rewarding.

We continue to work to build back our chapter board here at Mid Coast. If you have an interest serving on our board, please let me or Coleman Todd, our Assistant Director, know. Keep a look-out for upcoming events and plans for our 2023 banquet next spring by watching our [Facebook page](#) and the [CCA Mid Coast Chapter webpage](#). Please practice conservation and catch and release while you are out on the water!

**Northeast Houston**  
**Jason Law 713-898-8594**  
**jlaw1899@yahoo.com**

**Northwest Houston**  
**Jerry Goss 832-457-7535**  
**jerry.goss@lexitaslegal.com**

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

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

**5th Annual Port Lavaca CCA Chapter Banquet:** it's that time again! Come on out and join us for our annual CCA banquet. It will be taking place at the **Bauer Community Center in Port Lavaca on Friday, August 12, 2022**. Doors open at 6 p.m. we will have dinner, drinks, auctions, raffles and lots of fishing stories amongst friends. We look forward to seeing you there for that good old fundraising fun!

Tickets available ahead of time or at the door. Tables are still available but please order in advance for set up purposes. For tables or tickets please contact Carson Vecera at [cvecera@ccatexas.org](mailto:cvecera@ccatexas.org) or (713) 626-4222.

**Port O'Connor**  
**Hank Lippold 832-499-1067**  
**hanklippold@gmail.com**

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

Hope everybody is having a good fishing summer despite the heat. It's time of the year for our **19th Annual Prairie Chapter CCA Kids Fishing Tournament**. It will be held on **Saturday, August 20, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Don and Patricia's fish pond: 12857 Newberg Road, Cat Spring, 78933.**

This event is open to the public and everything is FREE! Prizes will be given to different age categories. We will be serving hot dogs and drinks. Bring your fishing poles and lawn chairs, worms and bait will be provided. Come and have fun and catch a lot of fish.

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

**The Beeville Fish Fry is scheduled for September 14, 2022.** It is a great event! Very much like the Banquet in Aransas Pass. More detail to follow but mark your calendars with the date.

After not having meetings for a couple of years because of COVID, we are planning General Membership Meetings in late August and early November. Most likely on Wednesday evenings. More info to follow on location and time.

A final thank you to all of our Banquet donors, supporters, and attendees. It was a fun event, and we broke our record for net income. Thank you, thank you!

Rio Grande Valley  
Ruben Arcaute 956-453-6966  
rjarcaute@gmail.com

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

Saltgrass  
Buck Stobart 409-782-7934  
stobartbuck@yahoo.com

Sam Houston  
Brandon Kolaja  
281-797-6908

bkolaja@huntsvilletx.gov  
Well, it's that time of year and we are excited for our upcoming banquet. **It will be held Thursday, September 1, 2022 at the Walker County Fairgrounds.** We had one of our best events last year and we are hoping this year will be even better. You will not want to miss this event! It's always 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 and silent auctions and plenty of chances to win various items including coolers, guns, rods/reels, and some great trips. Please contact us for tickets and sponsorship opportunities. Get out and GO FISH! No Tagrets!

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

San Bernard  
Ross Kutach 281-330-0135  
rosskutach@yahoo.com

San Gabriel  
John Melnar 512-497-8284  
jmelnar@plateaulandgroup.com

Greetings to all, when this issue of CURRENTS is published, the San Gabriel Chapter of CCA Texas will have celebrated our 20th Anniversary with our annual banquet which was held August 4, 2022 at the Georgetown Convention Center.

We are always grateful to our sponsors and participants for making this a successful event. We would also like to thank all the many volunteers who assist us in putting on this quality event. The planning



CCA RGV members Dr. Norma Cavazos and Rubén Arcaute getting ready for the chapter fundraiser.



San Antonio family fun - Young Bradley Stellges out-fished Mom, Sara.

and organizing for the banquet are a 12-month process led by our Banquet Chair, Jeff Bible, and his team. We would also like to thank two of our departing leaders John Melnar, President and Norman Trubee, Treasurer. These two have been with the San Gabriel Chapter since its inception and have contributed their leadership to the local chapter as well as state CCA. They will be truly missed.

Set your calendar now for our **next banquet to be held on August 3, 2023.** Wishing everyone a safe and happy end of summer!



Southwestern  
Veronica Oliver 830-765-6228  
ronnimoliver@gmail.com

TAMU  
James Payne 210-275-0707  
jamescp88@tamu.edu

Texas State University

Tomball/Magnolia  
Matt Maddox 832-963-5215  
mrmaddox04@gmail.com

Tri-County  
Justin Putz 210-585-0401  
putz.stx@gmail.com

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

Greetings fellow travelers! NEWS FLASH: It's time for our **32nd Annual Chapter**

**Banquet, Friday, August 26, 2022, at Armenta's Reception Hall on Sheldon Road.** We'll have a live auction, silent auction, raffles, games, and a whole lot of fun. Your chapter board, year in and year out, puts on a quality banquet that you will surely enjoy. So, if you haven't already, pick up the phone and give your favorite board member a call to get the ball rolling. As always, you can also get all the details on the [Trinity Bay Chapter webpage](#) or on our [Facebook page](#).

As we close another summer out, we look forward to fewer heat advisories. We hope you all had some quality time spent with family and friends on the water. Until we meet again at the boat ramp or the bait camp, be safe my friends.

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

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

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



*The Port Mansfield Navy transported and supported more than 100 cleanup crew members for duty at the East Cut and beach.*

## Leave it better than you found it

*Coming up, Oct. 1, 2022*

### San Antonio Bay Partnership (SABP) Port O'Connor Shorelines Cleanup

For the last two years, SABP has conducted the POC Shorelines Cleanup to pick up trash on remote shores near POC—boat or kayaks required to access. The date for 2022 is Saturday, Oct. 1. Contact me at the email below. Sign up—we need the help! Info on last year's effort is also available on [SABayPartnership.org](http://SABayPartnership.org). Allan Berger [AllanRBerger@outlook.com](mailto:AllanRBerger@outlook.com) or text 713-824-2852

### Port Mansfield Cut & Beach Cleanup 2022 was a great success

The Rio Grande Valley continues to lead the way with so many coming from all over to show support for the beaches of Laguna Madre and Padre Island. Next year's Cleanup is already set for June 10th, 2023, to be followed on Sunday by Miller and Kathie Bassler's 50th wedding Anniversary party. —Sam Caldwell



Above: many young volunteers have made the Cleanup an annual event for several years. Below: **FlatsWorthy** sponsored the Coastal Bend 4-H Sports-fishing Day in Rockport. Thanks to all the volunteers and Megan Glidden, Emilee Deforest and R J Shelley. —Chuck Naiser





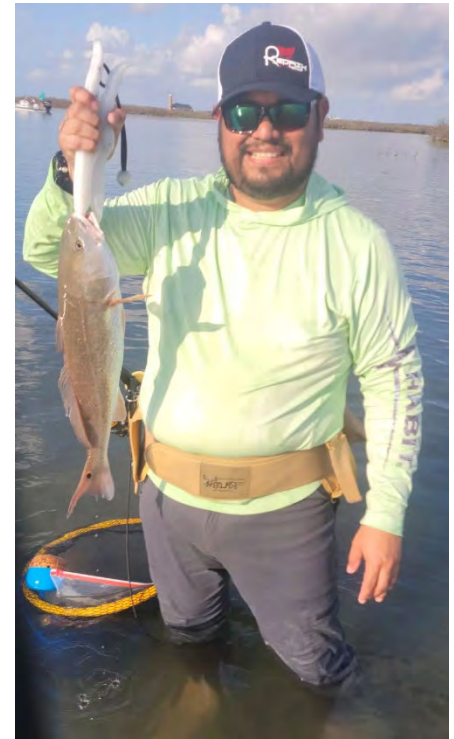
**T**his year, our typical prime-time June fishing will be remembered instead for August heat and March winds. Geez...how many small-craft advisories were posted?! Hard to catch tagged reds when confined to shore. Even in this tough economy, STAR anglers remain unbowed and showed again that pioneer spirit Texans are famous for. Waiting till the wind laid in July, suddenly, the catches started coming. Those tagged reds did not go anywhere, and at this writing, at least 13 have been caught, mostly in the last 30 days. We have THREE certified RED tag winners and THREE certified BLUE tag winners. Check it out at [startournament.org](http://startournament.org). Of the 118 prizes, that means plenty more remain. More boat/truck combos, boat combos, Polaris UTVs, and Academy Sports and Outdoors gift cards ranging from \$100 to \$2,000 each. Surely the early summer heat has already conditioned us for August—with over 30 days of tournament action left, get out there and get your share!

Another thing we've noticed....since STAR has anglers of every age from 6 to 60 (or more), kudos to the Moms and Dads for raising your kids right and getting them on the water. With \$325,000 in scholarships being given away each and every year (for a cheap \$10 buck entry fee, 17 and under only), CCA always strives to get these kids "hooked" all right, but on the real thing. Us parents have the passion and want to pass it on, as we know our coastal future will depend upon these future guardians. Well, it must be working—right now, the current leaders dominating in just the Hoffpauir Offshore Division are **teenagers**, with giant fish! Hard to imagine a 13 yr old girl wrangling a 44# smoking kingfish, or a 17 yr old boy hanging on with a 45# bull dorado, or even a 16 yr old wrassling a beastly 70# ling. What?! Congrats to these current leaders, and we hope

you hold out till the end! But a special shout-out to the elders who cared enough to plant the seed and make this happen. Quite fine. This is what CCA lives for. Let's let some current STAR anglers tell their own stories:

**Texas Ford Dealers  
RED-Tag Division**

**Marco Rocha** and his buddy set off down the Lydia Ann Channel in search of an inlet with sufficient bait and clear water. Their first morning stop would prove to be the most critical decision they made that day. Not long after starting their wade, the bite was on! With live shrimp in hand and plenty of bait working, Marco hooked into a redfish which he soon



*Marco Rocha- Red-Tag #1391. Caught: Lydia Ann Lighthouse, Aransas Pass, on Saturday, June 4th*

realized was the fish of a lifetime. With the drag burning and his pole bent, the redfish finally came into sight with the RED tag waving at him! He shouted, "It has a RED tag!" Both the nearby boat and his buddy yelled, "Get 'em! Get 'em!" The redfish made one last run with the red tag vanishing into the depths, and it must have felt like an eternity. Soon, he gained more and more of the line back. Finally, the redfish came close enough to be netted, and he eventually landed the RED-tagged redfish! With cheers all around, Marco clipped the tag and released the redfish. With the Red tag in hand, Mr. Rocha headed off to one of our official weigh stations, Roy's Bait & Tackle Outfitters, to turn in the RED tag.

**Heriberto Flores** and his buddy struggled all afternoon, finding live bait and fighting the rain. Once they caught



**BEST IN TEXAS**



a handful of shrimp and a few finger mullet, they saw a break in the weather, and Heriberto said, "Let's go. Let's go try it with this." After pulling up to their regular spot in North Trinity Bay, they saw multiple boats were already there, and one was catching redfish out in the distance. After using what little bait they had catching flounder, they needed more bait and were able to bring in nickel-sized baby shad. After the boat catching



**Heriberto Flores- Red-Tag #1414. Caught: North Trinity Bay, McCollum Park, on Tuesday, Tuesday, June 21st**

those redfish left, Heriberto grabbed the spot and set up shop there. He tried everything he could, even yelling "Tag, Tag, Tag" after each line tug. He went back into the live well one last time and grabbed those baby shad, and with rod and reel in hand, he let the bait fly as far as he could. Suddenly, he felt a tug on the line and started screaming. Again, he yelled, "Tag, Tag, Tag," as he told his buddy to grab the net. It was not until the redfish was safely in the net that he realized that this one had a tag in it! At first, he could not see its color since it was covered in algae. He yelled to his buddy, "Video me! Video me! This one has a tag in it! Come on!" With the redfish in hand, he began to strip the algae away, revealing a RED-Tag! As they were celebrating, Heriberto clipped the tag and released the redfish. With the Red tag "safely" in his teeth, he headed off to one of our official weigh stations, Linda's B&T, to turn it in.

For **Kasey Arnst**, this was not a typical Monday. Ordinarily, Kasey would be starting his work week, but this Monday marked the first work day after losing his job. Over the weekend, knowing he would not work on Monday, Kasey decided to sign up for the CCA Texas STAR Tournament and head to Galveston to spend time fishing. Once there, he pulled out his cast net,

snagged a few mud minnows, and waded into the water. With his rod and reel in hand, he cast his line out and waited for a bite. The line went taut, and he set the hook! Once the redfish was within reach of the net, he noticed what appeared to be algae on its back. Upon further investigation, it was a RED tag! Kasey's luck had just changed; what had initially seemed to be a misfortune Monday turned into the most fortunate day as he landed the tagged red, making him our third RED tag winner. Kasey clipped the



**Kasey Arnst- Red-Tag #1359. Caught: Virginia Point, Galveston, on Monday, June 11th**

tag, released the redfish, and headed off to one of our official weigh stations, West End Marina, to turn in the tag.

## BLUE Tag Division

**Steve Berris** and his fishing buddies Jim and George pushed off early Monday morning from North Padre Island. While running down the ditch, George asked the guys, "Where do y'all



**Steve Berris- Blue-Tag #1402. Caught: Pita Island Flats, Corpus Christi, on Monday, June 20th**

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want to fish this morning?" Jim replied, "Wherever the tagged redfish are." George set a course to one of their tried-and-true spots on the flat near Pita Island. They floated across the extensive flat with the motor up and a slight breeze at their back. Being the good friend he is, Steve positioned himself at the stern of the boat to let his buddy Jim cast from the bow in hopes of getting him on more fish. With a rod and reel in hand, and scattered potholes all around, Steve let his bone super spook fly. With a few twitches of the wrist, that familiar sound of a topwater exploding on a calm morning set in, and Steve was hooked up. He exclaimed, "She Blew it Up!" It was not until the redfish was safely in the net that they realized it had a BLUE- tag waving at them! With cheers all around, Steve clipped the tag and released the redfish. With the Blue tag in hand, Steve headed off to one of our official weigh stations, Roy's Bait & Tackle Outfitters, to turn in the BLUE Tag.



*Randall Kelly- Blue-Tag #1446. Caught: Talley Island Flats, Rockport, on Wednesday, July 13th*

With tides changing, **Randall Kelly** decided to either go south towards Ingleside or north towards Rockport. Randall and his wife Sandra headed north up the ICW to Turtle Bayou flats. With the day's heat upon them, Randall knew that these fish would be in deep guts off the flat. Each time they would hook up, Sandra would yell in hopeful

anticipation, "TAG! TAG! TAG!" The power of positive thinking is REEL! Randall grabbed his rod and reel and cast the mullet into the gut, and BAM, he was hooked up! Once the redfish was within reach of the net, they noticed algae on its back. Upon further investigation, it was a BLUE tag! With the Blue tag in hand, Randall headed off to one of our official weigh stations, Terry's Seaworthy Marine Supply, to turn in the tag.

**Kimberly Schurwon** grabbed some live shrimp, took her rod and reel, and cast the shrimp near old pylons. It did not take long after that shrimp hit bottom before something got a hold of it. She set the hook, and the fight was on! Once that fish was hooked, it tried everything to escape, including running through and around those pylons! Kimberly recalled, "It was like I was reeling that fish in through an obstacle course!"



*Kimberly Schurwon-Tag #1430. Port of Galveston, Galveston, TX, on Saturday, June 16th*

She could feel the line dragging across the pylons and knew it would break off if she did not bring that fish in quickly. Once the redfish was safely in the net, she realized it had a tag waving at her. Kimberly yelled to her husband, "Give me my glasses! IT'S A 2022 BLUE-TAGGED REDFISH!" With cheers all around, Kimberly clipped the tag, released the redfish, and headed off to one of our official weigh stations, West End Marina, to turn in the tag.



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# CCA TEXAS STAR TOURNAMENT

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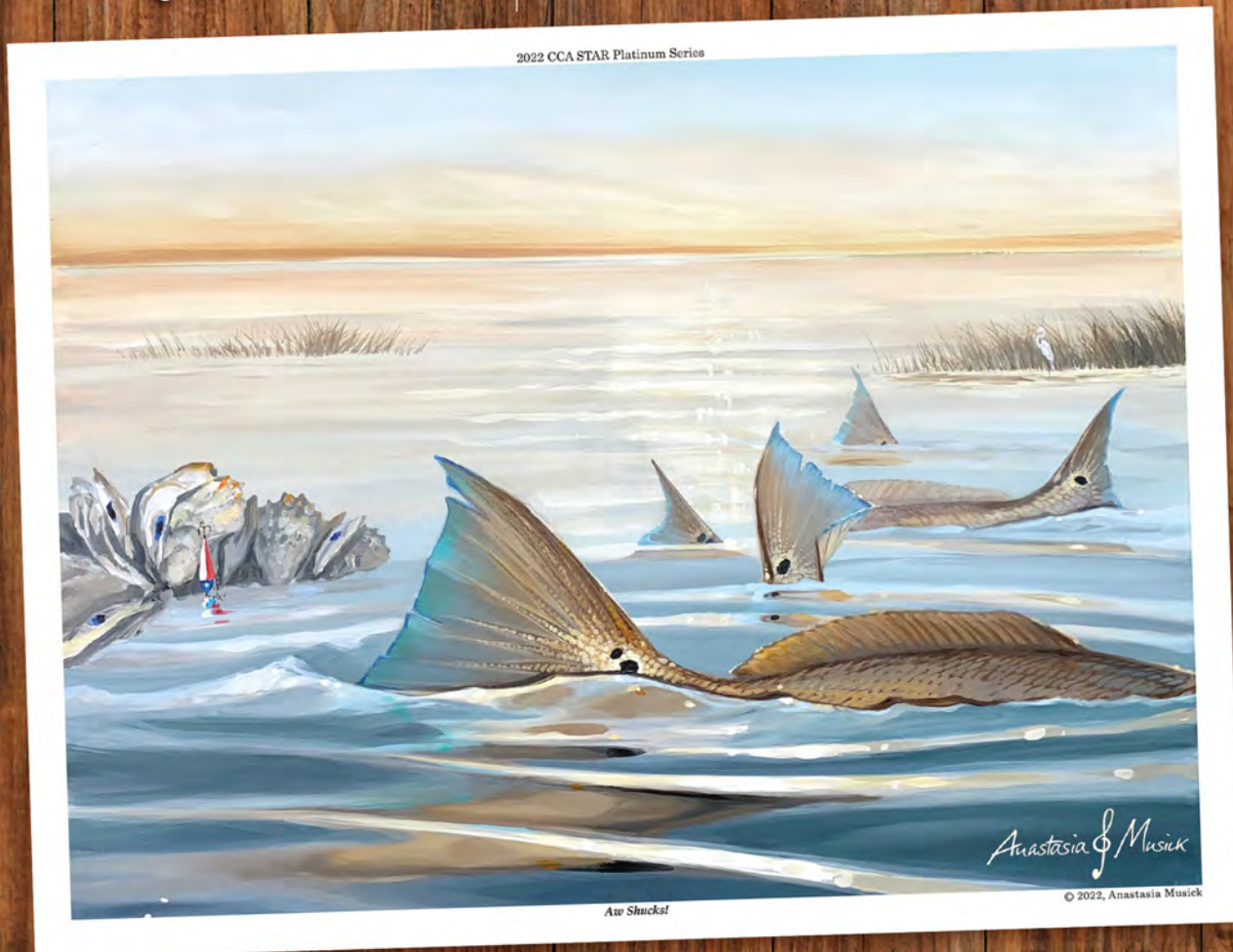


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## 2022 CCA Texas STAR Tournament Structure

### Open Divisions

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Tagged Divisions</b>	Prize	Prize	Prize	Prize	Prize	Prize	Prize	Prize	Prize	Prize
<b>Red Tag</b>	Haynie/Ford	Haynie/Ford	Haynie/Ford	Haynie/Ford	Haynie/Ford	Haynie	Haynie	Haynie	Haynie	Haynie
<b>Blue Tag</b>	Prize	Prize	Prize	Academy Gift Card	Academy Gift Card	Academy Gift Card	Academy Gift Card	Academy Gift Card	Academy Gift Card	Academy Gift Card
	Mowdy	Mowdy	Mowdy	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750
<b>Inshore Divisions</b>	Prize Boat	Academy Gift Card	Academy Gift Card	Academy Gift Card	Academy Gift Card					
Gafftop	Shoalwater	\$500	\$250	\$150	\$100					
Sheepshead	Shoalwater	\$500	\$250	\$150	\$100					
Black Drum	Shoalwater	\$500	\$250	\$150	\$100					
<b>Offshore Divisions</b>	Prize UTV	Academy Gift Card	Academy Gift Card	Academy Gift Card	Academy Gift Card					
Ling	Ranger	\$500	\$250	\$150	\$100					
Dolphin	Ranger	\$500	\$250	\$150	\$100					
Kingfish	Ranger	\$500	\$250	\$150	\$100					
Snapper	Ranger	\$500	\$250	\$150	\$100					
<b>STAR Teens</b>	<b>STAR Teens Youth Divisions Scholarships</b>									
Gafftop	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$2,500					
Sheepshead	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$2,500					
<b>STAR Kids</b>	<b>STAR Kids Youth Divisions Scholarships</b>									
Gafftop	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$2,500					
Sheepshead	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$2,500					
<b>STAR Tournament Drawings</b> Early Bird Drawing-Dargel Skout Boat Pkg Member Bonus Drawing- Dargel Skout Boat Pkg Youth Scholarship Drawing - \$25,000 Scholarship <a href="http://www.startournament.org">www.startournament.org</a>										



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# Gulf Identification Guide



Grouper



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Mahi-Mahi



Tito's Martini



Red Drum



Hair of the Dog



Spackled Trout



Tito's Salty Dog



Flounder



Tito's Rosewater



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# Fore Casts



## Upper Coast

**Capt. George Knighten**

*Food, comfort, a moving tide*

We want to be fed and comfortable and so do the fish. So, when trying to figure out where to fish, I try to combine those two factors with the basics, like a moving tide. For the most part that means finding good structure that's holding bait in deeper, cooler water. That could be gas wells, oyster reefs or just a plain dropoff.

This year all of our bays have good salinity so you can pretty much pick your bay. For Trinity, I like the gas wells. You have some of the deepest water in the Galveston Bay system and the structure is great. Many of the wells still have some oyster shell that attached to the original pads and made a reef.

East Bay has many reefs to choose from and this time of year any of them can be holding fish. Hanna's, Deep Reef, Mid Bay or the artificial reefs can produce. West Bay has its traditional spots around the shell markers between Green's Cut and Confederate Reef. When going to West Bay also keep in mind the San Louis Pass area. With the tidal flow it gets, the region may have cooler water, especially in the guts between the sand bars.

And you can't forget the Jetties. All that structure holding bait and cooler currents will put fish close to the rocks.

I like to drift and cover ground. Take the bait to the fish, because many times they are not moving, so you have to be. If they are laid up, you will need to stick your bait in their face. Get it close enough, hungry or not they will hit it on an aggression strike. Live or artificial, both work.

I try to encourage my team to catch and release. Not easy, but it is surprising how many will send most of their keepers back. If they want fish to eat, then I try to keep small numbers.

As always, stay safe, have fun, and practice conservation. — **Capt. George Knighten**  
832-310-9146 [gtkphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:gtkphoto@yahoo.com)

## Middle Coast

**Capt. Scott Salyer**

*Walk the dog, enjoy the shock*

Fishing in August and September can seem daunting with this summer heat but you can be quite successful if you plan your trip accordingly. Live bait could be your best bet to land that trophy trout, free lined or Carolina rigged with a half-ounce weight above the leader.

Early on, try chunking a topwater into the shallows using the old 'walking the dog' technique, and enjoy the shock when that big redfish nails it.

As the day progresses, try softbaits in red/white, mullet or flaked green, fished with 1/4 to 1/2 ounce jigheads Put them on the edges of grass beds, guts and drop-offs and expect strikes from trout and reds. As always, be safe, be courteous and be patient with other fisherman out there. Practice conservation of the big spotted ladies and large redfish. Good luck to all.

— **Capt. Scott Salyer**  
[Redfishrunnerbayguideservice](http://Redfishrunnerbayguideservice) 832-401-8244  
Aransas pass



*Photo, Tyler Haley, Olympus TG-5*

## Lower Coast

**Capt. Rene Hinojosa**

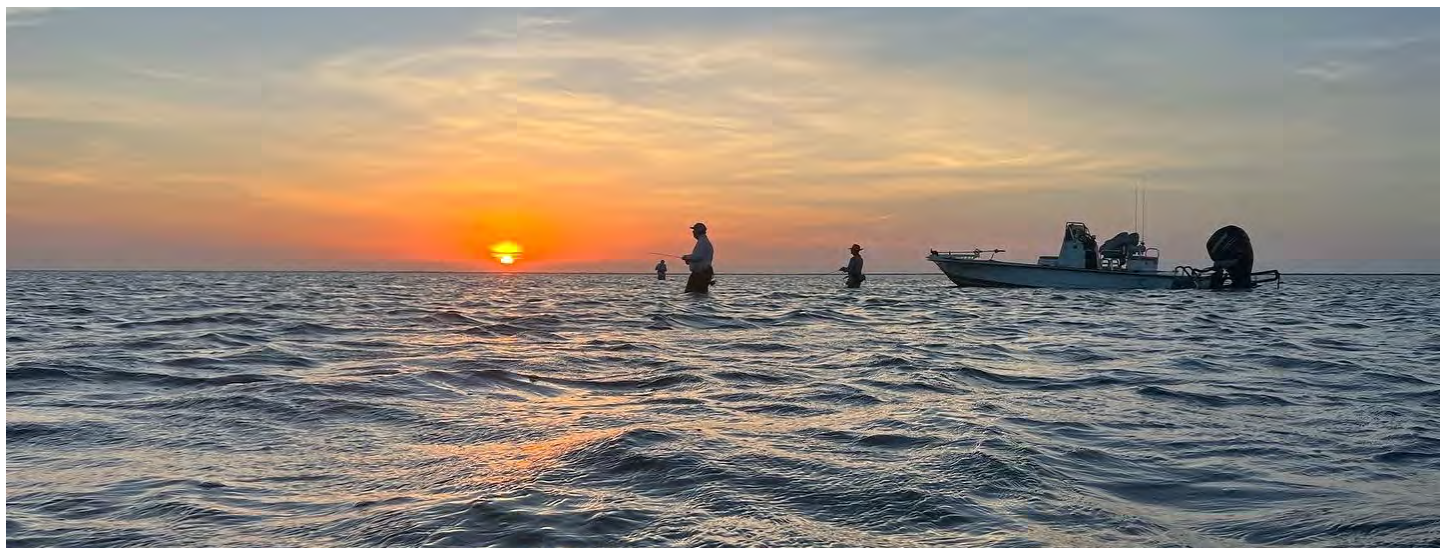
*Fish miss the old lures*

WIND! After months of wind, welcome to BREEZE. August temps will still be Texas-hot, so you will run at times to cool off. Now comes the famous Lower Coast days—glassy calm, classic Laguna Madre magazine-feature times. Redfish schools become more obvious at a distance. You will look for the V's on the horizon, try to get in front, check your knots and wait patiently.

On flat-breeze mornings, schedule cool, waist-deep efforts near shorelines, chunking topwaters. Which ones? Super Spooks are hard to beat, but competition includes the Skitter walks. Bone or silver with chartreuse will cause a blow-up. Bone Red and white are also good combinations, whether topwater or soft-bodied. Nowadays, my go-to soft lures are Norton red and white. Plum and white is also a fish-getter. They may not know what it is, but they like that color. Here's an idea: open one of your old tackle boxes. The fish miss those old lures.

Late August into early October, weather will still be your friend, as well as nature. Massive schools of redfish are forming up and heading for the Gulf to spawn. Locating a school of moving reds or speckled trout can be a great moment, but it is also time to remember conservation. In my opinion, the 17-inch minimum trout length now will result in the quality of fish getting better in the future.

Regardless of sudden conditions, there's always clear water somewhere. You'll be prepared with gear for your crew and a sharp eye for weather problems. Help a fellow fisherman if one needs it, and the same for your catch: send the big spotted ladies back for further duty. — **Capt. Rene Hinojosa Jr.**  
956-966-0719 [shallowcharters@gmail.com](mailto:shallowcharters@gmail.com)



*A gorgeous Lower Laguna Sunrise as Rockport locals fish with Capt. David Rowsey*

# Saluria Bayou Shrimp Hush Puppies

1 Box Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix / 12 oz cooked shrimp, chopped  
¼ Sweet onion, minced / ¼ Cup Celery, minced / ½ tsp. Onion Powder  
½ tsp. Garlic Powder / ½ tsp. Salt / ¼ tsp. Cayenne Pepper

Make Corn Muffin mix according to box. Add remaining ingredients.  
Spoon by teaspoon-full into 350 degree oil. Cook for 3 to 4 minutes till golden brown.  
Place on paper towel lined plate and sprinkle with salt.

Serve with your favorite sauce and enjoy!



*Great Recipe Editor Liz Hewitt*



## Invest in Coastal Fine Art

Sam Caldwell's website is back up and running. Dozens of old, middle-aged and new images are available for your viewing enjoyment-- and Caldwell hopes, for purchase.

A few original paintings are available. Or, thumb through 30 years of Caldwell's award-winning outdoor images. Most are available as high-quality Giclee art prints.

*A Big thank you to Michael Klasno from WebSEOHouston.com for the excellent job with the new websites design and implementation of my vision.*



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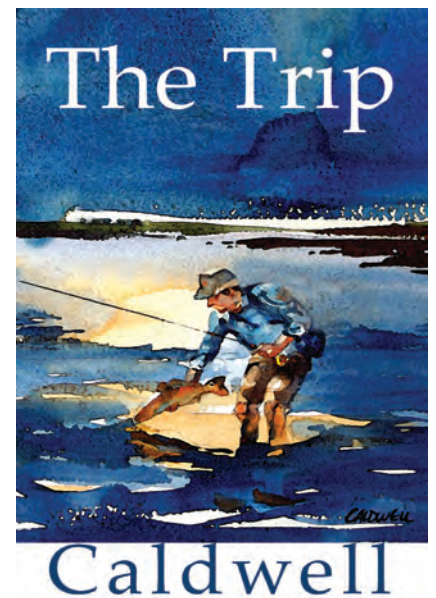
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# Coastal Conservation Association

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## August / September 2022



*A Lower Laguna Sunrise as Rockport locals fish with Capt. David Rowsey*

### 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.ogttx.com](http://www.ogttx.com)



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

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Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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- LIFE MEMBER: \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ CCA Life Membership piece, print, plus member gifts. Payable in four \$250 installments.
- STAR ENTRY FEE: \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Tournament entry fee. Must be a current CCA member.
- YOUTH: \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ TIDE newsletter, decal. Includes STAR Tournament entry, for members 17 and under.  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_
- CONSERVATION MEMBER: \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ A portion of the proceeds go toward CCA's National Habitat Program, Building Conservation Trust. Includes exclusive Conservation Member decal, one-year subscription to TIDE Magazine and set of CCA and state fish decals.

Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ By entering this tournament, I agree to be bound by the STAR Tournament Rules, Release and Indemnity Agreement. I understand that there are specific rules governing the conduct of the tournament and that upon request a copy will be mailed to me. 6919 Portwest, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77024 / 713-626-4222 / Website: [www.ccatexas.org](http://www.ccatexas.org)