

Leave It Better Than You Found It

Aransas Bay chapter receives prestigious award Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program 2023

Habitat Today Fish for Tomorrow

Volunteers Make a Difference

By John Blaha, Director of Habitat

riting about volunteers has been an annual endeavor for me since I began writing articles for *Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine* years ago. It's

a yearly reminder that volunteers hold a special place in the conservation of our coastal resources. As a lifelong resident of the Texas Gulf Coast, a volunteer and employee of Coastal Conservation Association Texas (CCA Texas) for the past 32 years, I have always been struck by the incredible beauty and diversity of the natural resources that surround us. From the sandy beaches and waters of the Gulf of Mexico, to the sprawling wetlands and marshes of the inland bays that are home to an array of wildlife and habitat, the Texas Gulf Coast is truly a special place.

However, as with any natural ecosystem, the Texas Gulf Coast is constantly facing challenges and threats that put its beauty and biodiversity at risk. From the impacts of pollution and development to



CCA Texas Aransas Bay Chapter volunteers received the 2022 Conservation and Environmental Stewardship Award for non-profits from the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation for their efforts to help ensure the health and sustainability of oyster reefs in the Mesquite Bay System.

the effects of general recreational use and commercial fishing, the health of the Gulf Coast is something that requires our ongoing attention and care.

Since the organization was formed, CCA Texas has

been committed to doing the important work to preserve our Texas Gulf Coast. Founded in 1977, CCA is a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving the natural resources of the Gulf Coast, with a particular focus on sound science-based fisheries management and coastal habitat. CCA Texas is set apart from other organizations by a strong volunteer-driven committee system that works with staff to help ensure healthy coastal resources for future generations.

Through a variety of programs and initiatives, CCA works to conserve and enhance the coastal and marine environments of the Texas Gulf Coast. This includes efforts to promote sustainable fishing practices, restore damaged habitats, and advocate for policies and regulations that support the conservation of marine resources.

One way you can get involved and help support the work of CCA is by volunteering your time and resources. Whether you have a few hours to spare each week or you're looking for a more long-term coms-



Aransas Bay Banquet: Local chapter banquets provide the grassroots energy that fuels the success of CCA Texas.

mitment, there are many ways to get involved and make a difference.

CCA Texas currently has 60 chapters across the state. These chapters are the local connection and grassroots energy of the organization. Each chapter hosts an annual fundraising and membership banquet. The funds raised and memberships generated at these events are vital for CCA Texas' advocacy and habitat restoration and creation efforts. Getting involved with your local chapter is an excellent opportunity to volunteer your time and energy

to make a difference in the conservation of Texas' coastal resources.

Other volunteer opportunities you might consider are joining one of the local beach cleanups, crab trap cleanups, or habitat restoration projects that CCA Texas and other organizations support and execute. These programs give volunteers the opportunity to get hands-on experience conserving and preserving the Texas

Gulf Coast, while also learning about the importance of these ecosystems and the challenges they face. Be sure to mark your calendar for two major upcoming events. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) **21**st **Annual Crab Trap Cleanup** will take place from February 17, 2023 to February 26, 2023 with the volunteer event taking place on **February 18, 2023**. Friends of Padre will host the **28th Annual Billy Sandifer Big Shell Beach Cleanup** on **February 25, 2023**. CCA Texas is proud to continue its support for both events where volunteers make a big difference.

Another way to volunteer is to get involved in CCA Texas' conservation efforts. This might include things like participating in research and monitoring projects, advocating for policies and regulations that support the conservation of marine resources through public comment when afforded the opportunity, helping to educate the public about the importance of preserving the Texas Gulf Coast by sharing the efforts of CCA Texas and being an example for conservation through your personal actions.

One of the most recent and significant examples of our volunteers making a difference was the grassroots effort to close the Mesquite Bay Complex to oyster harvest from Carlos Reef to the Second Chain in Ayres Bay. This effort would not have been possible without a dedicated



Aransas Bay Volunteers – Any group of volunteers can make a difference with a dedicated and educated effort to make change.

From the impacts of pollution and development to the effects of general recreational use and commercial fishing, the health of the Gulf Coast is something that requires our ongoing attention and care.

and educated push by volunteers from across the state. The Aransas Bay Chapter, located in Rockport, was a driving force from the early stages to the end. A core group of volunteers from the chapter held numerous meetings with local community members and recreational fisherman, shared observations with the local TPWD Coastal Fisheries team, and traveled to Austin to submit comment to the TPWD Commission numerous times. They simply stayed engaged and never gave up to help

make a positive change for a more sustainable

resource. These volunteer efforts made a difference that will help ensure the preservation of these important oyster reefs in Texas for years to come. This type of volunteering has been repeated through the years in many instances. With a vision, an educated group, and a tenacious effort, what many think is unattainable is possible. The Aransas Bay Chapter was awarded the 2022 Conservation and Environmental Stew-

ardship Award for non-profits by CBBF (Coastal Bend Bays Foundation).

Volunteering with CCA isn't just about hard work and getting your hands dirty. It is also a great opportunity to learn new skills and meet new people. And by working alongside others who are also passionate about preserving the Texas Gulf Coast, you can make new connections and friendships that will last a lifetime. For me personally, one of the biggest satisfactions of being involved with CCA Texas is the long list of friendships and opportunities to work with dedicated conservationists from across the state, and I think I can say the same for all the Assistant Directors at CCA Texas that work with local volunteers. CCA Texas volunteers are second to none and are the energy of the organization.

So if you're looking for a way to make a difference in your community and give back to Texas' coastal resources, consider volunteering with the Coastal Conservation Association Texas. You'll leave a positive impact on our state's coastal resources with the satisfaction of knowing that you're doing your part to preserve this special place for future generations.



CCA Texas Partners with Anheuser-Busch for 2023 Statewide Branding and Advertising Campaign

We're proud to announce this exciting new partnership with Anheuser-Busch, co-branding CCA Texas with Busch Light! This 2023 campaign will provide important and unique opportunities starting with valuable exposure for CCA Texas and our work to ensure the health and conservation of our marine resources and anglers' access to them. Getting in front of a wider audience across the state will help us grow the organization and increase funding for our habitat and advocacy programs.

This co-branding partnership will be seen in thousands of retail outlets statewide with CCA Texas receiving a percentage of sales in some of these in-store promotions. On the road, you'll see highway and interstate billboard advertisements as well as wrapped delivery trucks courtesy of local Anheuser-Busch distributors.

Local chapters will receive additional benefits from this partnership in the form of banquet tables being purchased by local Anheuser-Busch distributors and product donated for auctions.

We are extremely excited about this partnership with Anheuser-Busch and know it will bring a tremendous amount of exposure for both of our organizations. **—Robby Byers**, Executive Director, CCA Texas





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ADVOCACY

New Regulations on the Horizon

By Shane Bonnot, Advocacy Director

In an effort to match recent federal water regulation changes, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission directed department staff to publish proposed regulation changes that may be of interest to offshore anglers.

The first change would be to prohibit take of shortfin mako sharks. Effective July 5, 2022, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) enacted a final rule prohibiting the landing or retention of shortfin mako sharks in any U.S. Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) fishery until further notice. The Coastal Fisheries Division proposes to add shortfin make to the list of prohibited shark species for both the recreational and commercial fishing proclamations.

Secondly, and likely of greater interest to anglers is the proposal to reduce the daily bag limit of cobia to one fish per person, per day and establish a vessel limit of two fish per trip, not to exceed the per person bag limit, for the recreational and commercial fisheries. This change is proposed to address declining stocks of cobia in the Gulf of Mexico and to facilitate ease of enforcement with federal regulations. It is worth noting, for better or worse, estab-

This change is proposed to address declining stocks of cobia in the Gulf of Mexico and to facilitate ease of enforcement with federal regulations.





ing the Direct Enhancement of Snapper Conservation and the Economy through Novel Devices Act of 2020 (DESCEND Act) in Gulf of Mexico federal waters. The **DESCEND** Act applies to commercial vessels, charter vessels and headboats, and private recreational vessels fishing for reef fish such as red snapper. The DESCEND Act requires fishermen to have a venting tool or descending device rigged and ready to use when fishing for reef fish. This amendment would require anglers to utilize a venting tool or descending device in state waters when fish exhibit signs of barotrauma.

This change will ease enforcement through consistency with federal regulations and reduce discard mortality of reef fish in state waters. The proposed amendment also would define "descending device" and "venting tool."

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will seek public comment on all of these proposed rule changes prior to the March 22-23, 2023 Commission Meeting. Be sure to keep an eye out for notifications from CCA Texas on how you can participate in the public hearings.



Shortfin shark photo courtesy of NOAA Fisheries.
Cobia schooling photo courtesy American Fisheries Society.

Red snapper photograph courtesy of Adrian Gray. The snapper is being returned to the depths with a descending device, providing safe catch and release.

lishing a vessel limit regulation would be a departure from historic Texas coastal fisheries regulations.

Finally, the state is proposing to require anglers to use a descending device on a fish exhibiting signs of barotrauma when fishing in state waters, mirror-

Photo, Sam Caldwell Olympus TG-4



Leaving It Better Than You Found It

Kathie and Miller Bassler shared cleanup stories with Capt. Billy Sandifer at the 2014 East Cut/Beach Cleanup. Capt. Sandifer, who began the Big Shell Beach Cleanup in 1995, was featured in a Field & Stream nationally broadcast video in 2013. The Basslers shared that honor as Field & Stream Conservation Heroes in 2015. There are numerous programs across the Texas coast offering volunteers the opportunity to make a difference in many areas.

2023 Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program By Allan R. Berger

It's that time again! The closure period is February 17-26, 2023. The main event is Saturday, February 18.

To sign-up email me at <u>AllanRBerger@outlook.com</u> with your preferred area and date. If you need a crew, we will attempt to match you with volunteers who are boatless.

RSVP for the party in Port O'Connor Saturday February 18 (sponsored by GBRA), and please include the number of people attending. Include the email and phone of the Data Coordinator in your crew so we can create a username and password for accessing the data program. Please also send the mobile phone of the Captain for lastminute changes and on-the-water emergencies. <u>Click here</u> <u>for CRAB TRAP REMOVAL PROGRAM details</u>.

All boats are requested to use a smart phone app, *ArcGIS Field Maps* to mark each trap and collect certain data. A member of your crew should be assigned this role. Training will be provided.

The information collected has been instrumental in understanding the reasons for the abandoned traps and engaging the commercial crabbers which is part of the NOAA grant. I am looking forward to this fun event! This year's

funding is again provided by a NOAA Marine Debris Program Community-based Marine Debris Removal grant. Their funding provides additional capabilities for our effort but your participation is essential. Call or email questions: **—Allan Berger** <u>AllanRBerger@outlook.</u> <u>com</u> 713-829-2852



The Billy Sandifer 2023 Big Shell Beach Clean-

up will be Saturday, February 25 at 8 AM. For details, go to the website: https://www.friendsofpadre.com/

The 2023 East Cut and Beach Cleanup out of Port Mansfield will be June 10. Miller and Kathie Bassler are completing the plans. Full information will be in the April/ May CURRENTS Newsletter.

~7~

HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

CCA Texas Projects

1.	Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough Restoration	\$1,600,000	Para India
2.	Nearshore Reefing - Sabine Pass	\$ 906,000	Concession in which the
3.	Nearshore Reefing - Rio Grande Valley Reef	\$ 861,000	-
4.	Nearshore Reefing-Port O'Connor	\$ 700,000	1000
5.	Oyster Restoration - East Galveston Bay	\$ 500,000	
6.	** Oyster Reef Creation - St. Charles Bay (Rockport)	\$ 485,000	and the second second
7.	Nearshore Reefing - Galveston / Big Man & Kate's Reef	\$ 329,000	1000
8.	HRI Nearshore Reef Enhancement Study	\$ 250,000	1000
9.	Dagger Island Shoreline Protection & Marsh Restoration (Redfish Bay)	\$ 250,000	-
10.		\$ 230,000	1000
11.		\$ 215,000	-
12.	Nearshore Reefing - Matagorda	\$ 200,000	
	Shoreline Stabilization - San Bernard NWR	\$ 200,000	-
14.		\$ 152,000	
	Marsh Restoration - Bird Island Cove (West Galveston Bay)	\$ 150,000	
16		\$ 138,000	
	Baffin Bay Serpulid Reef Habitat Conservation/Restoration Study	\$ 135,000	-
	Ovster Restoration—Pepper Grove / Galveston (BCT)	\$ 130,000	
	Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Shoreline Protection (San Antonio Bay)	\$ 125,000	
	HRI Oyster Restoration Site Locator Mapping Study	\$ 120,000	City In
	Marsh Restoration - Dickinson Bayou	\$ 100,000	100
		\$ 100,000	100
	Nearshore Reefing - Corpus Christi Bahia Grande Restoration (Port Isabel / Brownsville)	\$ 95,000	1.000
	Oyster Reef Restoration - Aransas Bay (Rockport)		100
	Oyster Reef Restoration - Copano Bay (Rockport)		
	Marsh Restoration - Egery Island (Copano Bay/Bayside)	\$ 70,000	1500
	Marsh Restoration - Matagorda Island	\$ 70,000	and and
	Nueces Bay Delta Water Management Gates	\$ 70,000	1000
	Nearshore Reefing - Freeport / Vancouver	\$ 60,000	1000
	Nueces Bay Demonstration Oyster Reef	\$ 60,000	Sec.
	Marsh Restoration - Goose Island (Rockport)	\$ 50,000	1.000
	Nearshore Reefing - Port Mansfield	\$ 50,000	100
	Shoreline Stabilization - J. D. Murphree WMA	\$ 50,000	2.00
34.		\$ 50,000	E Contraction
35	Dollar Bay Shoreline Protection and Marsh Restoration	\$ 50,000	Rala
36	Galveston Bay Foundation Headquarters Living Shoreline Restoration	\$ 50,000	1.1
37.	Marsh Restoration - Oxen & Gang's Bayou (Galveston)	\$ 42,000	-
38.	** Marsh Restoration - San Bernard Wildlife Refuge	\$ 41,000	
39.	Trinity Bay Discovery Center Living Shoreline	\$ 40,000	
40.	Sweetwater Preserve Shoreline Protections and Oyster Reef Enhancement	\$ 30,000	1000
41.	Marsh Restoration - Nueces Bay (Corpus Christi)	\$ 24,000	1
42.	Marsh Restoration - Snake Island Cover (West Galveston Bay)	\$ 20,000	2
43.	Weed Eradication for Water Flow Restoration (Guadalupe River Delta)	\$ 15,000	
44.	** Sink Your Shucks Oyster Recycle Programs Trailer	\$ 10,000	A Real Property lies
45.	Bay Debris Removal - Aransas Pass	\$ 5,600	1000
46.	Building Conservation Trust's Texas Habitat Fund (BCT & CCA Texas Secured Funds)	\$ 399,066	

** 2022 Projects Contributed to as 08/24/22

TOTAL FUNDED THROUGH 2022: \$9,377,666

If you are interested in contributing to our Habitat program, Contact John Blaha at jdblaha@ccatexas.org

HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

CCA Texas and Building Conservation Tru	st
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 S	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
Total contributions to Nearshore Reefing: \$3	,456,000





Caught Redhanded!

Reports from TP&W Game Wardens

On Wednesday, July 6, 2022 at approximately 9:30 PM, Brazoria County Game Warden Carter Rangel received an **Operation Game** Thief call regarding oversized bull reds taken over the limit. Warden Rangel patrolled to Quintana Beach and located three subjects based on the description provided by the complainant. Only one of the individuals had a fishing license and none of them had oversized red drum tags. Cases and civil restitution pending.

On December 12, 2022, a Galveston County Game Warden inspected a fisherman and found him to be in possession of 27



Flounder during the Flounder Closure. The Flounder Closure is from November 1st to December 14th. Citations and civil restitution are pending. Fish were donated.



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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 recent video that will provide an idea of the process:

CLICK HERE



EVERY YEAR CCA & TPWD Hatcheries Help Release over

15 MILLION RED DRUM 12 MILLION SPOTTED SEA TROUT 50,000 SOUTHERN FLOUNDER

FINGERLINGS INTO TEXAS BAYS.



CCA & TPWD Spotted sea trout fingerling release in laguna madre 2021







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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 centexas.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 have my NEW CCA Texas license plates. Do you have 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.

<u>CLICK HERE</u> 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 <u>CLICKING HERE</u> 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 46-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 many reasons a member can 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, readily accessed later instead of having to search through stacks of magazines, and printed for reference.

• 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 projectspecific videos. Consult the list of CCA-approved guides. Listen to an informative Podcast.

Click here for CURRENTS Newsletters.



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

You'll find news and information about chapter events, advocacy and breaking news, plus videos of the progress we're making along the Texas coast. Need a guide? Want to enjoy a *CURRENTS* feature from years back? Check in with the STAR program?

Go to *ccatexas.org* and bookmark it now.



Follow CCA Texas on Social Media!

The BEST way to stay informed on the latest with CCA Texas is by FOLLOWING us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. We regularly post photo and video updates on our 60 local chapters, conservation projects, member photos, and advocacy efforts to keep you informed and engaged.

Our following is GROWING FAST, so join thousands of CCA Texas members around the state by following us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter now! Anytime our members FOLLOW CCA Texas and LIKE our posts, it helps to raise awareness for our conservation efforts. And don't be shy, share our posts with your friends and family and encourage them to FOLLOW us as well!



CCA Texas on Facebook

Join over 27,000 Texas anglers by LIKING our CCA Texas Facebook page to get important updates, awesome photos, and cool videos! LIKE us on Facebook TODAY and help us out by sharing our posts!! <u>@CCATexas</u>



CCA Texas January 8 at 6:00 PM · C Those evenings when no filter is needed... #JoinCCA







CCA Texas on Instagram Can you help us get to 20,000 followers

Can you help us get to 20,000 followers on Instagram? If you aren't following us already, add our @cca_texas page to your feed and encourage your friends and family to follow us along with you! FOLLOW us on Instagram TODAY







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Follow us on TWITTER

Get important recreational angling-related news filtered into your feed by following us on Twitter. In addition to posting our own updates, we make sure to Retweet and Favorite Tweets that we know will help to inform you! FOLLOW us on Twitter TODAY!



Whether you're an angler wading in the water or a bird flying in the air, you're both still fishing.

#JoinCCA





SHIMANO

Kevin Hickson Communications Director Coastal Conservation Association Email: khickson@joincca. Org CCA Texas @CCA_Texas

In addition to CURRENTS, CCA Texas members also receive issues of TIDE Magazine, the official national publication of @CCANational.



CCA Texas CCA_Texas Have you seen our latest ■ digital issue of CURRENTS yet? Context of the set of the s

12:03 PM · Jan 5, 2023 · 819 View



PARTNERING TO PROTECT OUR COASTS

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

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CCAA Special Gift for NewTEXASCCA Texas LIFE MEMBERS

For a limited time a new CCA Texas Life Member (\$1,000 + \$50 shipping) can receive a custom CZ Drake Over/Under 28 gauge Shotgun with CCA logo. It features extractor operation, a walnut stock, black gloss barrel and receiver finish, 28" barrels and five interchangeable chokes.



MSRP: \$1000. No tax deductible amount.

PLEASE READ CAREFULL

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. Must be 18 + to pickup gun.

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

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Credit	Card Number	Exp. Date					
Si	ignature	CVV					
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CURRENTS is published six times a year by CCA Texas, a nonprofit state affiliate of the Coastal Conservation Association. This is the issue of February / March 2023 Volume 43 Issue 2 Editor-in-Chief / Robby Byers

Editor / Sam Caldwell

Editorial Team John Blaha, Shane Bonnot, Liz Bosmans, Kevin Hickson

CCA Texas Staff Drew Adams, Blake Burnside, Luke Denton, Corbin Primrose, Taylor Rieck, Erich Schneider, Matt Still, Coleman Todd and Carson Vecera

Chapter Updates

Alvin-Pearland Rex Richards alvinpearlandcca@yahoo.com

Hello and happy 2023 from Alvin Pearland CCA! As this update is being written, we have just scheduled our 2023 Chapter Board planning meeting. If you think you may have an interest in supporting our chapter by serving alongside us on the board, please reach out to find out what is involved and what it takes to get plugged in.

We have set the date for our 2023 Fundraising Banquet. It will be held on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Pearland. We are still in the planning stage, but as usual, you can count on a fun-filled evening of friends, food, and good old-fashioned fundraising! If you have a company or product you would like to showcase at our event, please reach out to discuss options. Stay tuned for Aransas Bay Michael Ferri 361-790-4404 txsprig@yahoo.com

We are counting down to a fun and busy Spring here in

Rockport-Fulton! Our Volunteers are on the ball and we are so lucky to have a wonderful group of conservation-minded people who work together to put our resource first!

Our Polaris raffle tickets are in and ready to sell for our upcoming Aransas Bay CCA Banquet on April 1, 2023 at **Fulton Convention Center.** Come see us at Lamardi Gras in Lamar on February 10-11, Fulton Oysterfest March 2-5 and Rockport Crawfish Festival downtown, we will be selling Polaris raffle tickets! Our Annual Banquet is an exciting evening of fundraising for Texas coastal conservation. we are happy to announce we are SOLD OUT! For questions regarding the banquet & raffle ticket sales, email John Blaha at jdblaha@ccatexas.org or contact President Mike Ferri at (361)



Aransas Bay CCA lost a Legend, 17-year Tournament Director Karol Scardino. She will be greatly missed.

790-4404 or Jane Jackson at (210) 240-7722.

Save the date for Babes on the Bay on May 19-20, 2023. Registration is OPEN and we are back with another fantastic weekend of fishing, live music, vacation giveaways, vendors, and more! We have Guided, Non-Guided, Artificial, Any Bait, Fly Fishing and Babette Divisions, something for everyone! Ladies, book your guides and reserve your hotels ahead of time! Keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram for updates and details! Registration is OPEN, go to <u>babesonthebay.com</u> or register through Fishing Chaos! This is a catch and release tournament!

Thank you to a huge group of amazing sponsors! Salemi's Ace Hardware, Rockport Tackle Town, Waterloo Rod Company, Yeti, Bay Flats Lodge, Reel Skipper, Guild

more details soon. We will be hosting our Anglers' Night Out events again this year. They will be held at Big Horn BBQ in Pearland and the plan as of now is to hold the events in early April, late May, early September, and in late October. Again, stay tuned for dates and more details soon.

The best way to stay up to date with our latest chapter events is to follow us on Facebook at <u>www.facebook.com/</u> <u>alvinpearland.cca</u> or go to our Chapter Website at <u>ccatexas.org/alvin-pearland</u>.

Wishing you good fishing from your Alvin Pearland Board! Babes on the Bay

ROCKPORT-FULTON MAY 19/20, 2023





~25~



Babes Ladies getting ready for our upcoming 2023 Tournament. Credit: Delanie Scamardo



Hannah Wright, future Babe on the Bay

Mortgage, Orvis Swan Point Landing, L&F Distributing, Rockport Marine, Goin' Coastal Outfitters, Titos Vodka, Poor Man's Country Club, The Reserve at St. Charles Bay, Chris's Marine, Reel Sportswear and Sandy Oaks Kennel are back, and we are thankful for their continued support!

We also are welcoming some new very generous sponsors this year, **Smith Optics, Grundens, Sage Fly Rods, By the Bay Vacation Rentals, and Epic Western Cocktails.** If you are interested in being a sponsor, or have any tournament questions, please contact Tournament



April Alvarado on a winter wade



Crystal Breda of Rockport, Texas



Aransas Bay Chapter's Oliver Enstrom with his first Rainbow Trout on Fly at the GRTU Youth Camp

Director, Jen Thomasson at (361) 205-0182. For vendor info, please call Tina Frick at (210) 508-6281.

We look forward to another incredible year of the largest women's tournament in the USA with anglers joining us from all over the country!

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

We are excited to have our first **ANO of 2023 on February 22nd at Warren Wildlife Gallery.** We will be hosting the professional fly angler, the conservationist and multi-world record holder – Meredith McCord!

McCord currently holds 223 IGFA world records, almost all of which are on the fly! Just imagine the stories she has to share, and you can be there for a front row seat. The event is free, but you must RSVP though this link: <u>ccatexas.org/events/austin-anofebruary-22-2023</u> (seats are limited).

We are now just 3 months away from our **Annual Fundraiser and Banquet on May 11, 2023**. Our goal is to provide the best raffles, live auction, game zone, food and beverages; plus, the opportunity to network with other anglers and businesses. Our goal every year is to grow our event and the money we raise, and the best way we know how is to build on previous years' experience. We'll have all new and expanded games, bigger and better prices, and so much more! The only way we are able to raise the funds needed to continue the mission of CCA is with your support.

Our 2023 boat raffle is only \$100 a ticket and only 1250 will be sold. This year's boat is a Shallow Sport "Sport 18" powered by Suzuki 140 on a Custom Aluminum Trailer with a McClain tandem axle. We want to thank our sponsors: **S.Watts Group** and **Denbow Company** for their continued support.

Our all new 10 Gun raffle is only \$25 a ticket or 5x for \$100. We are excited to add this drawing to our May 11 Banquet. If you are interested in purchasing tickets for the boat or gun raffle, please contact <u>cherylccaaustin@gmail.com</u>, (512) 662-0006.



The 2023 CCA Austin Chapter Raffle Boat: Shallow Sport "Sport 18" powered by Suzuki 140 on a Custom Aluminum Trailer with a McClain tandem axle.

Bastrop County Cole Williams 512-913-3684 colew65@yahoo.com

We want to invite everyone to our first **CCA Bastrop Anglers' Night Out on Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 6 p.m., at Back 9 Bar in Bastrop, Texas.** We will have an amazing guest speaker, Shane Bonnot, the Advocacy Director for CCA Texas. Appetizers and drinks for everyone that attends. Please RSVP at <u>ccatexas.org/bastrop</u>. While mingling with fellow anglers and conservationists, you can check out our 2023 Boat Raffle for the Haynie Bigfoot in person. If you can't attend, no problem, check out our <u>CCA Texas - Bastrop County Chapter Facebook page</u> for information on how to purchase tickets. Or give us a shout! This is a great chance to come out and see what Bastrop County CCA is all about.

The 2nd Annual Bastrop County Banquet is scheduled for July 27, 2023 at 6 p.m. at the Bastrop Convention Center. Keep an eye on our <u>Bastrop County Chapter webpage</u> for more details! Lots of exciting things are going on and we appreciate all of your support.

~26~

Brazoria Kim Lamont 979-482-1456 kklamont93@yahoo.com

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

Brazos Valley ĆCA Chapter had a great January meeting in Bryan, at Big Shots Golf. We are gearing up for the upcoming annual banquet which will be held Friday March 3, 2023 at the Brazos Center in Bryan Texas. Doors

open at 5:30 p.m. Please join us for an evening of dinner, drinks, auctions, raffles, and good ole fund-raising. To obtain individual tickets, reserved tables, corporate tables, or take out an ad in the program, please contact Carson Vecera at (713) 626-4222. Tickets are also available through the CCA website at <u>ccatexas</u>. org/brazos-valley. And



From Brazos Valley Chapter John Ben Strother (REDFS) and Bess Bruton (USDF) supporting CCA, sporting their new license plates.

check your emails for notices.

The money raised is an important part of helping our fisheries, now and in the future. Your help is very much appreciated. I dare say, in 50 years your children and grandchildren will thank you.

Take a kid or friend fishing. See you are the banquet! If you would like to be added to the BV chapter email list, please contact Scott Sigel at <u>sig@suddenlink.net</u>.

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! Our Chapter Board and Assistant Director are very busy preparing for our **upcoming**

banquet which will be held on March 30, 2023 at the KC Hall

in La Grange. Please call or text with table requests as early as possible to ensure you get a spot for the event. It promises to be another super fundraising event again this year. You can contact the following personnel with your requests: Eugene Ulrich at (979) 249-7425, Danny Olenick at (979) 249-6851, Trish Kubena at (512) 581-2588, Gary Janda at (979) 966-2082, or Dave Fehlker at (512) 468-6782.

Hope everyone is enjoying the cooler temperatures and maybe has had a chance to make some of that good ole deer sausage to dry and take along in the boat this year! Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all!

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

Corpus Christi Cody Roesner 916-531-0078 cbroutfitters@yahoo.com

2023 is off to a great start here in the coastal bend! Winter fishing is HOT here in the Laguna Madre, with good numbers of solid Trout being caught (and released). Anyone who spends time on the water will find it hard not to notice the hard work being put in by TPWD and CCA to protect our angling future!

We are excited to host our 45th Annual Fundraising Banquet on Thursday, March 9, 2023 at the American Bank Center. We a pleased to announce that long-time sponsor Flint Hills Resources has come on board as our title sponsor this year for Banquet and our Poco Rojo Kid Fish! Thank you Flint Hills Resources for supporting CCA and our community.

We expect this event to sell out so please let us know ASAP if you would like to purchase tickets, sponsorship or reserve a table. For questions, contact Heather at <u>ccacorpuschristi@gmail.</u> <u>com</u> or call (361) 882-5199.

Upcoming 2023 CCA Corpust Christi events: Chapter Banquet – March 9, 2023, Babes on Baffin Tournament – October 6-7, 2023, Fall Anglers' Night Out – October 26, 2023 and Poco Rojo Kid Fish – October 28, 2023. As always, let us know if you're interested in volunteering!

Dallas

Jason Gray 214-384-4164

Jason.Gray@hilltopsecurities.com

We enjoyed a family friendly clay shoot the week before Christmas along with members of Fellowship of the Outdoors. We hope to continue the tradition next year with more teams participating.

Stay tuned to our social media pages and your email for info on an upcoming Anglers' Night Out that will include food, drinks, and raffle prizes.

Our Annual CCA Dallas Chapter Banquet will be Thursday, September 28, 2023 at On The Levee. If you are interested in a sponsorship opportunity or want to purchase a table early, please reach out to us.

Fort Bend

Blake Tumlinson 979-332-2236 Btumlinson86@gmail.com

Hello everyone, 2023 is here and we are ready for another great year! Starting off for the new year, your Fort Bend CCA committee members have been making plans for the 37th Annual Banquet. This year we will be raffling off another boat for our Grand Prize, a JH Performance Outlaw 185x (18.5') with a 140HP Suzuki and a Coastline aluminum trailer. There will also be chances to win other prizes so be sure and get your tickets today!



2023 CCA Fort Bend Raffle Boat: JH Performance Outlaw 185x (18.5') with a 140HP Suzuki and a Coastline aluminum trailer.

For boat tickets please contact Jim Black (979) 240-5010, Blake Tumlinson (979) 332-2236, Thomas Welch (832) 628-0130, or any of the Fort Bend CCA committee members you may know personally.

As usual, our gracious sponsors and donors are doing all they can to help make this year's banquet a huge success. **Our banquet is scheduled for April 13, 2023.** Location and details can be found on the CCA website listed below. If you would like to become a sponsor or would like to donate, please contact the names listed above. Your support is greatly appreciated. For table reservations you can also contact Troy Burditt (281) 725-8569 and he'll get you fixed up. Hope to see you all there!

I'd like to give a special thanks to **Sport Marine** in Richmond for all they did for us on this year's boat. They are a great group to do business with! Another big thank you to **Steve Onstad** and **The Swinging Door BBQ Restaurant** in Richmond for allowing us to hold our monthly meeting there for all these years.

Look out for upcoming information on this year's annual Fort Bend CCA Kidfish event. This will be held in Matagorda, TX. Date and info on the event will be coming soon. Flyer information will be posted at <u>ccatexas.org/find-your-chapter/</u><u>fort-bend/</u> and <u>www.matagordabay.com</u> so be on the lookout for these events.

Remember to keep the waterways clean and be respectful to your fellow anglers. Hope to see you on the water!

Fort Worth Beau Redwine 817-291-1890 beauredwine9@gmail.com

A friendly reminder that the annual 2023 banquet is scheduled for May 4th at Joe T's in the Fort Worth Stockyards. Make plans to join us again for what should be a killer event supporting the fisheries in Texas. Also keep a look out on our Facebook page as well as your email for updates on our locally famous crawfish boil in the spring. If you are interested in getting involved at the local level, please reach out to anyone on the board. Lastly, we wanted to thank our tumbler sponsor for last year's banquet – The Perry Group – Spencer Perry. And our koozie sponsor – RMP Industrial Supply. As always, we appreciate your support.

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

Golden Triangle Heath Thompson 409-937-4139 Heath.b.thompson@gmail.com

As the new year begins, we hope that everyone enjoyed their holidays and got to spend some time with family. It looks like winter this year has set a pattern to make fishing really spectacular on the upper coast. We started the year off with our annual Anglers' Night Out and it turned out to be a great event. Big thanks to Shane Bonnot, CCA Texas Advocacy Director, for coming and speaking to our audience about the future of the Texas oyster habitat and other conservation topics. We are currently planning our banquet and there will be more information coming down the line in regard to that. We hope that everyone has a chance to get on the water and enjoy our resources. Stay warm and cheers!

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

We are looking forward to 2023 and have our sights to continue to grow our chapter. Speaking of growth, we are looking to recruit additional board members who would like to be a part of a growing and fun chapter.

Our 2023 Annual Greater Sugar Land Chapter Banquet is scheduled for March 9 at the Stafford Centre, tickets are available at <u>ccatexas.org/greater-sugar-land</u>. If you love boiled crawfish and fried catfish, then you won't want to miss this event!

Our chapter events include monthly board meetings, Annual Chapter Banquet, Annual Presidents Cup Fishing Tournament scheduled for May 20, 2023, we host Several Kid Fish events in First Colony, Riverstone, Meadows and New Territory, and our Annual Anglers' Night Out.

Feel free to come out and join us for all the Kid Fish events where you can experience the smile on a young one's face when they land their first fish.

If you would like to get involved in our chapter events email us at <u>greatersugarlandcca@gmail.com</u>. 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

Helotes Bob Mitchell 210-442-7009 Bobmitchell89@gmail.com

CCA Helotes is off to a racing start in 2023. We started with our signature "Shark Night" at O'Connor High School on January 24. Students, parents, and teachers enjoyed a fun filled and educational presentation by Dr. Kelly Banks. Through her own firsthand experience, Dr. Banks was able to expand on her extensive knowledge of the apex predators ecology and habitat.

CCA Helotes has always been a chapter involved with community as well as have active participation from our members. We had wonderful leadership from President Johnny Rayburg over the last 3 years who was the originator of Shark Night. A huge thank you to Johnny and Dr. Banks for hosting and presenting a great activity.

Our Annual CCA Helotes Chapter Banquet is rapidly approaching on Thursday, March 23 at 6 p.m. at Pedrotti's Ranch. We can't wait to have everyone back for another year of fundraising fun! Contact one of our board members soon to get your tickets while they last!

For further information about the CCA Helotes chapter, please contact our President Bob Mitchell at <u>CCAHelotes@gmail.</u> com or check out our <u>Facebook page</u> to stay up with current events and meetings.

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 Laguarta 713-515-3830 KLaguarta@landadvisors.com

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

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

> Lee County Jake Horne 979-540-6117 jake@aubainesupply.com

Live Oak Denise Krc 979-733-3358

liveoakchaptercca@gmail.com We are fast approaching our 20th Annual Fundraiser on Thursday May 4, 2023! Thank you to all those that have supported our cause and helped us support coastal conservation so that future generations can enjoy coastal habitats as much as we do. We would like to see you at our event for 2023, If you would like to join us at our banquet, reach out to Denise for ticketing information.

We have a 10 item raffle that will be drawn the night of May 4: list of items are Browning 70 gun safe, Pulsar Thermion 2

Helotes Shark Night event



Sudents during the Shark Night presentation. CCA Helotes has always been a chapter involved with community as well as have active participation from our members. We had wonderful leadership from President Johnny Rayburg over the last 3 years who was the originator of Shark Night. A huge thank you to Johnny and Dr. Banks for hosting and presenting a great activity.

Below, Dr. Kesley Banks during her Shark Night presentation.



XQ35 Pro Thermal Scope, Browning Abolt 3 Hunter 30-06, Smith & Wesson M&P 9 EZ Shield 9MM, Savage Ais II 243, Winchester SXP Waterfowl Wetland Camo 12ga, Ruger American 22WMR, Rossi Tuffy SS 410, Canik TP9 Elite 9MM Pistol, and a Beretta A300 Ultima Semi Auto 20GA. The tickets are \$100 each and only 200 will be sold. You can call Denise at (979) 733-3358 to purchase raffle tickets or buy them from any Live Oak Chapter Board Member.

Lower Colorado Anthony Kimmey 979-241-2239 anthonykimmey@ymail.com

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

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

Important upcoming events and dates for CCA Mainland in February and March: Starting in February, we will have our gun raffle tickets available for purchase. On March 14, 2023, we will have Capt. Harry Arthur as our guest speaker for our Anglers' Night Out-Captain. Harry has been back-lake and inshore fishing in the Texas Gulf Coast for 35 years. He'll guide you to the best shallow water and inshore locations for speckled trout and redfish. He prides himself on running a professional charter and helping others enjoy every minute of their trip. If you'd like to improve your technique, he is happy to show you some of his tricks. Then, on April 1, 2023 we will be selling gun raffle tickets

at the Big Ass Crawfish Bash at Mainland City Centre.

Matagorda Bays Chris Bird 979-257-6508

cbird1493@gmail.com

The Matagorda Bays Chapter hopes that this update finds each everyone one of our supporters and conservationists enjoying the New Year. We are eager to begin this year's fundraising, outreach, and tournaments here in Matagorda Bays.

In 2021, the Matagorda Bays chapter board voted on and established term limits to the President and Vice President positions, which will allow us to continue to grow and prosper as one of CCA Texas' brightest and forward-thinking chapters in the State.

As this will be my fourth year serving as the Chapter President, elected to back-to-back two-year terms, this will be my final year in this position. It has been a great honor and privilege to serve the Matagorda Bays Chapter members. I have been able to study and grow from some of the finest chapter board members and CCA Assistant Director's CCA Texas has to offer.

We are proud to announce that the next Chapter President voted in by the board members for the Matagorda Bays Chapter will be our current Vice President Jason Beery! Jason has served as the chapter Vice President for the previous four years and is more than capable of leading our chapter into the coming years of conservation. I am similarly thrilled to announce that our next chapter Vice President will be long time board member and raffle boat committee chairman Slade Stary!

Our upcoming 2023 events schedule: Lil' Salties Kid-fish Tournament (Matagorda Harbor) – May 6, CCA Matagorda Bays Chapter Annual Banquet and Boat Raffle (El Campo Civic Center) - June 29, and Jim Ehman Memorial Guides Cup Invitational (Matagorda Harbor) - September 26-27. Our 2023 raffle boat has been built, delivered, and is ready to be displayed in the surrounding communities. This year's boat was built by **TranSport Boats** on the banks of Matagorda Bay in Palacios, Texas. TranSport built us a beautiful and sleek 2480 XLR8 sitting on top of a custom Coastline Trailer with side steps and Mag Wheels built in Sea Drift, Texas. We chose to install a Suzuki Marine 350HP motor with twin rotating propellors for powering the winner

across any bay system Texas has to offer. The TranSport 2480 XLR8 sports a K-Top, Twin 10' Power Poles, Garmin 94 UHD, Wet Sounds MC5/4-chan. Amp/4x6 Revo speakers, white powder coated aluminum, swim ladder, bucket captain





2023 CCA Matagorda Bays Boat Raffle Prize.

seats, front live-well, Bob's Jackplate, and Lenco trim tabs.

We wish to thank the 2023 boat sponsors for making this boat possible: Capital Farm Credit, ILS Capital, & Topwater Real Estate. One lucky winner will be drawn the night of June 29, on Facebook live, at our annual chapter banquet. If you like attending a good party every now and then mark your calendars and don't miss it! Ticket sales will begin the first week of February and you can find them by contacting any of our board members or visiting the local businesses listed here: Prasek's Family Smokehouse, Matagorda Harbor Bait & Tackle, TranSport Boats, Superior Motor Parts, The Shot Spot, Hoffer's Auto, Johnny's Sport Shop, Star Parts, Rice Farmers Co-Op & Mr. Tire (El Campo & Bay City), United AG General Store, VonDerAu Ford, TNT Western Wear, and Wayne's Bait Camp. You can also swing by and see us at the Texas Fishing Show in the TranSport Boats booth in March. Please check out our Facebook page and chapter webpage for all boat raffle and event updates. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please don't hesitate to contact us at any time.

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

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

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

Orange County

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

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

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

We hope everybody had a great holiday. We are in the planning stages for **our 25th Annual Fundraiser Banquet. It will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at the Austin County Fair Convention and Expo Building** (1076 Hwy 159 S, Bellville, Texas 77418). Last year the Banquet was the biggest Banquet that the chapter has ever held, and we plan on doing the same if not better.

So, come join us for a great evening! We will be serving prime rib, chicken breast and boiled shrimp for dinner. There will be three types of tables available for purchase: Bull Red Table, Gold Table, or Silver Table and there are individual tickets also available for purchase. Also available are sponsorships for the cap game and tumbler and every ticket includes the meal and membership. We will also have raffles on caps, guns, and other great prizes and there will also be the high end raffle table with guns, coolers, custom rod and reel packages and more. Then, after dinner there will be a live and silent auction.

If anyone is interested on being a sponsor for our Prairie Chapter Banquet or to purchase a table or tickets, contact any board member or Patricia at (979) 877-5598 or <u>manager@wpprint.</u> <u>com</u> or go to <u>ccatexas.org/prairie</u> to purchase tickets online. Thank you! And see you all at the Banquet.

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

The Redfish Bay board hopes that everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Redfish Bay Chapter Annual Banquet is scheduled for April 29, 2023. As usual, it is on a Saturday evening starting at 6 p.m. in the Aransas Pass Civic Center. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased through out website at ccatexas.org/redfish-bay. We always make our banquet a family affair with spouses and children welcome (infants may need ear coverings because of the PA system volume). Individual tickets are \$75, couple's tickets are \$125, Corporate Tables (8 people) are \$700, and Auction Tables (8 people) are \$1000. The Auction Tables include a half-page ad in the banquet program and a banner to be displayed on the wall (both provided to me by the purchaser). Tickets include a oneyear CCA membership and a meal with spirits, beer, wine, soft drinks, and tea. STAR entries will be sold separately. There will be a live auction, silent auction, and raffle tickets for coastal art, fishing and hunting packages, and many other great items. Please sign up as soon as possible to help with our planning. Our Annual Beeville Fish Fry will be in the fall before dove season. More information later. Hope to see you there!

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

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

Greetings all! Lots going on and time is running short! **The 25th Annual Sabine Neches Chapter Banquet will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2023 at the Port Arthur Civic Center!** Hot crawfish, cold drinks, awesome prizes and a lot of storytelling! We are raffling a Club Car golf cart donated by longtime friends and sponsor **Golf Cart Connection**! This is sure to be another sold-out event for our chapter and we look forward to seeing you there! Until next time, tight lines to all!



2023 Sabine Neches Chapter raffle grand prize – Club Car golf cart donated by Golf Cart Connection.

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

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

San Antonio Liz Hewitt 210-859-6924 pescaliz@aol.com

We hope everyone had a great holiday and got in some fishing too. Here in San Antonio, we are busy already with planning andmeeting for this exciting new year.

Our first CCA SA Happy Hour at Kunstler Brewery was on January 23. We had some good beer, food and giveaways, along with some interesting fishing stories. **Our next Happy Hour will be on February 20 at Kunstler again from 6 to 8 p.m.** This is a good way to meet other CCA San Antonio members and find out what is going on in our area. Hope to see you there!

We are in the planning stages of our **10th Annual Hooked on Clays Sporting Clay Shoot. It will be on March 17 at the National Shooting Complex.** We are having a crawfish boil lunch after the shoot along with some really cool raffle items. If you are interested, give Tom Akin a call at (210) 313-4860.

Our CCA San Antonio Chapter Annual Banquet is scheduled for May 4, 2023 at the Freeman Exhibition Hall again. General banquet committee meetings will be held on March 14, 28, April 11, 18 and 25 at 6 p.m. at Walk Ons Sports Bistreaux, 1400 Pantheon Way, San Antonio, TX 78232. Come join us if you would like to get involved and meet some great people.

Find our page on Facebook at CCA Texas, San Antonio Chapter, hit Like and keep up with what is going on in the Alamo City!

San Bernard Jeremy Compton 281-961-0262 jcompton@detconsultinginc.com

San Gabriel David Singleton 512-848-6555 southwestland@gmail.com

The San Gabriel Chapter of CCA Texas will soon begin planning our 2023 Banquet which will be held on Thursday, August 3 at the Georgetown Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center. We hope you have already marked your calendar for this special night of fun and fellowship.

We will be contacting sponsors in the upcoming months and will also be asking for folks to volunteer to help us with the banquet. As volunteers, we generally meet once a month until the summer and then more frequently as we get closer to the banquet date. If this piques your interest or if you think you would like more information about our banquet, reach out to Jeff Bible, our Banquet Chairman, at <u>aggieangler93@</u> <u>gmail.com</u>.

The San Gabriel Chapter is composed of Round Rock, Georgetown, Cedar Park, Leander, Taylor, Hutto, Florence, Granger, Liberty Hill and their surrounding communities.

We hope that as you transition from hunting or winter fishing season back to spring fishing that you have plenty of opportunities to get out and enjoy the outdoors. Stay safe. Southwestern Veronica Oliver 830-765-6228 ronnimoliver@gmail.com

TAMU Preston Higginbottom 405-471-1576 prestonhigg@gmail.com

> Texas State University Andrew Elder 832-525-6117 Andrewelder@icloud.com

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

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

2023 Annual Fundraising Banquet tickets and tables are on sale now! Purchase them online at <u>ccatexas.org/tri-county</u>. See you there!

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Join us for a crawfish boil and fried fish dinner, drinks, auctions, raffles and good old fundraising fun				
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FOR MO			0.585.0401 putz.stx@gmail.com burnside@ccatexas.org	
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30 Kid's Ticket	Qty	Price	Table Name	
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~32~

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

Greetings campers, at our January Board meeting, I am proud to report the Board voted to allow me to steer this dingy one more year. The other officers elected were Patrick Anders – VP, Keith Scheffler – Treasurer, Joe Ross – Secretary, Gerald Payne – Banquet Chairman and Kenneth Dew – Sergent-At-Arms. Along with the rest of the Board, we have a very strong team working for the Trinity Bay Chapter.

Save the date: Saturday, April 29, 2023, from 2-5 p.m. for the 2023 Spring Crawfish Boil. This year it will be held at the brand-new Community Building called the West Side Complex. Located at 8138 FM 3246, Baytown, TX 77523. It's just a stone's throw from I-10 and Gou Hole Road. Cajun Cookers will be serving up their signature crawfish and sides. We will have a few games, a few raffles and some stories to be told. This event continues to be a fun, low key fundraiser for CCA. Tickets are available from the usual sources.

While you have that calendar out, the **Trinity Bay Banquet** will be Friday, August 25, 2023, at Armenta's Reception Hall located at 825 Sheldon Road in Channelview, TX. Even though Armenta's is a bit far from Trinity Bay, the hall has offered us so much more room than anywhere else we could find.

In between planning and executing our events this year, we are planning to get on the water and test our skills chasing tails. Why not join us....

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

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

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

Come join in and help us celebrate our 20th West Texas Chapter Annual Banquet on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at Midland Country Club (in the Banquet room of course).

Helping us celebrate our 20th anniversary is our unbelievable Enviro Resources cooking team from Erath, Louisiana. They bring in the finest, freshest Southern Louisiana shellfish and boil it to perfection. I'd like to give a big shoutout to **ENVIRO RESOURCES** for donating all of their time year after year to help make our event great. So, if you or your company has some oil base mud pits, cuttings, or soil that needs remediation, give them a call, you'll be glad you did.

Cocktails start at 6:00 p.m., food and auction to follow. Bull Red Tables for 10 are \$2,500.00, Trout Tables for 8 are \$1,750.00, and individual tickets are \$100.00. To purchase tickets and tables, call Craig McDonnold at (432) 553-5396 or (432) 682-3499 or Reece Boudreaux at (432) 770-3536.



The Photo Editor liked these two images from past years of East Cut Beach Cleanups. See page 7 for information on upcoming opportunities to leave it better than you found it.



Photos, Sam Caldwell Olympus TG-4



The 34th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament is GOOD TO GO!

S O FAR, SO GOOD. So very, very good. At this writing, we have dodged the mayhem. No problems with arctic freeze-outs, or fish kills. At the same time (God be praised), trout conservation measures indicate ongoing recovery, in tandem with natural trout spawns that have the population curve headed north, and flounder reproduction from the CCA Texasfunded Sea Center Texas flounder building is at record levels.

We often forget that every cycle of drought upstream of the bays reduces the freshwater inflows these precious estuaries need to max out and optimize our numbers of baby fish. Over the last six months, thankfully, rains have rejuvenated many of these rivers, passing down more life into the bay systems we love so



much. It actually appears the coast is really setting up to itch my cabin fever badly. For those who remember the Ron Popeil Pocket Fisherman, BUT WAIT, there's more....we need to get through February. Prayers for that. If we don't get "iced", this could be a year to remember, all right. Are you set?

STAR is! All the tagged redfish volunteers (sorry y'all can't win in STAR, but thank you for your service!) are getting lined up, tags are arriving from Australia, scales are being recertified, weigh stations are being checked, and prizes are being lined up including our scholarships (<u>https://youtu.be/VZjysTu7-kc</u>). Check your gear and sharpen the hooks while it's cold....the CCA State of Texas Anglers Rodeo will be here before you know it. The ride begins on **Saturday, May 27th.**

Academy® SPORTS+OUTDOORS

Indeed, we will be giving away another \$325,000 in scholarships and, as you can see from that ABC 13 clip, the new structure is a real crowd-pleaser. Ranging from \$2,500 to



\$30,000, ALL the kids that make the final STAR Leaderboard are WINNERS. So, Mom and Dad, get 'em signed up now. It's still only \$10 bucks for kids 6-17 years old. While you're at it, you too can sign up and make the early cut for the EARLY BIRD DRAWING boat, which ends **May 5th**. Why not amp up your chances of winning? The STAR prize lineup now boasts well over \$1,000,000 in prizes offering 19 boats, 5 trucks, and 4 UTVs. And we are pleased to report that after this year's scholarships, we will have given away \$7,500,000 to our great family-fishin' kids.

What can you expect besides a great summer on the water with fam and friends? I'll tell you—CCA Texas counts the very finest in STAR partners like our title sponsors, Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Homes, and Academy Sports and Outdoors.

Additionally, we're proud of those who support our conservation efforts like **Hoffpauir Polaris, Shiner, Whataburger, Mercury, Mustang Cat, Kryptek, Haynie, Shoalwater, Dargel, Coastline, McClain, ABC-13.**

We even have a new name to add to our great family---Tran Sport Boats. Please remember these folks when you need to gear up. They care about what you care about. -STAR Tournament Director, Bill Kinney







NEW BLUE TAG DIVISION BOAT SPONSOR

The CCA Texas STAR Tournament is proud to announce that Tran Sport Boats has joined the STAR family. The FIRST THREE (3) eligible anglers who turn in a BLUE TAG during the 2023 Texas STAR Tournament will win a 2023 **Tran Sport Boat 22' 220 SVT CAT boat, Coastline trailer, and 150 hp Mercury** **motor package.** Donny Tran takes pride in the construction of fine shallow-water fishing boats, paying special attention to ensure each craft delivers a soft dry ride. Tran Sport boats are 100% hand-laid fiberglass and designed to handle Texas bays and surf.



STAR Platinum Print history shows these sell out fast!

STAR PLATINUM SUPPORTING STAR STUDENTS

Your contribution through STAR Platinum directly funds \$325,000 in scholarships annually for STAR Youth winners – which makes you the real STAR!







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CUSTOM HOME BUILDERS

Great Photos 2023

Categories: Best In Show / Action / Scenic / Humor / Kids / Wildlife / CPR

Important: Send jpegs and include name of subject, title, your name as well as any other names if you have them. Email jpegs to: *sam@samcaldwell.com* Give us your best shot, and keep CURRENTS an award-winning newsletter.



Featured photographer this issue is Capt. Mike McBride. You'll enjoy his Lower Coast ForeCast on page 40. Here, McBride CPR's a fine speck for further duty.

Mike McBride caught this Action moment of Kelly Molak.

Alan Radwanski says, "Fishing with my sons this Fall. Ben caught his first slot red and Evan caught his first red. Also a pic for the humor category, 'For some, size doesn't matter!' That's Evan.



A hungry heron hopes for a meal from the McBride lighted pier buffet.





Upper Coast

Capt. Glenn Hammond Tri-Bay area: mild winter, early spring

Thanks to a mild winter with only one real freeze, we had no fish damage. As February arrives, water temp has hovered around 62 to 66 degrees. Lots of small reds and specks have been the norm. But the real fishing season is approaching.

Our past February logs show slow fishing and hit or miss trips. Fish do not seem to know what to do; feed one day and not the next, deep one week and shallow the next. As water warms in early February, bait will start showing in shallow bays and bite will be more consistent.

Foggy weather this time of year can cancel or make trips hazardous so proceed with caution. Super low tides in this area could also concentrate fish in deeper channels and bayous.

March brings spring and wind from all directions. Warming currents and tides begin to get back to normal levels. Fishing around structure, oyster reefs, sand flats should be the ticket. As bait returns, try to match the hatch. Artificial lures include mullet, glass minnows or shad patterns, but old-fashioned shrimp under popping corks can be a great way to go.

Early spring is a great time to use top water plugs. Top Dogs and Top Dog Jr's are great bait to try. Work them around structure and be patient. Drop-offs and ledges are good places to start. Another great bait is a Down South Lure paddle tail in a mullet pattern (Roach).

Remember to practice CPR (Catch, photo, and release) so they'll be there this summer and next year.

Good luck fishing while you listen to my weekly reports on 610am radio, *The Outdoor Show* or podcast anytime: — **Capt. Glenn** (the Hammer) **Hammond** 713-208-0683 *audacy.com/sportsradio610*

Friday and Sunday 4-4:15am for live reports.

Middle Coast Capt. Chuck Naiser

Dull February, exciting March

Combining the months of February and March: two months opposite in their characteristics, possibilities, and conditions, but we will attempt to do that now. February has always been the "dead month" for me; winter is tired and frontal passages will linger for days on end. The greatest opportunity in fishing is change, and the redundancy of the February pattern can be absent of that characteristic for days on end. The natural tidal patterns of February are characteristically flat, the wind will have a greater effect on water level and current as well as the daily tidal pattern. Clouds tend to linger as the fronts weaken, temperatures remain static.

So basically (historically) you're going to have to fish the opportunities that weather affords you, rather than just picking a date and getting out of the house (unless your spouse is mad at you). If you get a break and the winds become friendly, the sun peeks out and the temperature moderates, get out of the house and go wet a line.

March, on the other hand, is very dynamic. On the 21st, we are blessed with the spring equinox which creates a frequency in the daily tidal patterns that yield more predictable and stronger currents. With the exception of a late cold front, temperatures are moderating and the days are lengthening so water temperatures are on the rise.

Keep in mind that fishing conditions and the calendar have no absolute relationship, so there is nothing absolute in the weather pattern. As the water warms, which can be anywhere from the first of March to the middle of April, the rising water level due to the equinox will allow bait to come into shallow water and flourish, finding the warmth of the elongated days of sunlight.

Lures: the best bait of all is one moving through the water.—Capt. Chuck Naiser Chuck was one of the early GCCA/CCA founders. A dedicated flyfishing guide, he actually loves the flats all-year round. <u>chucknaiser@yahoo.com</u> 361-230-9392 <u>info@flatsworthy.com</u>

Lower Coast Capt. Mike McBride

Key is looking for classic signs

Greetings from the Lower Laguna Madre and the Port Mansfield area. It appears we are recovering from the devastating freeze of 2021 sooner than most expected. We are seeing impressive numbers of three-to-five-pound trout with some predictable sixes and occasional sevens. It's this writer's opinion that if we can just stand down a bit longer with three fish, we will again see the world-class trout fishery we are known for.

As we head toward mid-March, the tide levels will bull up and onshore winds return. The old cliché of "the wind is your friend" will become more evident now. Key will be simply looking for classic signs, like color changes and rip lines. Pelicans and gulls offer high potential.

A topwater approach may work, but no action above calls for dropping down with a tail and bottom bumping.

Spring Break will usher in some often-frustrating competition for productive water. Don't be afraid to try some new areas; it's rewarding to work areas more devoid of propwash, and you just never know when you might discover some untapped treasure in a new area.

Redfishing has been pleasantly consistent, and we should expect that to continue. Flounder were surprisingly prevalent last Fall so we have high hopes for another good year with those excellent, sporty fish.

Overall, the prognosis seems encouraging, both short and longer term. Here's hoping you can get out there more often and enjoy what our unique system has to offer. Good luck in your salty adventures this Spring. — Capt. Mike McBride 956-746-6041 Ed. Note: Cap'n Mike is known by many LLM fishermen as Mike McTrout.



Just one more cast... Photo, Mike McBride



Reluctant trout, flinching McBride.

Gulf Identification Guide Tito's Martini **Tito's Bloody Mary** Mo-Tito Grouper Redfish Mahi-Mahi **Tito's Salty Dog** Títo's Tito's Screwdriver **Speckled** Trout Tito's All-American Handmade Lemonade Tarpon VODKA AUSTIN ★ TEXAS Tito's Flounder American Mule America's Original Craft Vodka Tito's All-Time Favorite

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Shrimp Roll

Ingredients

Mayonnaise 2 cups / Celery (diced) 1 cup / Red Onion (diced) 1 medium to large onion Lemon Juice 2 Lemons / Old Bay 1tbsp / Salt 1tsp / Pepper 1tsp / Frozen Shrimp 1-2 lbs / Pretzel Buns

Mix mayo, celery, onion, salt, and pepper in a large mixing bowl. Add half a lemon worth of juice and mix again. (Keep squeezed lemon for later). Transfer to a large container and refrigerate. This will make 3 quarts of shrimp roll, great for a big party.

To make shrimp roll: bring water to a boil, season with old bay. Take the rest of your lemon and squeeze juice in. Toss the whole squeezed lemon into pot as well. Cook shrimp until it is 80% cooked, about 5 mins or until shrimp starts to turn pink. Pull from water and cool in an ice bath. Chop shrimp into ¹/₄" pieces. Toss in dressing and add salt and pepper to taste.

Transfer to lage continer and refrigerate.

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Thanks to Kuentsler Brewing in San Antonio Texas.

The recipe was created by owner Vera's daughter, Emma. When the brewery first opened, we didn't really have a kitchen. We had a hot plate and a mini oven. We were serving mostly pretzels and brats. Emma felt like doing a New England style shrimp roll would be something super easy for our kitchen to handle and would be perfect for hot days in San Antonio. She came up with this recipe and we have never looked back. It's still one of our most popular dishes. -Manager Danny Alarcon kuenstlerbrewing.com



Great Recipe Editor Liz Hewitt



TEXAS



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Caldwell named as a SEWE Artist for 2023

Sam Caldwell has been selected as a primary artist in the 2023 Southeastern Wildlife Exposition. Set in Charleston South Carolina, Feb. 17-20, the Exposition features three days of everything to love about wildlife and nature through a lineup of events including fine art exhibits, wildlife, conservation education, sporting demonstrations, live music and after-hours gatherings. Caldwell's art can be previewed at <u>https://www.sewe.com/artists/samcaldwell/</u>

The Farrier



Autumn Wolves



A Search for Rainbows

Three major national awards

The Trip: 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.* While you're there, for a friend or yourself, choose a high quality Giclee from many 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



The Great Spirit pays off...

Welcome to Caldwell's new BLOG Featuring CCA's Not That Serious column of 30 years.

The national award-winning art of Ben Kocian and stories by Sam Caldwell. Click on the guitar for the second issue of this classic Tide Magazine column.

Soon to be an Amazon/Kindle book.

New on the website: SPECIAL EDITION OF FOUR CALDWELL ART PRINTS While you're there ordering art prints, get a personalized First Edition copy of The Trip <u>www.samcaldwell.com</u> Click on the redfish



Caldwell



February / March 2023





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The Texas Parks & Wildlife website is your starting point for almost anything you need

to know about outdoor Texas, including links to many areas. Visit www.tpwd.texas.gov To focus on fishing and boating, visit www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat



Current size, bag and possession limits are now available through the Texas Parks & Wildlife website: TPWD has a number to report game violations. 1-800-792-4263. A partner with CCA in aiding Texas game and Game Wardens is Operation Game Thief. Drop by and put this website on your favorites list: www.ogttx.com



COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (including STAR Entry)

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Method of payment Check/Money order MASTERCARD VISA AMEX DISCOVER	ASSOCIATE: \$20 Per each family me LIFE MEMBER: \$1000 CCA Life Members STAR ENTRY FEE: \$25 Tournament entry fr YOUTH: \$10 TIDE newsletter, de Age: CONSERVATION MEMBER: \$50 A portion of the pr	hip card, decal, bumper sticker, Texas CURRENTS newsletter & TIDE m family member. All membership privileges except TIDE and CURRENTS Membership piece, print, plus member gifts. Payable in four \$250 install nt entry fee. Must be a current CCA member. sletter, decal. Includes STAR Tournament entry, for members 17 and und ge: Date of birth: of the proceeds go toward CCA's National Habitat Program, Building C Conservation Member decal, one-year subscription to TIDE Magazine and s		vTS. tallments. under. g Conservation Trust. Includes	
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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