

A man with a mustache, wearing a tan hat, a tan jacket with a red collar, and dark pants, stands in a field. He is holding a brown and white speckled dog on a leash and a rifle. The background is a blurred natural setting.

# CURRENTS

December 2024 / January 2025

**Ben Vaughan III**

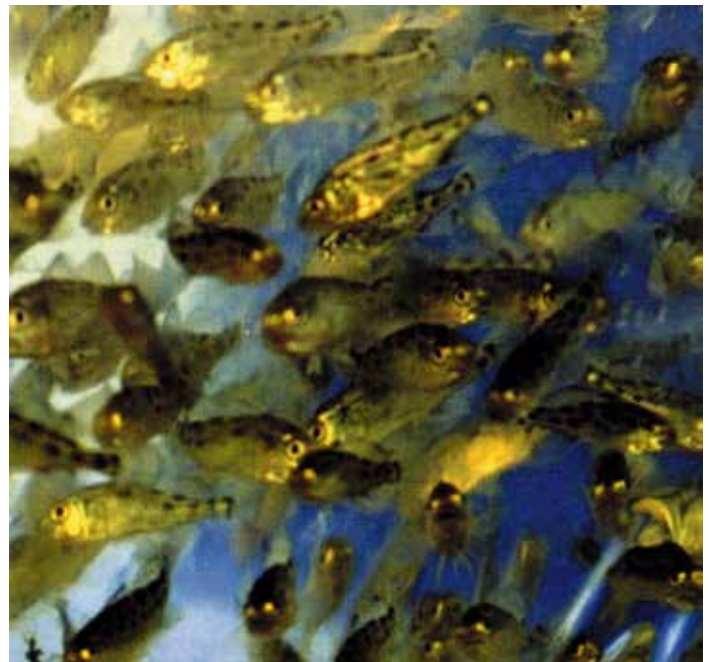
*Volunteer, worker,  
leader, donor.*

*Ben left the coast  
better than  
he found it.*

# Ben F. Vaughan III, An Early CCA Volunteer



*The Ben F. Vaughan Jr. Center focuses on research and development of major saltwater game fish, as well as providing hatchery and brood areas for stocking millions of fingerlings in Texas bays.*



**B**en was a dedicated conservationist and sportsman, committed to preserving Texas' bays and estuaries. He received awards from Texas Parks and Wildlife, the Coastal Conservation Association, the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute and the UT College of Natural Science for his efforts.

Ben was the moving force in founding the Ben F. Vaughan Jr. Hatchery and Research Center in Corpus Christi, named for his father. The Center was instrumental in restoring redfish to Texas waters. The center is a facility dedicated to the study and preservation of aquatic life. The center specializes in breeding and researching various species of fish and other water-dwelling creatures.

With a focus on conservation and education, the center contributes valuable knowledge to the field of marine biology. Visitors can observe the research efforts

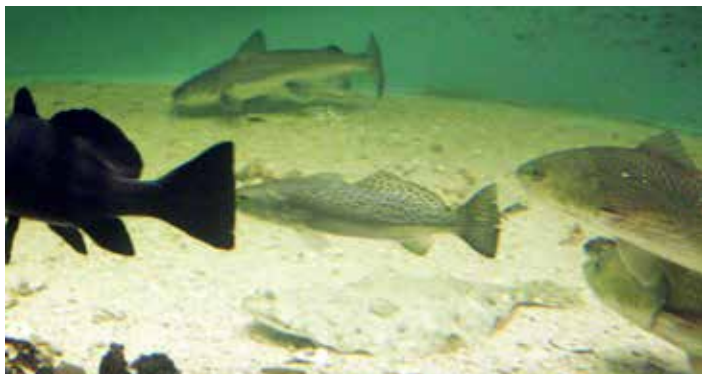
and learn about the importance of protecting aquatic ecosystems. Ben also lobbied tirelessly for the preservation of river water rights benefiting Texas' bays.

**A** lifelong outdoorsman, Ben raised and trained many Brittany Spaniels, all descendants of his pride and joy Hector, as Ben said, "The best dog who ever lived." Ben was also known for his South Texas aphorisms: "Smilin' like a possum eatin' green persimmons – happy as a duck eatin' a June bug – a little bit of a lot can be a bunch."

Ben grew up in Corpus Christi and spoke fondly of a youth spent hunting and fishing the Gulf Coast. He received his A.B. degree in 1963 from Stanford University majoring in classics and began his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania with the intention of



Visitors to the Ben F. Vaughan Jr. Center can enjoy educational areas as well as viewing the many development and breeding areas.




pursuing a teaching career in Greek and Latin. After a family medical crisis, Ben decided to return to his home state to pursue law instead. He obtained his LL.B. degree with honors in 1967 from The University of Texas School of Law, where he served as an Associate Editor of the Texas Law Review, and graduated Order of the Coif.



Ben clerked at Graves Dougherty Gee & Hearon (as the firm was then called) after his first year, and after a year-long appointment as law clerk to Justice Robert W. Hamilton of the Texas Supreme Court, he joined the firm in August 1968 – a partnership that would endure for the next 56 years. He was a daily and beloved presence at Graves Dougherty until the day before his death.



he met. He was a man of faith and practiced his faith in his work and in his charity. Ben was a dedicated husband and father. Our deepest condolences go out to Ben's wife of 60 years, Daphne; their children, Bear and James; and all extended family. Ben will be sorely missed by all who knew him. 



Ben was generous to a fault. He never refused a request for help. He sought out the best in everyone

# Texas Oysters and a Path to a Sustainable Fishery

By Shane Bonnot, CCA Texas Advocacy Director

Texas is one of the few remaining states with a significant public reef oyster fishery. The harvest season spans from November to April, and any of the 546 state-issued licenses can be used to dredge oysters from [designated shellfish harvest areas](#) which are managed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the Texas Department of State Health Services. While annual landings fluctuate, public reef harvest typically accounts for 78% of the total landings reported to TPWD, with the remaining 22% coming from private lease areas.

Each year, before the season begins and throughout its six-month duration, TPWD conducts targeted oyster sampling in harvest areas on historically fished reefs. By assessing the abundance of harvestable oysters, TPWD determines whether an area is suitable for public reef harvest. In recent years, most harvest areas have been closed to allow the oyster population to recover which has forced oyster boats to concentrate within fewer locations, intensifying the impacts of dredging. A drive along Highway 35 across the Copano/Aransas Bay or Lavaca Bay Causeways provides a clear view of this situation in real-time.

Oysters are invaluable to Texas' coastal ecosystems, providing essential ecological services that benefit marine life and human communities. As a keystone species, oysters (particularly the Eastern Oyster - *Crassostrea virginica*), help form intricate reef systems that support biodiversity, stabilize shorelines, and enhance water quality. However, the oyster fishery faces significant challenges due to environmental changes and commercial

harvest via dredging reefs. To ensure a sustainable future, we must recognize the full ecological value of oysters and implement effective conservation strategies.

## The Ecological Importance of Oysters

Oyster reefs are much more than a source of seafood; they are a critical component of Texas' coastal ecosystems. These reefs act as natural barriers, slowing water surges and helping to prevent shoreline erosion. They also provide structured habitats for a wide variety of marine species. More than 300 species rely on oyster reefs for shelter, food, and habitat, including commercially and recreationally valuable fish like blue crabs, sheepshead, red drum, and spotted seatrout.

Oysters are natural filter feeders, capable of filtering over 50 gallons of water per day. Through their removal of nutrients, such as phytoplankton and chlorophyll, they help improve water quality and reduce turbidity. This filtration process also aids in sequestering carbon, contributing to coastal resilience in the face of climate

change. Additionally, oysters enhance benthic (bottom-dwelling) ecosystems by creating complex habitats that support higher biomass than other coastal environments, such as seagrass beds or salt marshes.

The economic value of oyster reefs extends far beyond the harvested product, especially when you place a value on the ecological services they provide in the water. Restored reefs can generate significant ecosystem services, including fish production, habitat provision, and shoreline stabilization, with annual ecosystem service values ranging from \$2,000 to \$40,000 per acre, depending on the health of the reef. Additional benefits of oyster reefs for recreational

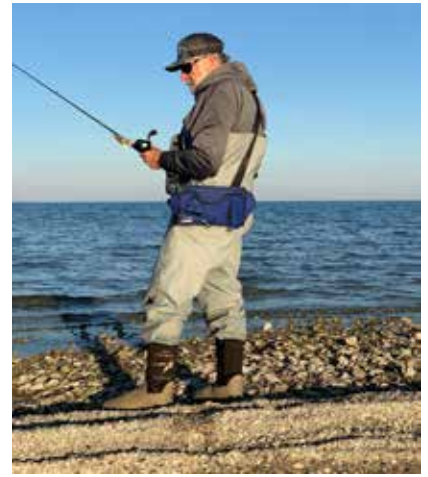
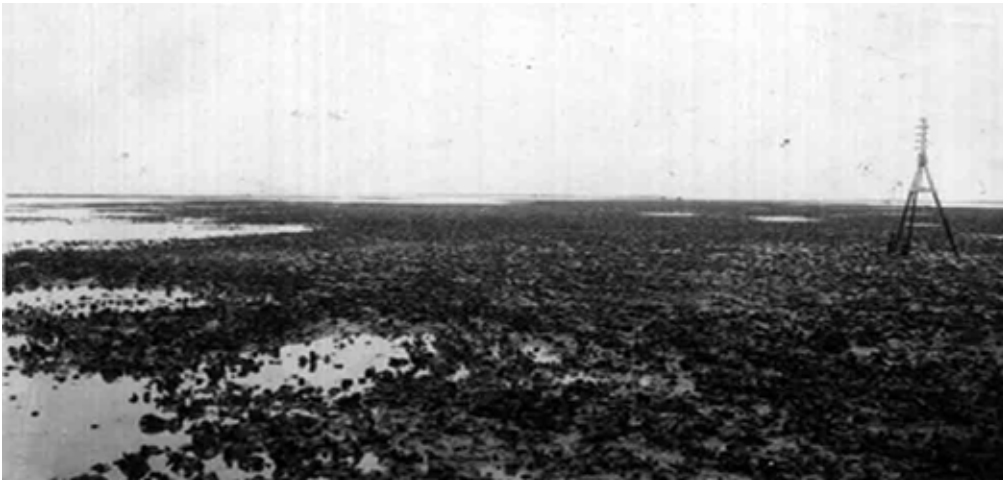
*As a keystone species, oysters help form intricate reef systems that support biodiversity, stabilize shorelines, and enhance water quality.*



*Unharvested Oyster Reef, demonstrating structural complexity and species diversity. Photo Credit: Harte Research Institute*



*Commercial Oyster Fisherman harvesting near exposed reefs. Photo Credit: Hank Arnold*



*Beldon Reef circa 1926 by Paul Galtsoff.*

*Everett Johnson standing on edge of Panther Reef. Photo Credit: Everett Johnson.*

angling are estimated at \$23,000 per acre. In contrast, the commercial value of oysters harvested from public oyster reefs is estimated at \$800 per acre.

### Challenges Facing the Oyster Fishery

Despite their resilience, oysters face increasing pressure from human activity and environmental changes. Historically, the most significant threat to their survival is the alteration of freshwater inflows to coastal ecosystems. Over the past century, the flow of freshwater from major rivers has been increasingly impounded and diverted for agricultural, industrial, and municipal uses, with some bays now experiencing near-total lack of freshwater inflows. This reduction in freshwater flow negatively impacts estuaries, depriving oysters of the vital conditions they need to thrive.

The accelerating pace of environmental change, driven by both climate change and human intervention/development, has also taken a toll on the oyster population.

Rising sea temperatures, droughts, hurricanes, and flooding events, along with an overcapitalized Texas fishery, have led to the destruction of public oyster reefs. In some cases, unscrupulous fishing practices, such as the illegal harvest of undersized oysters and/or harvesting on closed reefs, exacerbate the problem.

As a result, many oyster reefs in Texas have reached a point of ecological degradation that may be beyond restoration. While some reefs may not recover to their former status, there is still hope for protecting and rebuilding oyster reefs and enhancing the oyster fishery through proactive, sustainable conservation and restoration efforts.

### Solutions for a Sustainable Oyster Fishery

Restoring and preserving Texas' oyster reefs requires a multi-faceted approach that prioritizes ecological values alongside sustainable oyster production and harvesting practices. Key solutions include:

#### 1. Enhancing Conservation Efforts:

**License Buyback Programs:** Expanding participation in oyster license buyback programs will reduce fishing pressure on overexploited reefs and encourage responsible harvesting. Texas will likely need to reduce the number of licenses in the fishery from 546 licenses to somewhere between 175-200 licenses.

**Bay-Bottom Lease Expansion:** Expanding the number of state-managed bay-bottom leases provides commercial oystermen with the opportunity to invest in creating their own reefs, maintaining them through thin-layer cultch placements, and harvesting them sustainably. Growing this program will reduce dependence on public reefs, helping to protect sensitive habitats from the impacts of the public fishery. Currently, around 22% of annual landings in Texas come from 43 areas (approximately 2,300 acres) in Galveston Bay that are under location certificates (leases), and efforts are underway to further expand this program.

**Non-Harvestable Conservation Leases:** Along with the expansion of the commercial oyster lease program, conservation groups and research institutes will be able to lease bay bottom for the specific intent of creating or

**CONSERVING OYSTER REEFS**  
 PROTECTING OYSTER REEFS BENEFITS THE ECONOMY AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
 CCATXAS.ORG/OYSTERS

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Estimated **harvest value** of oysters from degraded reefs: **\$880 per acre<sup>1</sup>**
- Estimated **non-harvest value** of oysters: **\$2,000-\$40,000 per acre<sup>1</sup>**
  - Providing habitat that increases biodiversity and fish production
  - Reducing waves and stabilizing shorelines
  - Improving water quality by filtering large volumes of water
  - Producing oyster larvae that renourish harvested reefs
- Estimated **recreational fishing value** of restored oyster reefs: **\$23,000 per acre<sup>2</sup>**

restoring oyster reefs which will be permanently closed to commercial harvest. Creating conservation leases for non-harvestable oyster areas can safeguard critical spawning grounds and help replenish depleted reefs.

## 2. Promoting Oyster Mariculture:

Cultivating oysters through mariculture (oyster farming) offers a sustainable alternative to wild harvesting, reducing pressure on natural reefs and providing a controlled environment for oyster production. Growing farmed oysters in the water column creates a cleaner, better-tasting and more desirable product for the half-shell market. In Texas, there are currently 12 farms, 2 nurseries and 2 hatcheries fully permitted, and another 31 farms with conditional permits. [Click here](#) for a link to find restaurants and oyster farmers in Texas.

## 3. Establishing Oyster Sanctuaries:

Designating oyster broodstock sanctuaries in bay systems will help protect broodstock, ensuring the continued production of larvae that can repopulate nearby reefs. Sanctuary reefs serve as critical spawning reserves, bolstering oyster populations in the surrounding public waters.

## 4. Strategic Restoration Plans:

Large-scale restoration efforts should focus on rebuilding oyster reefs that support ecological functions, coastal resiliency and greatest value to local economies. Scientific research can guide the development of these restoration projects, ensuring they are designed to achieve measurable improvements in ecosystem health and



*Oysters from Blackjack Point Oyster Farm on the sorting table and the oyster farm in the background. Photo Credit: AJ Minns, owner of [BlackJack Point Oyster Company](#).*

# Oyster Management – Recent History

While future action is needed for the long-term sustainability of Texas public oyster reefs, it is important to recognize the steps that have been taken thus far. Let's look back at the last few years.

## 2017

Legislative Action - House Bill 51:

- Established the commercial oyster license buyback program.
- Required shellfish certificate holders (oyster dealers) to distribute oyster shell or approved cultch material equal to 30% of the oysters purchased in waters designated by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) or pay TPWD for shell acquisition and deposition at the same rate.
- Increased penalties for undersized oysters, with repeat or severe violations resulting in a Class B misdemeanor and a 30-day license suspension.
- Seafood dealers held accountable for repeat violations related to undersized oysters.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Action:

- Daily sack limit reduced to 30 sacks.
- Commercial oyster harvest closed on Saturdays.
- Tolerance for undersized oysters reduced from 15% to 5%.
- Permanently closed harvest in Christmas Bay, Carancahua Bay, Powderhorn Lake, Hynes Bay, St. Charles Bay, and South Bay.
- Creation of a 300-foot shoreline buffer along the entire coastline, prohibiting harvest from the water's edge.

## 2019

Legislative Action - House Bill 2321: Enhanced penalties for oystering in closed areas.

Legislative Action - House Bill 1300: Creation of the Texas Cultivated Oyster Mariculture Program.

## 2022

Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Action: Permanently closed oyster harvest in Ayres, Mesquite and Carlos Bays.

## 2023– 2024

- Creation of a Governor-appointed Commercial Oyster Mariculture Advisory Board.
- Creation of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Oyster Advisory Committee.



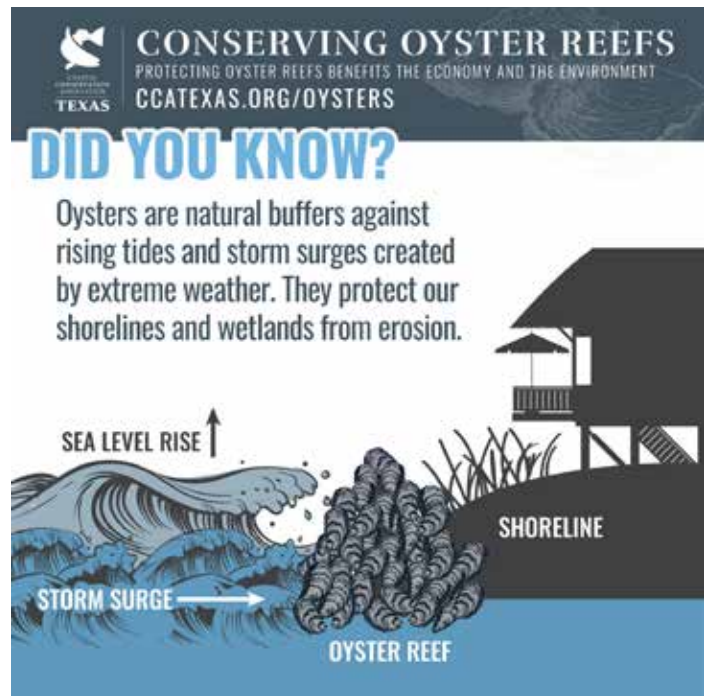
productivity. Strategic restoration plans work hand in hand with lease expansions.

### 5. Continued Enforcement and Adaptive Management:

Continued enforcement against illegal harvest and targeted sting operations are necessary to ensure that active participants in the oyster fishery are following existing regulations and that safeguards for resource protection are effective. There are numerous management tools, such as sack limit changes, gear restrictions, and number of fishing days, that are available for fishery managers to consider in the near term to further improve the sustainability of the public reef oyster fishery; after the implementation of a successful buyback program, fishery managers can adapt to a new landscape and consider strategies to spatially or seasonally spread out the remaining fishing pressure.

### Conclusion

Oysters are indispensable to the ecological health of Texas' coastal ecosystems. Their reefs provide habitat for numerous marine species, stabilize shorelines, and improve water quality, among other essential functions. However, the challenges they face—ranging from habitat loss to fishing pressure—threaten their future. By embracing conservation initiatives such as license buyback, supporting sustainable oyster farming, and investing in restoration



efforts, we can work to ensure that oysters continue to thrive in Texas waters, benefiting both nature and the economy for generations to come. 🇺🇸



*Mesquite Bay Complex oyster harvest prior to permanent closure. Photo Credit: John Blaha*

# CCA Texas Ends 2024 by Funding Over \$1.24 Million for Conservation Efforts

By John Blaha, Director of Habitat

CCA Texas' Executive Board closed out 2024 by funding over \$1.24 million for conservation efforts on the Texas coast. The ability to fund these important conservation efforts is directly attributed to the strength of our local chapters and their volunteer efforts. They stepped up in a BIG way to make a difference up and down the Texas coast.

**> \$110,215: TPWD Coastal Fisheries Interns** - CCA Texas has helped fund the summer internship program for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Coastal Fisheries division for over 15 years. The Executive Board approved funding for \$110,215 for 2025. This funding will help provide the necessary funds for fourteen interns. These interns work closely with TPWD staff in the coastal fisheries ecosystem offices and hatcheries, gaining valuable experience while also providing TPWD with the opportunity to work with potential future employees. In the beginning, the original funding covered four interns in 2009 and has now grown to fourteen coastal fisheries interns. Many of these summer interns have eventually gone on to work for TPWD in the Coastal Fisheries Division.

**> \$15,600: TPWD Game Warden Interns** - In addition to funding interns for TPWD Coastal Fisheries, CCA Texas has funded TPWD Game Warden Interns for nearly a decade as well. At the November Executive Board meeting, \$15,600 in funding was approved for six Game Warden interns in 2025. Like the Coastal Fisheries interns, this funding enables these interns to work closely with Game Wardens all along the coast while also providing TPWD with the opportunity to work with potential future game wardens. This program provides these interns with invaluable experience to put on their resumes should they apply for the Texas Game Warden Academy down the line.

**> \$51,004: TPWD Game Warden Equipment in Region IV**

Texas Game Wardens are on the front lines protecting our Texas coastal and inland resources and they rely on organizations like CCA, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation's (TPWF) Gear Up for Game Wardens, and other organizations to help supplement the necessary funding for equipment needed to do their jobs.

CCA Texas has a long and proud history of supporting our Texas Game Wardens. This funding includes:

**> \$5,070** to convert one Mercury Verado 300 HP motor from a dual motor SafeBoat to a 25' single motor patrol unit for use in

Brazoria and Matagorda counties. Budget constraints limit the ability to repower patrol vessels in a timely manner and this conversion will bridge that timing gap.

**> \$5,639** for eight Airboat Communication Headsets. Four new airboats were recently acquired and will be used for resource patrols and disaster response efforts. These resource patrols include enforcement in shallow marshes for commercial oystering and shrimping, recreational fisheries enforcement, waterfowl, and environmental issues. These headsets will provide Wardens with a necessary communication system onboard while protecting them from the noise of the airboats.

**> \$8,400** for handheld thermal imagers. These thermal imagers are necessary tools for resource protection, water safety, and search and rescue. It is common practice for those who violate resource laws to do so during the cover of night. This equipment enables the wardens to more easily detect illegal practices by bad actors in the commercial fishing industry including flagrant violations such as shrimping, crabbing, and oystering at night. With these thermal imagers, heat signatures of a boat can be detected up to a mile away even on the darkest of nights. These imaging devices are also critical in search and rescue efforts in the middle of the night. They will be used primarily in Jefferson and Orange counties.

**> \$30,767** for a Matrice M30T Drone. The Matrice M30T Drone will greatly enhance their ability to patrol the Gulf of Mexico and Texas bays for commercial and recreational fisheries enforcement. With its ability to cover large distances

*This \$750,000 endowed gift from CCA will be equally matched, by an anonymous donor, to establish a \$1.5 million permanent fund designated toward the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation.*

and capture high-quality aerial footage, the drone will provide a bird's eye view of activities in the patrol area. This will allow them to respond more quickly and effectively to potential illegal activities in a patrolled area. This drone will also be equipped with a thermal camera to use in search and rescue operations as well.

This equipment will be used primarily in the Gulf of Mexico and Bays of Region IV.

**> \$200,000 (\$50,000 Annually): Operational Funding for Sink Your Shucks**

In 2009, the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (HRI) created the Sink Your Shucks Program. This program has reclaimed and recycled over 3 million pounds of oyster shells since its creation, representing more than 45 acres of restored oyster reef in Texas waters. More than 2,000 community volunteers have participated in reef restoration events, and community events and school programs have engaged more than 5,000 citizens annually. CCA Texas' funding will cover the remaining necessary funds not covered by an existing NOAA grant or charitable contributions for the next four years.

**> \$40,000: Packery Flats at Kate's Hole Parking Area Living Shoreline**

The Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries



*The TPWD Game Warden Intern program provides an excellent opportunity for potential future Game Warden Cadets to get valuable hands-on experience in the field. Photo Courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Wardens.*



Program (CBBEP) is currently developing a living shoreline that will protect the public access parking area and create habitat at the Kate's Hole Parking area. These funds will be used with \$60,000 from the CITGO Caring for Our Coast program to enhance and protect this area.

**> \$75,000: Kid's Fishing Pier at the CCA Marine Development Center**

This funding will replace the old Kid Fishing Pier at the CCA Marine Development Center (MDC) in Corpus Christi. This pier is used for community events and outreach activities held at the CCA MDC. This rebuild will take place in 2025.

**> \$750,000: Mark W. Ray CCA Texas Endowed Directorship of the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation, Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico (HRI) and Texas Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.**

CCA Texas has been a long-time supporter of the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation (CSSC) at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Previous support from CCA has allowed CSSC to be proactive, positioning the CSSC as the 'go-to' source for those seeking scientific information and advice regarding the management and sustainability of our saltwater recreational fisheries. This

meaningful partnership promotes healthy and sustainable sportfish populations, ensuring long-term and robust recreational fisheries for future generations.

This \$750,000 endowed gift from CCA will be equally matched, by an anonymous donor, to establish a \$1.5 million permanent fund designated toward the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation. This fund named, "The Mark W. Ray CCA Texas Endowed Directorship of the Center for



*The Sink Your Shucks program has reclaimed and recycled over 3 million pounds of shell resulting in 45 acres of restored oyster reef in Texas waters. Photo Courtesy of Kiese and Co.*



*An important component of the Sink Your Shucks program is community outreach. More than 2,000 volunteers have participated in reef restoration events, and more than 5,000 citizens are engaged annually through community events and school programs. Photo Courtesy of Kiese and Co.*



*The Mark W. Ray CCA Texas Endowed Directorship of the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation is important because it will attract and retain the highest quality leadership for this impactful position in perpetuity. This endowment will allow current funding to be directed to essential needs such as expanding research to address matters affecting marine sportfish and their conservation. Photo Courtesy of HRI / Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation.*

Sportfish Science and Conservation," will be used to directly and solely support sportfish research and conservation.

This endowed gift offers financial security, stability, and the ability for CSSC to pursue long-term objectives such as groundbreaking research, conservation engagement, or other impactful initiatives without relying solely on fluctuating external funding availability – one of the current greatest challenges for CSSC! This gift will empower the CSSC with the freedom to dream big, take calculated risks, foster innovation,

and rapidly progress in the recreational fisheries arena. Over time, as this endowed fund grows, the impact multiplies and leaves an undeniable and perpetual mark on conservation and recreational fishing. The power of this gift lies in its ability to transform the CSSC's aspirations into reality and to leave a legacy that enriches sportfishing in the Gulf of Mexico.

CCA Texas is excited to be a funding partner in this endowed partnership in honor of Mark W. Ray and looks forward to seeing the future efforts of CSSC.



# HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

*A Natural Partnership*



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



|                                      |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| <span style="color: blue;">●</span>  | Completed |
| <span style="color: green;">●</span> | Upcoming  |
| <span style="color: red;">●</span>   | Ongoing   |

## CCA Texas and Building Conservation Trust Nearshore Reefing Support

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| • Sabine Pass Nearshore Reefs                    | \$1,503,500        |
| • Rio Grande Valley                              | \$1,068,000        |
| • Port O'Connor                                  | \$ 700,000         |
| • Galveston Big Man & Kate's                     | \$ 329,000         |
| • HRI Nearshore Reef Enhancement Study           | \$ 250,000         |
| • Matagorda                                      | \$ 200,000         |
| • Coprus Christi                                 | \$ 100,000         |
| • Freeport / Vancouver                           | \$ 60,000          |
| • Port Mansfield                                 | \$ 50,000          |
| <b>Total contributions to Nearshore Reefing:</b> | <b>\$4,260,500</b> |

# CCA Texas: Leaders in Oyster Reef Conservation and Restoration

| <u>PROJECT</u>   | <u>FUNDED AMOUNT</u> |
|--|----------------------|
| • Oyster Reef Creation - St. Charles Bay (Rockport)  | \$ 711,250.00        |
| • Oyster Restoration - East Galveston Bay  | \$ 500,000.00        |
| • Sink Your Shucks Oyster Recycle Program  | \$ 352,000.00        |
| • Mesquite Bay Oyster Reef Monitoring (HRI)  | \$ 225,000.00        |
| • Oyster Restoration - Deep Reef Sabine Lake   | \$ 215,000.00        |
| • Como Lake Dana Cove Oyster Restoration & Creation  | \$ 400,000.00        |
| • Oyster Restoration - Pepper Grove / Galveston  | \$ 130,000.00        |
| • Ayers Point Reef Creation Shoreline Protection   | \$ 126,204.00        |
| • HRI Oyster Restoration Site Locator Mapping Study  | \$ 120,000.00        |
| • Oyster Reef Restoration - Aransas Bay  | \$ 75,000.00         |
| • Oyster Reef Restoration - Copano Bay   | \$ 75,000.00         |
| • Nueces Bay Demonstration Oyster Reef   | \$ 60,000.00         |
| • Galveston Bay Foundation Oyster Recycle Trailers   | \$ 10,000.00         |
| • Sink Your Shucks Oyster Recycle Program Trailers   | \$ 10,000.00         |
| • Funds Approved and Earmarked for Oyster Restoration and Creation in areas Closed to Harvest on the Texas Coast (Balance of \$5,000,000 commitment) | \$ 4,713,796.00      |

**Total Dollars Spent and Committed to Oyster Restoration and Creation \$ 7,723,250.00**

*CCA Texas has been and will remain at the forefront of sustainable oyster management practices, the creation of the Texas Cultivated Oyster Mariculture program, and the restoration and creation of oyster reefs along the Texas coast.*

# HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

## CCA Texas Projects

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough Restoration  | \$1,600,000  |
| 2. *** Nearshore Reefing - Sabine Pass  | \$ 1,503,500 |
| 3. Nearshore Reefing - Rio Grande Valley Reef   | \$1,068,000  |
| 4. Oyster Reef Creation - St. Charles Bay (Rockport)                                  | \$ 711,250   |
| 5. Nearshore Reefing—Port O'Connor  | \$ 700,000   |
| 6. Oyster Restoration - East Galveston Bay  | \$ 500,000   |
| 7. *** Shoreline Stabilization - Oyster Lake (West Galveston Bay)                     | \$ 430,000   |
| 8. *** Como Lake and Dana Cover Shoreline Protection (West Galveston Bay)             | \$ 400,000   |
| 9. Nearshore Reefing - Galveston / Big Man & Kate's Reef                              | \$ 329,000   |
| 10. IIRI Nearshore Reef Enhancement Study   | \$ 250,000   |
| 11. Dagger Island Shoreline Protection & Marsh Restoration (Redfish Bay)              | \$ 250,000   |
| 12. Mesquite Bay Oyster Reef Monitoring (IIRI)  | \$ 225,000   |
| 13. Oyster Restoration—Deep Reef Sabine Lake  | \$ 215,000   |
| 14. Nearshore Reefing - Matagorda   | \$ 200,000   |
| 15. Shoreline Stabilization - San Bernard NWR   | \$ 200,000   |
| 16. *** Sink Your Shucks Oyster Recycle Program                                       | \$ 552,000   |
| 17. Marsh Restoration - Bird Island Cove (West Galveston Bay)                         | \$ 150,000   |
| 18. Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation - Moses Lake (Galveston Bay)                  | \$ 138,000   |
| 19. Baffin Bay Serpulid Reef Habitat Conservation/Restoration Study                   | \$ 135,000   |
| 20. Oyster Restoration—Pepper Grove / Galveston (BCT)                                 | \$ 130,000   |
| 21. *** Ayers Reef Engineering and Monitoring Plan (Ayers Bay / Mesquite Bay Complex) | \$ 126,204   |
| 22. Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Shoreline Protection (San Antonio Bay)           | \$ 125,000   |
| 23. IIRI Oyster Restoration Site Locator Mapping Study                                | \$ 120,000   |
| 24. Marsh Restoration - Dickinson Bayou   | \$ 100,000   |
| 25. Nearshore Reefing - Corpus Christi  | \$ 100,000   |
| 26. Bahia Grande Restoration (Port Isabel / Brownsville)                              | \$ 95,000    |
| 27. Marsh Restoration - Brazoria & San Bernard Wildlife Refuge                        | \$ 91,000    |
| 28. Oyster Reef Restoration - Aransas Bay (Rockport)                                  | \$ 75,000    |
| 29. Oyster Reef Restoration - Copano Bay (Rockport)                                   | \$ 75,000    |
| 30. Marsh Restoration - Egery Island (Copano Bay/Bayside)                             | \$ 70,000    |
| 31. Marsh Restoration - Matagorda Island  | \$ 70,000    |
| 32. Nueces Bay Delta Water Management Gates   | \$ 70,000    |
| 33. Nearshore Reefing - Freeport / Vancouver  | \$ 60,000    |
| 34. Nueces Bay Demonstration Oyster Reef  | \$ 60,000    |
| 35. Newcomb Bend Marsh Restoration (TPWD)   | \$ 50,000    |
| 36. Marsh Restoration - Goose Island (Rockport)                                       | \$ 50,000    |
| 37. Nearshore Reefing - Port Mansfield  | \$ 50,000    |
| 38. Shoreline Stabilization - J. D. Murphree WMA                                      | \$ 50,000    |
| 39. Shoreline Stabilization - Cow Trap Lake (Brazoria County)                         | \$ 50,000    |
| 40. Dollar Bay Shoreline Protection and Marsh Restoration                             | \$ 50,000    |
| 41. Galveston Bay Foundation Headquarters Living Shoreline Restoration                | \$ 50,000    |
| 42. *** Ayers Reef Restoration Reef Project Phase I                                   | \$ 46,204    |
| 43. Marsh Restoration - Oxen & Gang's Bayou (Galveston)                               | \$ 42,000    |
| 44. *** Kate's Hole Living Shoreline (Corpus Christi Bay)                             | \$ 40,000    |
| 45. Trinity Bay Discovery Center Living Shoreline                                     | \$ 40,000    |
| 46. Sweetwater Preserve Shoreline Protections and Oyster Reef Enhancement             | \$ 30,000    |
| 47. Marsh Restoration - Nueces Bay (Corpus Christi)                                   | \$ 24,000    |
| 48. Marsh Restoration - Snake Island Cover (West Galveston Bay)                       | \$ 20,000    |
| 49. Weed Eradication for Water Flow Restoration (Guadalupe River Delta)               | \$ 15,000    |
| 50. Sink Your Shucks Oyster Recycle Programs Trailer                                  | \$ 10,000    |
| 51. Bay Debris Removal - Aransas Pass   | \$ 5,600     |

\*\* 2024 Projects Contributed to as 11/12/24

**TOTAL FUNDED THROUGH 2024: 11,546,758**

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

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

Catches from illegal fishing of red snapper in Gulf of Mexico is estimated to be **greater than the entire recreational allocation.**  
**WHAT TO LOOK FOR:** Panga style fishing boats, large totes and 3-4 man crew.

**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

# SPORTFISH CENTER

CENTER FOR SPORTFISH SCIENCE & CONSERVATION

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CATCH MORE

# TARPON



Scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/3ISW9AF> to contribute to our research on juvenile Tarpon habitats. Your data will help shape conservation strategies and ensure better fishing opportunities for future generations.



CCA TEXAS  
STAR



Academy  
SPORTS+OUTDOORS

PROGRESSIVE

## The Future of Competition and Conservation: A Look at the CCA Texas STAR Tournament

Ryan Towns, Assistant Director,  
CCA Texas STAR Tournament

For over three decades, the CCA Texas STAR Tournament has been a staple of the angling community in our state. It's an annual celebration of our coastal resources, which serves as a reminder of the importance of conserving them. Each year, thousands of participants join us in this shared passion, vying for a share of over \$2,000,000 in prizes and scholarships while making an indelible and positive impact on the health and sustainability of Texas' coastal ecosystems. Your dedication fuels our efforts, and for that, we extend our deepest gratitude. It is your unwavering support that enables us to fight for the coastal treasures we hold dear and to ensure a vibrant future for our next generation of anglers.

The CCA Texas STAR Tournament Scholarship Program is an invaluable initiative that fosters a love for fishing and conservation among our youth and directly invests in their futures, incentivizing young people to continue their education. This is done through the scholarships awarded to the winners, which provide significant financial assistance, opening doors to educational opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach for many families. Each year, we award a total of \$325,000 in scholarships to youth ages 6-17 for claiming their spot on the leaderboard at the end of the tournament, and amounts range from \$2,500 to \$30,000. These scholarships have the power to change a child's life path. Some families have even told us that their child wouldn't be furthering their education without the opportunity this program provides. At the conclusion of this year's tournament, we have officially awarded over \$8,400,000 in youth scholarships since 1995, creating future leaders who will carry forward conservation values and the love of fishing.



[CLICK HERE](#) to visit the ABC Channel 13 special program with STAR Kids Awards.



One sequence features Zifa Guerrero, 1995 flounder winner. Zifa used her scholarship funds and now has her Masters Degree as a Clinical Psychologist.



We also want to extend a heartfelt 'thank you' to ABC 13 in Houston for their recent news segment on the STAR Tournament and the importance of conservation. Their coverage has helped amplify the kids who won these scholarships and will go on to make a bright future for themselves. We encourage you to click the link, watch the segment, and share in the celebration of what makes our CCA Texas STAR Tournament so special. Media partnerships like this play a crucial role in spreading awareness about our mission, and we are deeply grateful to ABC 13 for their support in showcasing CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament.

The 2021 freeze remains etched in our memories as a stark reminder of nature's fragility. In the aftermath, countless fish populations were decimated, challenging recreational fisheries and ecosystems alike. But adversity has often been met with resilience. Reflecting on the 1983 and 1989 freezes, they had catastrophic impacts, partly because, at the time, Texas had only one operational hatchery in Corpus Christi. This facility was still in its infancy, and the first hatchery-raised red drum was only released in the spring of 1983.

Fast forward to today, and the story is vastly different. When the 2021 freeze rolled around, Texas was equipped with not one but two of the world's largest warm water/saltwater hatcheries. The second facility, located in Lake Jackson, came online in the mid-1990s, and together, these hatcheries have scaled production year after year. Now, they release an astounding 25 to 30 million fingerlings into Texas waters every year, operating 52 weeks annually to sustain and enhance wild stocks. This remarkable recovery and growth would not be possible without the unwavering dedication and expertise of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and its robust hatchery program. On behalf of everyone at CCA Texas and the countless

anglers who benefit from thriving fisheries, we extend our heartfelt thanks to TPWD for their extraordinary efforts to replenish our coastal resources. Truly, there's a reason why everything is bigger and better in Texas.

The STAR Tournament has always been more than a fishing competition; it's a celebration of conservation, family, and the enduring spirit of Texas anglers...and our 2025 edition promises to be even better! Without giving too much away, we can say this: BIG changes are on the way. STAR 2025 will redefine what it means to be part of this tournament, offering more opportunities and surprises that will elevate the experience to unprecedented heights.

What's in store? You'll have to wait to find out. We encourage you to keep an eye on the next issue of CURRENTS for an exclusive reveal! Trust us, you won't want to miss it!

As we gear up for the future, we remain steadfast in our commitment to conservation. Every cast, every catch, and every story shared during the STAR Tournament contributes to a legacy that extends beyond the water. The CCA Texas STAR Tournament is not just a competition; it's a celebration of our coastal resources and a movement to conserve them.

On behalf of the entire CCA Texas STAR Tournament family, we thank you for supporting us. Your participation and passion ensure that our coastal traditions will continue to thrive for generations to come.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with joy, warmth, and cherished moments with family. Stay tuned, and we'll see you on the water.



**PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS**



BEST IN TEXAS





# 2024 Winner Board Scholarship Divisions Kids & Teens

2024 CCA State of Texas Anglers Rodeo  
WINNER BOARD as of 10/08/2024



**Academy** *PROGRESSIVE*  
SPORTS • OUTDOORS

BEST IN TEXAS

## STAR Kids Scholarship Division \$30,000 - \$2,500

|                   | <b>LEADER-\$30,000</b>   | <b>1ST RUNNER-UP-\$20,000</b>  | <b>2ND RUNNER-UP-\$15,000</b>   | <b>3RD RUNNER-UP-\$7,500</b>  | <b>4TH RUNNER-UP-\$2,500</b>  |
|-------------------|--|--|---|---|---|
| <b>Sheepshead</b> | <b>7 LBS. 13 OZS</b><br>CADENCE SMITH (10)<br>OF KINGWOOD, TX<br>MARINA BAY HARBOR | <b>5 LBS. 12 OZS</b><br>JACOB GORE (9)<br>OF HEALDSBURG, CA<br>MARINA BAY HARBOR | <b>5 LBS. 6 OZS</b><br>HAYLEE BIELAT (7)<br>OF ALVIN, TX<br>MARINA BAY HARBOR | <b>5 LBS. 3 OZS</b><br>MASON PENA (8)<br>OF MISSION, TX<br>HBT PORT MANSFIELD           | <b>4 LBS. 7 OZS</b><br>TUCKER GRANT (6)<br>OF COLLEGE STATION, TX<br>HBT PORT MANSFIELD |
| <b>Gafftop</b>    | <b>6 LBS. 4 OZS</b><br>EASTON DEEDS (7)<br>OF ROCHELLE, TX<br>MATAGORDA HB & T     | <b>5 LBS. 2 OZS</b><br>TRAYCE ECKERT (10)<br>OF ABILENE, TX<br>SEAWORTHY MARINA  | <b>5 LBS. 0 OZS</b><br>CLAY SCHOTT (7)<br>OF HONDO, TX<br>ROY'S BAIT & TACKLE | <b>5 LBS. 0 OZS</b><br>KOHEN FAICKNEY (8)<br>OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TX<br>FISHERMAN'S WHARF | <b>4 LBS. 15 OZS</b><br>LUKE PATTON (10)<br>OF MAGNOLIA, TX<br>SURFSIDE MARINA          |

## STAR Teens Scholarship Division \$30,000 - \$2,500

|                   | <b>LEADER-\$30,000</b>  | <b>1ST RUNNER-UP-\$20,000</b>   | <b>2ND RUNNER-UP-\$15,000</b>  | <b>3RD RUNNER-UP-\$7,500</b>  | <b>4TH RUNNER-UP-\$2,500</b>   |
|-------------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Sheepshead</b> | <b>7 LBS. 13 OZS</b><br>COOPER STATHAKOS (14)<br>OF LEAGUE CITY, TX<br>LINDA'S SYLVAN BEACH | <b>7 LBS. 3 OZS</b><br>CRIMSON WORTMAN (12)<br>OF KINGWOOD, TX<br>MARINA BAY HARBOR | <b>6 LBS. 2 OZ</b><br>DANIELLE MALOTA (16)<br>OF LEAGUE CITY, TX<br>LINDA'S SYLVAN BEACH | <b>5 LBS. 13 OZS</b><br>CHARLIE KLUTTS (11)<br>OF AUSTIN, TX<br>TERRY'S SEAWORTHY | <b>5 LBS. 6 OZS</b><br>LOGAN ELLEDGE (17)<br>OF LA PORTE, TX<br>LINDA'S SYLVAN BEACH |
| <b>Gafftop</b>    | <b>6 LBS. 13 OZS</b><br>JONAH CHAPA (14)<br>OF RICHWOOD, TX<br>SURFSIDE MARINA              | <b>5 LBS. 12 OZS</b><br>CARTER COOROUGH (17)<br>OF ARVADA, TX<br>SPORTSMAN SUPPLY   | <b>5 LBS. 5 OZS</b><br>JAKE SCHNAUTZ (15)<br>OF KINGSBURY, TX<br>WESTICAN OUTDOORS       | <b>4 LBS. 12 OZS</b><br>BRAXTYN JONES (12)<br>OF WEST ORANGE, TX<br>SGS CAUSEWAY  | <b>4 LBS. 12 OZS</b><br>AVERY CARLIN (12)<br>OF ORANGE, TX<br>SPORTSMAN SUPPLY       |





# 2024 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



## 2024 CCA Texas STAR Awards Ceremony

### 2024 Scholarship Winners



HOUSTON



Carson Saul Winner  
\$25,000  
STAR Youth Scholarship Drawing

**CCA Texas STAR  
Youth Scholarship Division**



**STAR Kid Scholarship Winners**

**\$30,000 Scholarship**

|                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Cadence Smith (10) | Sheepshead-7 lbs. 13 ozs. |
| Easton Deeds (7)   | Gafftop-6 lbs. 4 ozs.     |

**\$20,000 Scholarship**

|                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Jacob Gore (9)     | Sheepshead-5 lbs. 12 ozs. |
| Trayce Eckert (10) | Gafftop-5 lbs. 2 ozs.     |

**\$15,000 Scholarship**

|                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Haylee Bielat (7) | Sheepshead-5 lbs. 6 ozs. |
| Clay Schott (7)   | Gafftop-5 lbs. 0 ozs.    |

**\$7500 Scholarship**

|                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Mason Pena (8)     | Sheepshead-5 lbs 3 ozs. |
| Kohen Faickney (8) | Gafftop-5 lbs. 0 ozs.   |

**\$2500 Scholarship**

|                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Tucker Grant (6) | Sheepshead-4 lbs. 7 ozs. |
| Luke Patton (10) | Gafftop-4 lbs. 15 ozs.   |



# 2024 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



## KIDS SCHOLARSHIP SHEEPSHEAD DIVISION WINNERS

**Cadence Smith (10) Winner**  
**\$30,000 STAR Kid Scholarship**  
**Sheepshead 7 lbs.13 ozs.**

**Jacob Gore (9) 1st runner up**  
**\$20,000 STAR Kid Scholarship**  
**Sheepshead 5 lbs. 12 ozs.**



**Haylee Bielat (7)**  
**2nd Runner up**  
**\$15,000 STAR Kid Scholarship**  
**Sheepshead 5 lbs 6ozs.**

**Mason Pena (8)**  
**3rd runner up**  
**\$7,500 STAR Kid Scholarship**  
**Sheepshead 5 lbs.3 ozs.**

**Unable to Attend**

**Tucker Grant (6)**  
**4th runner up**  
**\$2,500 STAR Kid Scholarship**  
**Sheepshead 4 lbs 7 ozs.**





# 2024 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



## KIDS SCHOLARSHIP GAFFTOP DIVISION WINNERS

**Easton Deeds (7) Winner**  
\$30,000 STAR Kid Scholarship  
Gafftop 6 lbs. 4 ozs.



**Trayce Eckert (10) 1st runner up**  
\$20,000 STAR Kid Scholarship  
Gafftop 5 lbs. 2 ozs.



**Clay Schott (7) 2nd Runner up**  
\$15,000 STAR Kid Scholarship  
Gafftop 5 lbs. 0 ozs



**Kohen Falckney (8) 3rd runner up**  
\$7,500 STAR Kid Scholarship  
Gafftop 5 lbs.0 ozs.



**Luke Patton (10) 4th runner up**  
\$2,500 STAR Kid Scholarship  
Gafftop 4 lbs 15 ozs.



**CCA Texas STAR  
Youth Scholarship Division**



**STAR Teens Scholarship Winners**

**\$30,000 Scholarship**

|                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Cooper Stathakos (14) | Sheepshead-7 lbs. 13 ozs. |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Jonah Chapa (14) | Gafftop-6 lbs. 13 ozs. |
|------------------|------------------------|

**\$20,000 Scholarship**

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Crimson Wortman (12) | Sheepshead-7 lbs. 3 ozs. |
|----------------------|--------------------------|

|                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Carter Coorough (17) | Gafftop-5 lbs. 12 ozs. |
|----------------------|------------------------|

**\$15,000 Scholarship**

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Danielle Malota (16) | Sheepshead-6 lbs. 2 ozs. |
|----------------------|--------------------------|

|                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Jake Schnautz (15) | Gafftop-5 lbs. 5 ozs. |
|--------------------|-----------------------|

**\$7500 Scholarship**

|                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Charlie Klutts (11) | Sheepshead-5 lbs 13 ozs. |
|---------------------|--------------------------|

|                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Braxtyn Jones (12) | Gafftop-4 lbs. 12 ozs. |
|--------------------|------------------------|

**\$2500 Scholarship**

|                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Logan Elledge (17) | Sheepshead-5 lbs. 6 ozs. |
|--------------------|--------------------------|

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Avery Carlin (12) | Gafftop-4 lbs. 12 ozs. |
|-------------------|------------------------|



# 2024 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



## TEENS SCHOLARSHIP SHEEPSHEAD DIVISION WINNERS

**Cooper Stathakos (14) Winner**  
**\$30,000 STAR Teen Scholarship**  
**Sheepshead 7 lbs.13 ozs.**

**Crimson Wortman (12) 1st runner up**  
**\$20,000 STAR Teen Scholarship**  
**Sheepshead 7 lbs. 3 ozs.**



**Danielle Malota (16) 2nd Runner up**  
**\$15,000 STAR Teen Scholarship**  
**Sheepshead 6 lbs 2 ozs.**



**Logan Elledge 4th runner up**  
**\$2,500 STAR Teen Scholarship**  
**Sheepshead 5 lbs 13 ozs.**



**Unable to Attend**  
**Charlie Klutts (12) 3rd runner up**  
**\$7,500 STAR Teen Scholarship**  
**Sheepshead 5 lbs. 13ozs.**



# 2024 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



## TEENS SCHOLARSHIP GAFFTOP DIVISION WINNERS

**Jonah Chapa (14) Winner**  
**\$30,000 STAR Teen Scholarship**  
**Gafftop 6 lbs. 13 ozs.**

Unable to Attend

**Carter Coorough(17) 1st runner up**  
**\$20,000 STAR Teen Scholarship**  
**Gafftop 5 lbs. 12 ozs.**



**Braxtyn Jones (12) 3rd runner up**  
**\$7,500 STAR Teen Scholarship**  
**Gafftop 4 lbs. 12 ozs.**

**Jake Schnautz (15) 2nd Runner up**  
**\$15,000 STAR Teen Scholarship**  
**Gafftop 5 lbs 5ozs.**



Unable to Attend

**Avery Carlin (12) 4th runner up**  
**\$2,500 STAR Teen Scholarship**  
**Gafftop 4 lbs 12 ozs.**



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| 1st Prize – 210 Skout Boat, 150 HP Mercury motor and McClain trailer   | Ezra Solis of Harlingen, TX         |
| 2nd Prize – Getaway Giveaway Shadowland Cabin                          | Larry M. of Lumberton, TX           |
| 3rd Prize – Getaway Giveaway Bourgeois Fishing Charters Bays and Bayou | Robert L. of Houston, TX            |
| 4th Prize – Getaway Giveaway Kentucky Red River Gorge                  | Jeff K. of Katy, TX                 |
| 5th Prize – Getaway Giveaway Hot Springs Arkansas Historic Water Hotel | John M. of Brenham, TX              |
| 6th Prize – Getaway Giveaway Buena Vista Ocean front                   | Guadalupe H. of San Antonio, TX     |
| 7th Prize – Getaway Giveaway Costa Rica                                | Richard R. of Plano, TX             |
| 8th Prize – Sitka Gear Bag   | Jackie Brown of Cedar Creek, TX     |
| 9th Prize – Sitka Gear Bag   | John Davison of Pearland, TX        |
| 10th Prize – Sitka Gear Bag  | David Abati of New Braunfels, TX    |
| 11th Prize – Sitka Gear Bag  | Rick Thompson of San Antonio, TX    |
| 12th Prize – CCA Texas STAR Print                                      | Jacob Dixon of Corpus Christi, TX   |
| 13th Prize – CCA Texas STAR Print                                      | Preston Barragan of San Antonio, TX |
| 14th Prize – CCA Texas STAR Print                                      | Jaxson Bowden of Port Lavaca, TX    |
| 15th Prize – CCA Texas STAR Print                                      | Alice Tubb of Houston, TX           |
| 16th Prize – CCA Texas STAR Print                                      | Joe Polka of Beach City, TX         |
| 17th Prize – CCA Texas STAR Print                                      | Ashley Tuttle of Midland, TX        |
| 18th Prize – CCA Texas STAR Print                                      | Jason Ince of Angleton, TX          |
| 19th Prize – CCA Texas STAR Print                                      | Renay West Of Seguin, TX            |
| 20th Prize – CCA Texas STAR Print                                      | Alvaro Gonzalez of Edinburg, TX     |
| 21st Prize – CCA Texas STAR Print                                      | Vanessa Sloan of Houston, TX        |

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*Thank you Mercury Marine!*

Our friends and partners at Mercury Marine were the first-ever CCA Texas STAR partner in 1990. They recognized the future benefits of our mission in marine conservation, even before it became popular.

We are grateful for their generous support for 35 years, and we know that we can always count on them. If you want to support those who support the things we love, scan this QR code to let Mercury know if you're interested in repowering.



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# Caught Redhanded!

Reports from Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Wardens



On Sunday, November 24th, around 11 p.m. a Galveston County Warden received a call regarding individuals possibly gigging flounder around Pelican Island. Upon arriving at the location, the Warden hid in the tall grass near the beach to observe the individuals. The Warden observed an individual working a light in the water about 100 yards down the beach and another individual walking the beach towards him. Once the individual got approximately 20 yards from the Warden's location, he observed the individual with a flounder in his right hand. The individual then turned and went into the tall brush near the beach and when he came back out, he did not have the flounder. The individual then continued down the beach towards the Warden continually scanning the area and looking around. Once close enough, the Warden popped out and identified himself. Both individuals at first denied gigging flounder, but once the Warden informed them he had been watching, one of the individuals went and retrieved the bucket of flounder hidden in the brush. The individuals had five large flounder in the bucket. Citations issued for possessing flounder in closed season and cases pending. -**Vu Nguyen**, Lieutenant Game Warden

issued and Cases Pending.

On November 18, 2024, a Jefferson County Warden inspected a Gulf Shrimp boat and found the crew to be in possession of red snapper and a shark. Citations issued and Cases Pending.

Below is a 'retro' photo from February 25, 2020. Region 8 Game Wardens boarded a shrimp boat during a NRDA patrol in the Gulf of Mexico. During the inspection of the vessel, several shrimp sacks filled with southern flounder were discovered concealed beneath stacked sacks of gulf shrimp and other finfish. The wardens counted a total of seventy-one flounder contained within the shrimp sacks. The shrimp boat Captain was allowed to retain a single daily bag limit of five flounder that are legally allowed to be retained under a commercial captain's license. A total of sixty-six southern flounder were seized.



In November, a Jefferson County Warden filed on numerous individuals for the following violations and cases are pending.

11/10/2024 – Untagged Red Drum

11/15/2024 – Undersized Red Drum

11/16/2024 – Undersized Red Drum and black drum

11/24/2024 – Illegal Means/Methods for Red Snapper

11/24/2024 – Possess Flounder in Closed Season

On November 16, 2024, a Jefferson County Warden inspected a Gulf Shrimp boat and found the crew to be in possession of (24) flounder during closed season. Citations



# Gulf Identification Guide



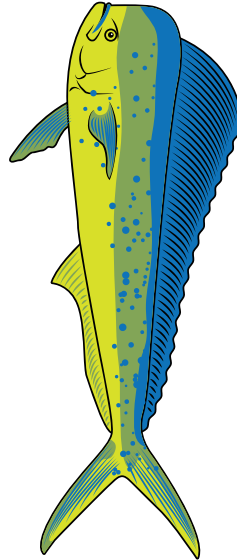
**Tito's Bloody Mary**



**Grouper**



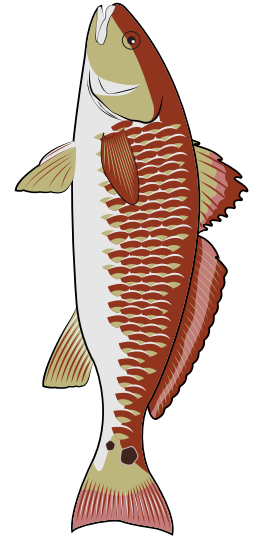
**Tito's Martini**



**Mahi-Mahi**



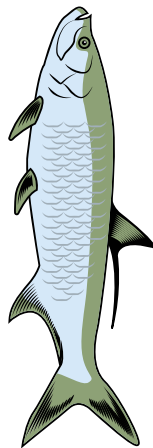
**Mo-Tito**



**Redfish**



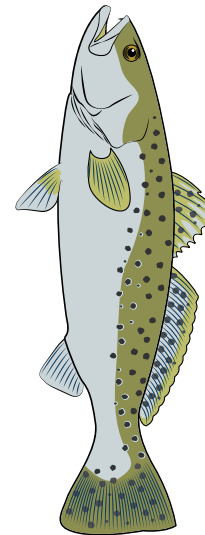
**Tito's Salty Dog**



**Tarpon**



**Tito's Screwdriver**



**Speckled Trout**



**Tito's All-American Lemonade**



**America's Original Craft Vodka**



**Tito's All-Time Favorite**



**Flounder**



**Tito's American Mule**



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

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# marucci x CCA

As a proud partner of CCA, Marucci strives to enhance the outdoor experience by offering high-quality products that not only meet the needs of enthusiasts but also contribute to the conservation efforts championed by CCA.



In partnership with CCA, Marucci's Limited Edition Lifestyle sunglasses feature an engraved CCA logo on the lens and custom design on the temples.

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Ri-Pel™ scratch-resistant lens coating repels dirt, oil and water for use in all weather conditions.

Impacto lens technology that provides the highest level of durability.

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Lightweight frames provide all-day comfort for everyday activities.



## GANCIO 2.0

Large, fully-wrapping frame for a secure fit during outdoor activities.



## CCA DUFFEL

Heavy-duty shell material with a water-resistant external pocket and a ventilated mesh padded shoulder strap.



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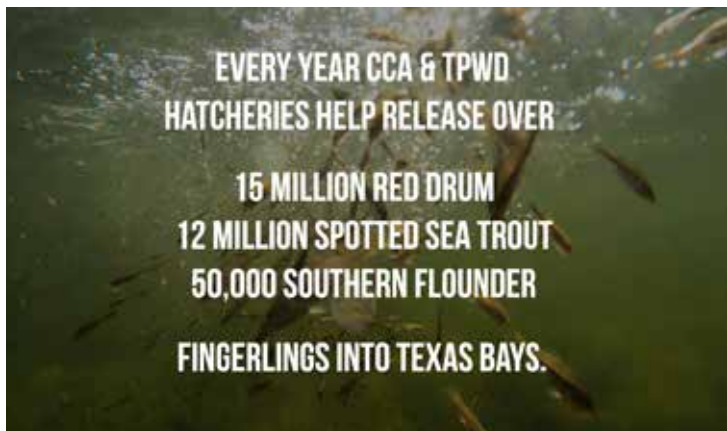


# Putting fingerlings back where fish need to be

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](#)





## 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 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.

[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



Illegal fishermen target red snapper, sharks and red drum, using primarily **long lines and gill nets** which often hook or entangle endangered sea turtles.



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SHORTENING YOUR SEASON.**

**REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING IN GULF OF MEXICO:**  
Inside 9 nautical miles – Texas Parks & Wildlife • 800.792.4263  
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# Enjoying Your Digital CURRENTS Newsletter

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

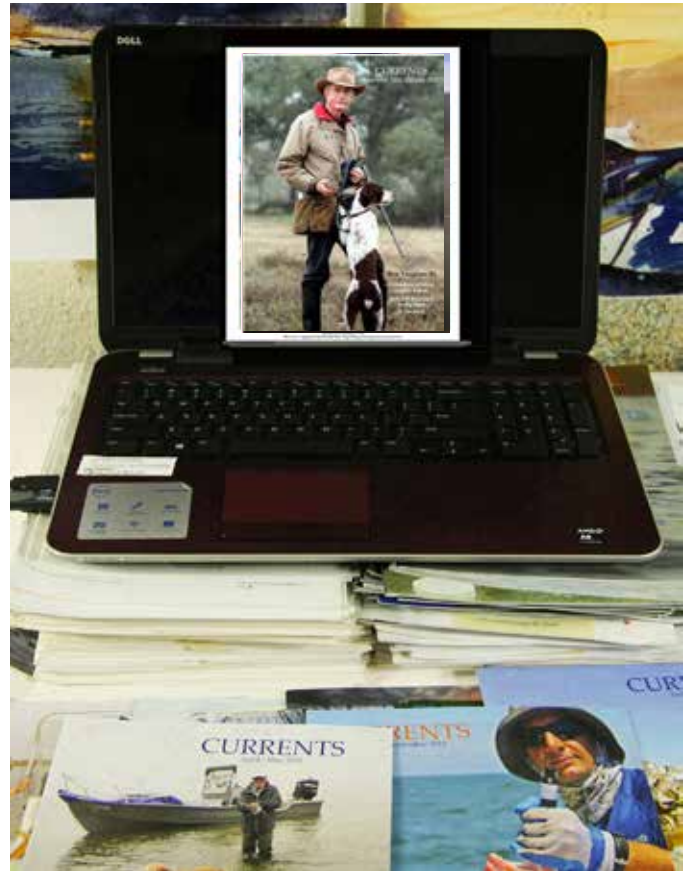
For 36 years, the printed CURRENTS newsletter has provided valuable two-way communication, as well as being an important tool for affecting environmental change. But printing and mailing a full-color newsletter to our statewide membership is time consuming and expensive.

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.

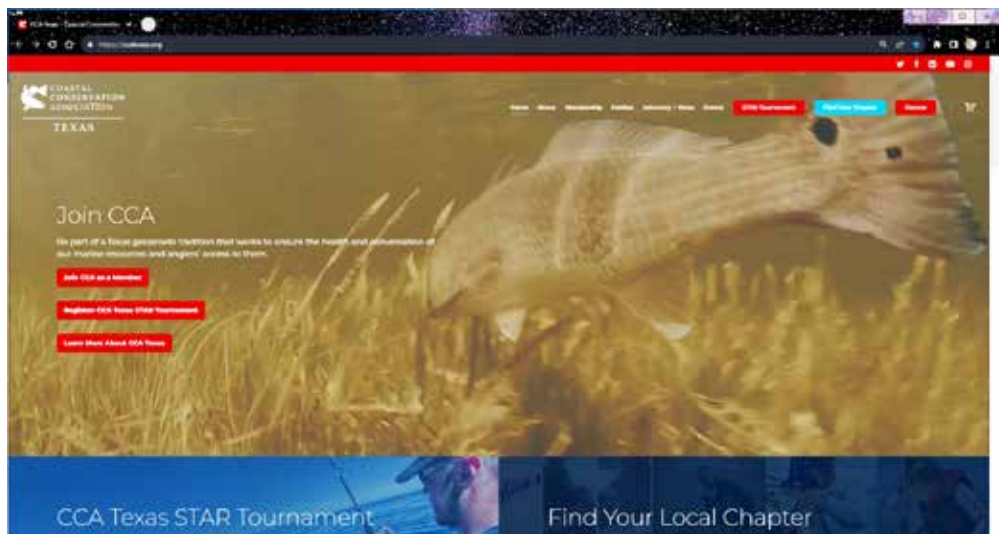
- A link to the CCA Texas website provides comprehensive news and resources. On the website, an array of CCA information is available. View many project-specific videos. Consult the list of CCA-approved guides. Listen to an informative Podcast. [Click here for CURRENTS Newsletters.](#)



*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](http://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/X. 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 continues to GROW FAST, so join thousands of CCA Texas members around the state by following us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter / X now! Each time our members FOLLOW CCA Texas and LIKE our posts, it helps to raise awareness for CCA and our conservation efforts. And don't be shy, share our posts with your friends and family and encourage them to FOLLOW us as well!

## Featured Social Media Highlights

### FACEBOOK



Join over 35,000+ Texas anglers by FOLLOWING our CCA Texas Facebook page to be the first to know about important updates, check out incredible photos, and watch amazing reels and videos! LIKE us on Facebook TODAY and help us out by sharing our posts!



 Matagorda County, Texas  
#JoinCCA #CCATexas

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!**



 With Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the busy holiday season right around the corner, we may all need a little reminder.

#JoinCCA #CCATexas

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!**



 Shout out to our CCA Texas Corpus Christi Chapter who held their annual Poco Rojo Kid Fish event last Saturday at the Texas Parks and Wildlife CCA Marine Development Center ponds. It was a HUGE success and the top three largest redfish measured in at 36", 37.75", and 37.75"! Events like this are important to pass on the love of fishing to the next generation of anglers who are the future stewards of the resource...and it's truly incredible that the Corpus Christi Chapter has held Poco Rojo for well over 20 years!

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!**



### CCA Texas on Instagram

We are now at 22K followers, now help us get to 30K! 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!

## INSTAGRAM



**Why you should always be aware of your surroundings...especially when wading!** 🐟

**#JoinCCA #CCATexas**

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM!**



**You know what'll put you on fish? Blue Herons. They're always looking for their next meal.**

**#JoinCCA #CCATexas**

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM!**



**Starting the day down in Matagorda Bay, Texas**

**#JoinCCA #CCATexas**

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM!**



## CCA Texas on TWITTER/X

Get important recreational angling-related news and updates filtered into your feed by following us on Twitter / X! In addition to posting our own updates, we make sure to repost content that we know you want to see! FOLLOW us on Twitter / X TODAY!

### TWITTER



What do y'all think of this beautiful morning view in Matagorda Bay? 🌅

#JoinCCA #CCATexas

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON TWITTER / X!**



👏 3rd Annual Special Olympics Fishing Competition 👏

What an amazing day with these incredible anglers! A huge THANK YOU to Special Olympics Texas, Sea Center Texas, all the volunteers, and everyone else who put smiles on so many faces this past weekend.

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON TWITTER / X!**



Update from @TPWDnews

🗨️ "TPWD Closing Oyster Harvest Area in San Antonio Bay"

🗨️ "The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is closing TX-26 in San Antonio Bay to commercial and recreational oyster harvest beginning 12:01 a.m. Nov. 24. This closure is based on samples recently collected by TPWD showing low abundance of legal-sized oysters."

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON TWITTER / X!**

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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

**Alvin-Pearland**  
**Rex Richards**  
[alvinpearlandcca@yahoo.com](mailto:alvinpearlandcca@yahoo.com)

**Aransas Bay**  
**Michael Ferri 361-790-4404**  
[txsprig@yahoo.com](mailto:txsprig@yahoo.com)

**Austin**  
**Alex Blackburn 512-565-4939**  
[Atblackburn3@gmail.com](mailto:Atblackburn3@gmail.com)

As 2024 comes to an end, we want to thank all the sponsors, volunteers and attendee's that support CCA during the year and through our events. We would not be able to raise the funds needed to continue CCA's mission without your help.

Our next **Annual Fundraising banquet is May 8, 2025.**

We are offering our early bird special again this year. If you purchase your table by February 1, 2025, your price will be \$2,500.00. After February 1 the price will be \$2,750.00. If you have any questions or are interested in purchasing a table, go to: <https://ticketstripe.com/CCA-Austin-2025> or email [cherylccaustin@gmail.com](mailto:cherylccaustin@gmail.com).

We are selling our Boat raffle tickets for \$100 each. There will only be 750 tickets sold this year. The 23' Haynie Amigo comes with a trailer and 150hp mercury motor. If you are interested in purchasing the boat raffle tickets, please call (512) 662-0006 or email [cherylccaustin@gmail.com](mailto:cherylccaustin@gmail.com) or you can purchase them from a board member. The winner will be drawn on the night of the banquet. You do not have to be present to win!

Our Bourbon tasting event is Wednesday, February 26, 2025. The tickets are \$125 each and only 125 tickets will be available to purchase. For more information or to purchase tickets please visit: <https://ticketstripe.com/Austin-Bourbon-Tasting>.

We are offering Bourbon raffle tickets for \$100 each.



## 2025 BOAT RAFFLE TICKET INFORMATION

### 23' HAYNIE AMIGO

150HP Mercury L Pro XS  
Optimax Motor

Sits atop an Aluminum  
Coastline Trailer

DRAWING TO BE HELD AT THE AUSTIN CCA BANQUET | THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025  
750 TICKETS TO BE SOLD | \$100 PER TICKET  
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

If you would like to purchase a Boat Raffle Ticket, please call Cheryl Smith at: 512.662.0006

Cheryl will take your credit card information or you can mail a check to her.  
She will promptly email you a receipt/raffle ticket stub to confirm your purchase.

Thank you to our boat sponsors:



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UTILITY EQUIPMENT/TOOLS

You do not need to be present to win! Every year tickets sell out well before the banquet so get yours now.  
If you purchase your boat ticket by February 1, 2025, you will automatically be entered into the early bird drawing.

Only 250 tickets will be sold. There will be first, second and third place prizes with a combined value of over \$11,000. The winners will be announced the night of the bourbon event. If you are interested in purchasing raffle tickets email [cherylccaustin@gmail.com](mailto:cherylccaustin@gmail.com) or call (512) 662-0006 or you can purchase them through a Board Member. You do not have to be present to win!

If you are interested in learning more about CCA Austin Chapter or volunteering, please contact Jason Magdalena, Chapter President at [jason.magdalena@gmail.com](mailto:jason.magdalena@gmail.com) or Cheryl, Banquet and Raffle Sales Chair at [cherylccaustin@gmail.com](mailto:cherylccaustin@gmail.com).

Comments from the President: *As I sign off, and let the next generation take the reins, I wanted to take the opportunity to recap what the teams accomplished. I've had the pleasure of serving as the President of the Austin chapter for the past four years, during which time our chapter has achieved some remarkable feats. None of this would have been possible without our dedicated board members and partners. When I took the reins in 2021, I anticipated challenges ahead. Our team gathered and made a collective decision to confront these challenges head-on. Over the past four years, I've had the honor of working alongside some of the most altruistic individuals in Austin, who are willing to dedicate their time to fundraising efforts aimed at affecting positive change and leaving a better legacy for the next generation.*

*Thanks to your generosity and willingness to contribute, our team has successfully organized two additional events. First our annual Clay shoot which broke 80k in revenue in its second year, and our Bourbon tasting event which is on track to set another record in its second year. Special thanks to our invaluable partners like LCRA Parks, who have graciously hosted our board retreats for the past two years. But it's not all work and*

no play. In the last four annual ICC fishing tournaments, the Austin chapter has placed third overall and clinched first place twice. In 2023, we introduced the all-new "last look" auction, allowing guests to purchase trips at the same price as the night of the banquet if they missed out. We're always thrilled to witness the growing demand and enthusiasm for our events every year. Our members, donors, and sponsors have shown incredible support, and we are immensely grateful for their unwavering commitment.

I'm proud to announce that in both 2022 and 2023 and 2024, the Austin chapter surpassed the \$1.5 million revenue mark and, for the Ninth consecutive year, exceeded \$1 million in revenue. None of this would have been possible without your support, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude once again. To the next generation of leaders in the Austin chapter, I look forward to you taking things to the next level.

Tight Lines - Jason Magdalena



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

**Brazoria**  
**Kim Lamont 979-482-1456**  
**KALamont@dowcom**

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

Fall is trying to arrive...and with it more fishing. Our chapter recently held a dinner at C&J's Bar-B-Que in Bryan, TX. About 40 attended and were treated to brisket and sausage with all the trimmings. Our speaker was Shane Bonnot, CCA Texas Advocacy Director. He spoke about the history of CCA, current conservation projects, and fielded questions. It was a fun and informative evening. Good to see old friends and meet new ones.

Next on our calendar is the chapter meeting...to start planning for the **annual banquet coming up March 7, 2025**. We will email members as to the date, place and time of the meeting. Until then take a kid, friend or family fishing.

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

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

**Centex**  
**Mike Hyde 254-855-8752**  
**Hydemike37@yahoo.com**

**Central Houston**  
**Todd Buster 713-545-1897**  
**tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com**

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

Our board is beginning to prepare for our next banquet on March 27, 2025, at the KC hall in La Grange. Please contact any of our board members for table purchases: Eugene Ulrich (979) 249-7425, Danny Olenick (979) 249-6851, Trish Kubena, (512) 581-2588, Gary Janda (979) 966-2082, Dave Fehlker (512) 468-6782, and Rusty Kubena (512) 581-2878.



Recent CCA Brazos Valley Chapter Meeting with Guest Speaker Shane Bonnot.



CCA Brazos Valley Chapter President John Ben Strother fishing next to a friendly moose.

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

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

**Dallas**  
**Kyle Marmillion 214-437-3468**  
**marmillionkyle@gmail.com**

The Dallas Chapter held its annual banquet on September 26 at On the Levee. Hundreds of conservationists attended, enjoying delicious food and drink while raising money for coastal conservation.

Thank you to our 2024 Sponsors. Platinum Sponsors Tito's Handmade Vodka, Miles & Miles Argentina, Gold Sponsors. Mesero, Mariner Sails, Old Town Watercrafts, Irving Tool and MFG, Still Austin

Whiskey Company, Kawasaki, Progressive Powersports, Ben E Keith, St. Pete's Dancing Marlin, Sawgrass Fishing Rods, Oak Highlands Brewery, The Pearl New York City, Rocket Charters New York City. Silver sponsors: Owens Mixers, Untundra, Cordia, Turtlebox, Superior Outfitters, Clay Shooters Supply, Beretta Gallery, Yellow Dog Fly Fishing, Yeti, Total Wine, Socorro Tequila, Cannon Republic Feed and Fiber.

Thank you to our 2024 Table buyers: Tito's Handmade Vodka, McGriff, Parking Systems of America, Miles and Miles Argentina, ScreenFab, Community National Bank, Taylor Farms, American Window Systems, AgTrust, McMurray Metals, Blue Harbor Capital Advisors, Dallas Gun Club, Bullard Construction, AM Steel & Supply, MRS Ortho, New York Life, Mac Lawson & North Texas Beef, The Williamson Family, Lee Halford, Dr. Bill and Jody Turner, J. Gregory Homes.

If you are a CCA member who is interested in being more involved in the Dallas Chapter, reach out to Chapter President Kyle Marmillion at [marmillionkyle@gmail.com](mailto:marmillionkyle@gmail.com) and follow us on [Instagram](#).

**Fort Bend**  
**Thomas Welch 832-628-0130**  
**twelch@aegislifesafety.com**

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

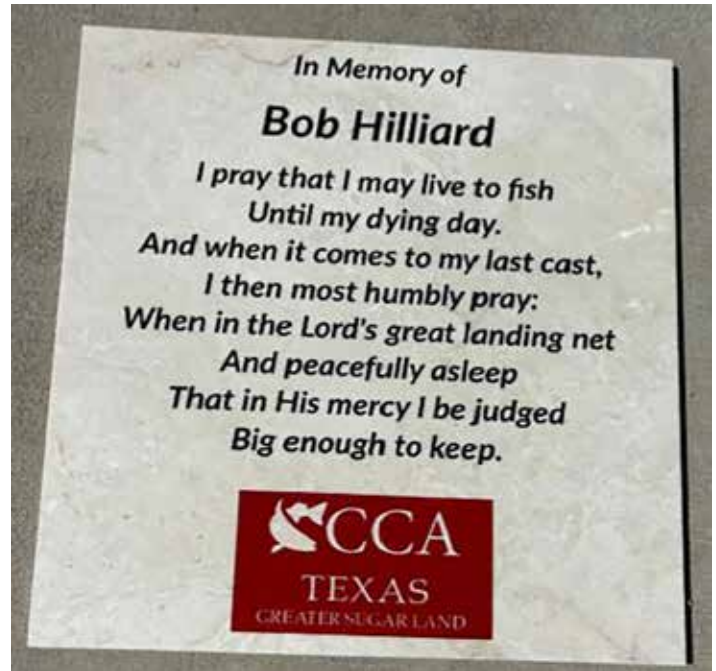
Quick update from your Fort Worth Chapter Board. We hope you are all doing well and had an awesome Thanksgiving however you chose to celebrate. Recently we hosted our annual Fall Fish Fry for our local members. We had some awesome raffle prizes get distributed and served up some great fried fish, sides and cold beverages. I also want to take a moment to recognize our new partnership with the Orvis store of Fort Worth. Because of this partnership, the Orvis store was able to make a nice contribution to CCA through our Chapter. We are looking forward to expanding the partnership going forward and encourage each of you to go by and visit the store! Keep a lookout for updates for the annual Spring Crawfish boil and mark your calendars for **May 1, 2025 for the Banquet**. If you would like to reserve your spot now, please let us know and we can get this taken care of. If you still need to make any last-minute charitable donations, we could easily help you out with that! As always, we appreciate you and your continued support. Enjoy what is hopefully a wonderful holiday season for you!

**Galveston**  
**Lawrence Walker 832-444-0911**  
**lpwalk62@icloud.com**

**Golden Triangle**  
**Colby Plaia 409-658-1075**  
**colbyplaia@gmail.com**

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

As we reflect back on 2024 and how busy it was for our chapter, we also look forward to 2025. We celebrated a very successful banquet and are in preparations for our



*Left: The Annual Presidents Cup Chapter Fishing Tournament was held May 4th and congratulations to Jamie Lynn for taking home the Presidents Cup Trophy. Right: Photos of the new 2025 Kid Fish Trailer design.*

**2025 banquet set for April 3 at the Stafford Centre** and it is not too early to reserve your table for you and 7 of your friends. This will be our best banquet yet, come and be a part of it.

We co-hosted 2 Kid Fish events with Sienna Plantation and Riverstone communities and what a joy it is to watch the smile on the face of a youngster when they land their 1st fish. Already planned for a May 4, 2025, event is a Kid Fish event in New Territory.

Our Casino Night membership drive was held November 6, 2024 at the Knight Of Columbus Hall in Sugar

Land with a friend catfish dinner for all who attended and a Casino Party. Special thanks to Board Member Gary Blanchette and his volunteers at the KC Hall for their help and outstanding hospitality. Plans are underway for our upcoming Membership Drive event.

2024 also came with a sad note, on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 we lost one of our dearest Board Members Bob Hilliard. Bob and fellow board member and wife Barbara lived in Sargent and on several occasions opened their home to host the weigh in for our Annual Presidents Cup fishing tournament and always furnished everyone with a BBQ meal. A plaque in his honor will be placed at the Lions Club Mike Lebron Park in Sargent. The family asked to consider a donation to an organization that was very important to Bob, The Coastal Conservation Association of Texas. You can make the donation at [ccatexas.org/donate](http://ccatexas.org/donate).

I would like to give a Texas Size shoutout to each board member for your continued support throughout the year. Your efforts don't go unnoticed. 2025 will be our best year yet. We also would like to thank the entire staff at Sign Systems for completely rebranding our Kid Fish Trailer, thanks for making us shine as we drive down the road headed to another Kid Fish event.

If you would like to get involved with the Greater Sugar Land CCA Chapter, feel free to contact myself at [greatersugarlandcca@gmail.com](mailto:greatersugarlandcca@gmail.com) or attend one of our Board Meetings. We would love to have you join us. Follow us on Facebook at [Greater Sugar Land CCA Chapter](https://www.facebook.com/Greater-Sugar-Land-CCA-Chapter). Until next time, tight lines and Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler..

**Greater Woodlands**  
**Charlotte Redd 832-368-8263**  
**[choctawcharlie69@gmail.com](mailto:choctawcharlie69@gmail.com)**

**Guadalupe Valley**  
**Adam Arroyo 361-350-0026**  
**[Ctown75@aol.com](mailto:Ctown75@aol.com)**

**Hays County**  
**Tim Young 512-573-7939**  
**[tim.ccahaysco@gmail.com](mailto:tim.ccahaysco@gmail.com)**

**Heart of the Hills**  
**Kelly Parks 210-669-3732**  
**[bucksdelucks@yahoo.com](mailto:bucksdelucks@yahoo.com)**

Howdy from the Heart of the Hills! Chapter volunteers wrapped up our final get together of the year at Sauced Wing Bar in Boerne on November 13. Everyone enjoyed a great meal and had some fun and laughs together.

Our chapter had its best year ever and we hope that you had a chance to participate in one of our 2024 events - whether it was an Anglers' Night Out social, the CCA ICC Tournament, or our Annual Fundraiser Banquet. If you weren't able to make it in 2024, we hope you can JOIN CCA in 2025! Thanks to all of our sponsors for your continued support and special thanks to Ford of Boerne, DeWinne Equipment Company, Ron Hoover RV & Marine

SA & Boerne, and Milberger's!

We hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a joyous and prosperous New Year! Tight lines!

**Helotes**  
**Johnny Rayburg 210-535-6810**  
**[jrayburg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrayburg@sbcglobal.net)**

**Highland Lakes**  
**Tim Franke 512-496-9973**  
**[timfrankecca@gmail.com](mailto:timfrankecca@gmail.com)**

A whirlwind swept through the Highland Lakes area starting with an email from Coleman Todd and Corbin Primrose from CCA Texas in early September that asked if the communities along this part of the Colorado were interested in forming a new "Highland Lakes Chapter". Within two weeks, about 20 CCA members showed up for the first chapter meeting, and by October 24, the new chapter's inaugural banquet was held in Marble Falls' Lakeside Pavilion. This light speed couldn't have been achieved without Corbin. The Pavilion was packed and filled with energy, creating an incredible launch celebration for the new chapter. We want to extend our appreciation for the immediate and generous support from our banquet Sponsors, including **Chicken Express – Marble Falls, Hoffpaur Polaris, Landtamers LLC, Tiki Trucking, Elliott Electric Supply Marble Falls, The Rockafellow Law Firm, PLLC, RT Marine, Mathew Mason Custom Homes, Come and Take It Moving, Academy Sports + Outdoors, and Republic Heavy Equipment LLC**. Thanks also to all the area CCA members and new members for supporting the formation of CCA's Highland Lakes Chapter!

As we end the year on a high note, we also want to congratulate every CCA Chapter and Member for the hard work and dedication that make CCA Texas a powerful force in restoring, preserving, and stewardship of Texas' coastal resources. Take a kid fishing for fun, and gift the idea of stewardship to the next generation by showing them what CCA does for our coastal waters.

Stay tuned for news about our upcoming second banquet in the Spring of 2025. If you're interested in volunteering to help grow the new chapter and make a larger positive impact, we invite you to join us at the next board meeting. Please contact Tim Franke, Chapter President, at [timfrankecca@gmail.com](mailto:timfrankecca@gmail.com) for more information. Until next time, we wish you all tight lines on your stretch of water!

**Hill Country**  
**Miles Engelke 210-260-8968**  
**[mrengelke1957@gmail.com](mailto:mrengelke1957@gmail.com)**

**Houston Homebuilders**  
**Jimmy Reid 281-932-3395**  
**[jreid@newmarkhomes.com](mailto:jreid@newmarkhomes.com)**

**Houston Real Estate**  
**Kirk Laguarda 713-515-3830**  
**[KLaguarda@landadvisors.com](mailto:KLaguarda@landadvisors.com)**

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

**Laredo**  
**Maggie Puig 956-645-0031**  
**Mepuig78@yahoo.com**

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

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

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

What a day on the Water! The 9th Annual Lower Colorado Guides Cup Tournament was held on October 15, 2024 and was another huge success. 14 teams of winners from the 2024 Lower Colorado Banquet in August gathered with their chosen captains to fish and compete for bragging rights to be best of the bays. This is one of our favorite tournaments. It brings out the



2024 Guides Cup 2nd place Kenny Huff Jr. and Crew



2024 Guides Cup 1st place Troy Keen and Crew

competitive spirit for who is TOP GUIDE on the water in the Matagorda Bay system. Also, a big thank you to **Gulf Coast Ace Hardware** for sponsoring this tournament. With the beautiful weather and Matagorda's finest guides it was great day of competitive fishing. If you want to have a chance to fish with the best in the Matagorda Bays then you need to be at the **16th Annual Lower Colorado CCA Chapter's Banquet and Live Auction on August 1, 2025**. As always, keep watching this spot for the upcoming news and events from the Lower Colorado Chapter of Texas CCA. The only chapter that represents and supports all of Matagorda's Bays, Lakes, Rivers and Creeks.

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

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

As we Ramp up for 2025 Mainland Chapter will have 5 Angler Night Out, we are still working on finalizing guest speakers. But please save the dates below, all meetings will be at Spring Creek BBQ (League City, TX). Mainland Chapter CCA 2025 ANO Guest Speakers: 1/14/25 - Coastal Brigades , 2/11/25 – TBA, 6/10/25 - SaltwaterRecon.com, 8/12/25 – TBA and 9/9/25 -TBA.

**Matagorda Bays**  
**Jason Beery 979-578-1106**  
**jwbeery@yahoo.com**

**Mid Coast**  
**Elisa Carter 830-305-6418**  
**elisacarter@hotmail.com**

The CCA Mid Coast Chapter, which consists of the Victoria, Fannin, Inez, Goliad and surrounding areas, met Wednesday, November 20 for their monthly board meeting. Confirmation of the annual banquet was discussed. **The chapter's banquet will take place May 8, 2025 at the Victoria Community Center**. Stay tuned for more information to come.

Also, mark your calendars for March 15 & 16 where the Mid Coast Chapter will host a weekend of youth softball. The tournament is an opportune time for youth to learn about and join CCA and enter the annual STAR tournament which supports numerous scholarship opportunities. Look for more information to come. If you have any questions about upcoming events, please email Elisa Carter at [elisacarter@hotmail.com](mailto:elisacarter@hotmail.com).

**North Texas**  
**Brian Donovan 214-402-3825**  
**brian@firstlightprint.com**

Join CCA NTX and Presenting Sponsor Tito's Handmade Vodka on **Friday, April 25, 2025 at 3R's Ranch in Prosper** for an evening of dinner and

drinks, raffles and auctions benefiting the conservation of the Texas coast. The North Texas chapter showed excellent growth for our 2024 event, and we already have more sponsors committed than last year! Come join the fun! Sponsorships, tables and underwriting opportunities are available now. Watch your inbox for more details and follow us on Instagram at [@ccanTX](https://www.instagram.com/ccanTX). If you would like to volunteer with the CCA NTX committee, or receive more information about our 2025 banquet, please contact chapter president Brian Donovan at [brian@firstlightprint.com](mailto:brian@firstlightprint.com) or our CCA Texas representative Taylor Rieck at [TRieck@ccatexas.org](mailto:TRieck@ccatexas.org).

**Northwest Houston**  
**Mag Jaramillo 832-421-0439**  
**Mag.jaramillo@gmail.com**

**Orange County**  
**Zach Johnson 409-594-0525**  
**wzachjohnson@gmail.com**

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

**Port O'Connor**  
**CeCe Fitzgerald 713-907-7368**  
**Ccfitzgerald29@gmail.com**



Port O'Connor CCA Chapter Update: exciting Times Ahead! The Port O'Connor chapter is thrilled to share updates on our leadership, upcoming events, and initiatives that showcase our commitment to coastal conservation and community engagement.

**Welcoming New Board Members:** We are excited to announce the election of our new board members, President - **Charlotte "CeCe" Fitzgerald**, **Banquet Chair - Norman Trubee**, **Banquet Co Chair - Maeghan Strahm**, **Secretary - Donna Trubee**, and **Treasurer - Sue Glover**. Together we bring a wealth of passion and expertise to the chapter. Proud to carry forward the rich legacy of the CCA. A heartfelt shout-out and sincere gratitude to our past board members for their outstanding dedication and invaluable contributions over the years: President **Hank Lippold**, **Banquet Chair Michelle Lippold**, and **Treasurer Patti Elkins**. Your hard work has set a high standard, and we have some big shoes to fill!

**Anglers' Night Out: Monthly Meetings with Insightful Guest Speakers:** Mark your calendars for our Anglers' Night Out Speaker Series which will be held on the second Thursday of every month, September 2024 through May 2025. Each meeting features a guest speaker sharing valuable insights on topics central to conservation and fishing. These gatherings are a fantastic opportunity to learn, connect with fellow anglers, and contribute to conservation efforts.

Our November meeting was a fantastic opportunity to meet the board and learn more about the history of the Port O'Connor CCA Chapter "Where it All Began" and the new Anglers' Night out Speaker Series was announced. We screened the H-E-B short film,

"Redfish Revival", which delves into the Redfish Wars, the founding of the Coastal Conservation Association, and the pivotal efforts to preserve redfish for future generations. This film can be watched anytime on YouTube. We were thrilled to have special guests **Fred Carr** and **Red Childress** join the fun! Fred brought along banquet programs from the early days of the POC Chapter bringing a nostalgic vibe and a throwback to the early days. The evening featured appetizers, cocktails provided by **The Hurricane Junction** and a fantastic door prize won by Bryan Nichols. Attendees also had the chance to connect with current members and sign up to join the committee as volunteers. Margaret Claibourne delighted us by sharing her father's 1982 GCCA address book, sparking plenty of fun and heartfelt reminiscing about the original members



*POC Anglers' Night Out at Hurricane Junction: Fred Carr and Red Childress revisited old days, with memorabilia.*

*Margaret Claibourne delighted us by sharing her father's 1982 GCCA address book. Bryan Nichols won a fabulous door prize.*

from right here in Port O'Connor.

Here's a sneak peek at our lineup through May:  
December - **Shane Bonnot**, will discuss the LNRA Dam project and its potential impacts on our coastal ecosystems.  
January - **RJ Shelly**, learn about the innovative world of oyster mariculture and its role in habitat restoration and sustainable seafood practices.  
February - **Bridgid and Alan Berger**, this meeting will focus on the Crab Trap Cleanup, a vital effort to remove derelict traps from local waters. *A special tribute will be made to the late Ronnie Luster, affectionately known as "The Crab Man," who founded this important conservation initiative.*

March & May Speakers - Stay tuned as we finalize the lineup of experts and community leaders to share their knowledge on hot topics, hear from a few "Old Timers" and hear their stories to the local fishing guides sharing their stories of life on the water.

**Save the Date: Port O'Connor CCA Chapter's 24th Annual Banquet will take place on Saturday, April 12, 2025.** This much-anticipated event promises an evening of camaraderie, great food, exciting auctions, and a celebration of conservation successes. Don't miss out—mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details! Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#).

The Port O'Connor CCA Chapter invites you to join us at these meetings and events. For more information, follow us on social media or visit our website. Let's continue the legacy of conservation and camaraderie that defines the Port O'Connor CCA Chapter!

If you are interested in getting involved or learning more, please don't hesitate to contact Chapter President Charlotte "CeCe" Fitzgerald or our CCA Texas representative Taylor Rieck at [trieck@ccatexas.org](mailto:trieck@ccatexas.org). We're excited about the future and look forward to seeing you at our next event!

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

**Redfish Bay**

**Rio Grande Valley**  
**Javier Suarez 956-330-9788**  
**javier@eastcapeboats.com**

We recently hosted our 4th Annual Hooked on Clays Skeet Shoot at the Mission Skeet and Trap Club on October 5, 2024. We presented impressive **RB Custom Buckles** sponsored by **Lone Star National Bank** to the winning 1st Place Team, HOA Youth, HOA Ladies, and HOA Men's. Moreover, each member of the winning 1st place team received a 65qt Yeti cooler generously donated by **Chorizo De San Manuel**, while 2nd place received four Sitka bags provided by CCA Texas RGV Chapter, and 3rd place received four GameGuard Bird Belt provided by CCA Texas RGV Chapter. The 1st place Youth team received four pairs of Blenders Eyewear provided by CCA Texas



**RGV 1st Place Team**



**RGV 2nd Place Team**



**RGV Youth Team**



*The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners of the 2024 RGV Hooked on Clays.*

RGV Chapter and HOA Youth, HOA Ladies and HOA Mens each received a 5 gal loaded out Yeti bucket with a lid donated by **Captain Frank's Outdoor Adventures** and the Annie Oakley winner received \$500 cash that was sponsored by **Spikes Ford**.

The winners are as follows: **Capital Farm Credit** took 1st place with team members Dr. Ralph Brookshire, Champ De La Vina, Orlando Deander, and Oscar Ballesteros. **Capt.**





Board members with all youth shooters at the 2024 RGV Hooked on Clays.



RGV: Left, Annie Oakley Winner. Right: HOA Men's winner.

**Frank's Outdoor Adventures** secured 2nd place, with team members Juan Saenz Jr., Pepe Cavazos, Aly Besterio, and Joe Touchet. **Southern Marine** placed 3rd with Jarrod, Matt, Justin, and Greg. **The Sportsman** won the Youth category, with Judah Alvarado, Lucas Varela, Eloy Cardenas, and Ismael Cardenas. Individual recognition went to Judah Alvarado (HOA Youth), Chapter Vice President Leslie Gonzalez (HOA Ladies), Juan Saenz Jr. (HOA Mens), and Luis De La Garza (Annie Oakley).

On a separate note, please mark your calendars as we commence preparations for our **45th Annual Chapter Banquet, scheduled to take place at the Mission Event Center on March 28, 2025** (follow us on Instagram and Facebook for updates). We extend our gratitude to our sponsors, donors, volunteers, and especially our **Multi-Year Exclusive Title Advertiser L&F Distributors**, as their support is invaluable.

Lastly, as the holiday season approaches, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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

Greetings from Sabine Neches Chapter! It's been a low-key year for most of us in the chapter; family, work and fishing! But we are getting ready to crank it up again as we do every year at this time!

Banquet time! **The 27th Annual Chapter Banquet will be held Thursday March 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Bob Bowers Civic Center in Port Arthur, Texas.** Hot crawfish, cold drinks and a night of fundraising for a great cause! Be sure to LIKE and FOLLOW us on our [Facebook page](#). Tight

Lines to all! See you on the water!

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

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

**San Antonio**  
**Tom Akin 210-313-4860**  
**tom.akin@adkf.com**

Happy Holidays to all our CCA conservationists! With the new year fast approaching, the San Antonio Chapter has completed all of its 2024 season events, which included our annual banquet, sporting clays shoot, Dellview 5th grade school trip and Cast for Kids sponsorships, and two general membership meetings. Thank you to all our committee members for the valuable time and effort you put in to making our Chapter a success in 2024!

Moving to 2025, I would like to offer my



Shots from the San Antonio Cast for Kids event.

congratulations to our new slate of officers, including: Brandon Stellges, President; Brandon Carpenter, Banquet Chair; Chase Anderson, Banquet Co-Chair; Liz Hewitt, Secretary; Bill Masden, V.P. Sponsorships; Mark Luitjen, Sgt. at Arms and Tom Akin, Treasurer. To assist our officers, we also have elected 22 additional Executive Board members (sorry, too many to be named here) and two our long-tenured members have moved to our Emeritus Board:

Pat Cowles and Chris Lindsay. The good news on both Pat and Chris is they intend to stay active in our banquet committee for the next few years.

As we move into 2025, with a young group of officers, we look forward to the energy and enthusiasm they will bring, as well as a new flavor to our annual banquet. We have already gone through a process of looking at a reducing banquet costs – but without impacting revenues. Wish us luck in this process - but we think we have a plan in place. Stay tuned!

**Kids, Kids, Kids:** Our first event this year in 2025 is our sponsorship of the 5th grade class trip for Dellview Elementary School. During spring break, the graduating 5th grade class takes a day trip to Corpus where they visit, depending on the year, the State Aquarium, TPWD Flour Bluff Fish Hatchery, Lexington Aircraft Carrier, and other sites in and around Corpus. CCA San Antonio is a major underwriter of this event, and we are assisted by Broadway Bank and James Avery Jewelry. Thank goodness for our corporate assistance!

Immediately following the Dellview 5th grade trip we move to our Cast for Kids event, preliminarily scheduled for April of this year. We look forward to all of our kids events, so please remember, take a kid fishing!

As we close the year, I want to extend my Thanks to our San Antonio Chapter Committee, Executive Board and those at CCA in Houston that give us the tools to be successful. We look forward to working towards more and better conservation in the years to come!

#### **San Bernard**

**Jeremy Compton 281-961-0262**  
**[jcompton@detconsultinginc.com](mailto:jcompton@detconsultinginc.com)**

#### **San Gabriel**

**David Singleton 512-848-6555**  
**[southwestland@gmail.com](mailto:southwestland@gmail.com)**

#### **Southwestern**

**Veronica Oliver 830-765-6228**  
**[ronnimoliver@gmail.com](mailto:ronnimoliver@gmail.com)**

#### **TAMU**

**Aidan Downs 210-753-1777**  
**[prestonhigg@gmail.com](mailto:prestonhigg@gmail.com)**

**Texas State University**  
**Tate Elder 832-294-1254**  
**[tateelder@icloud.com](mailto:tateelder@icloud.com)**

**Tomball/Magnolia**  
**Matt Maddox 832-963-5215**  
**[mrmaddox04@gmail.com](mailto:mrmaddox04@gmail.com)**

#### **Tri-County**

**Justin Putz 210-585-0401**  
**[putz.stx@gmail.com](mailto:putz.stx@gmail.com)**

**Trinity Bay**  
**Jayo Washington 281-960-7064**  
**[jayowash@comcast.net](mailto:jayowash@comcast.net)**

**Trinity Valley**  
**John Hebert Jr 936-334-2528**  
**[jjhebert@imsday.com](mailto:jjhebert@imsday.com)**

**West Houston**  
**Ruben Delgadillo 281-808-1434**  
**[Castaline@icloud.com](mailto:Castaline@icloud.com)**

**West Texas**  
**Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499**  
**[Craig@McDonnold.net](mailto:Craig@McDonnold.net)**



*Fireball Sunrise*  
*Retro Photos from 2019, by Heart of the Hills President Randy Plummer*

## Upper Coast

**Capt. Ralph Frazier**

*Watch for birds working slicks*

As I write this, it seems like winter is never gonna get here, but it will. As the bay water cools, shrimp will start leaving the bay systems. Mobs of birds looking for breakfast, lunch and dinner will become more active, so we will be tuning in and watching in order to catch our own supper. Of course, mobs of trout and redfish will be under those birds, as the normal winter patterns start to come around.

Remember that as December 15 passes, flounder season will reopen. If we haven't had too much cold weather, there will still be flounder in Trinity Bay as the water is deeper in that bay system. Fishing over the deep shell reefs can pay off with flatfish. With shrimp tails, slow your retrieve down and kind of let that lure slowly crawl across the bottom.

Watch for birds working slicks that pop up. Mullet will start getting active as the sun comes up, so key on bait pods. You need to concentrate on the deeper water areas and especially the guts and coves in West Bay. Gamefish ease up into the shallow water as it warms up. Shrimp tails and Corkys fished slower than normal can be productive this time of year.

As always, layer up in warm clothes and take care of your crew. Good idea for the resource: take a young person fishing. —**Capt. Ralph Frazier**  
281-337-0321 [Ralph2fish@aol.com](mailto:Ralph2fish@aol.com)



*Going Retro CPR, from CURRENTS 2017: Garrett's trout release.*

## Middle Coast

**Capt. Tommy Countz**

*Slowwww down your retrieve*

Now is the prime time for fishing in the Colorado River. Drift with the current and cast to the bank. A trolling motor is a big plus; with it you can control your drift. Remember, the colder the water, the deeper the fish will be. More good news; trees block a lot of the wind.

My bait of choice is a 1/4 or 8-ounce leadhead rigged with a soft plastic bait that has a lot of wiggle. The Norton Sand Shad Jr. in chartreuse or hot pink fits the bill. Another bait that produces well is a Rattletrap. It can get down deep and has a lot of vibration.

This fall the river started producing good action on trout in early October and has only gotten better. In early December, East Matagorda Bay could still have some bird activity if the temperatures are warm. Drifting scattered shell is another option. Most of the west end of the bay is covered with shell. Using the same baits as in the river and making long drifts can be very productive.

January is pretty much the same pattern as fishing in December. Deeper water will be warmer, so slowwww down your retrieve and "feel the fish on."

After a big blow comes in and the tides are the lowest, redfish have to come out of the back areas on the south shore. If you find one or two reds, you'll find a bunch.

Take care of your crew—it's your first job. —**Capt. Tommy Countz** 281-450-4037  
[countz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:countz@sbcglobal.net)

## Lower Coast

**Capt. Bryan Robinson**

*Look for trout in deeper holes*

Hola again from South Texas! It's been a crazy weather year. Seems like Mother Nature has been running a few weeks behind and might finally be catching up to the calendar.

We have been dealing with extremely high water lately and apparently the entire coast has too. Water levels are coming down now and should stay lower as winter arrives.

Trout fishing has been really good and I expect it to stay that way as long as we don't get another devastating cold front. Because of the new TPW regulations we have seen a great number of big trout up on the flats. Look for them to hold in deeper holes as the water temperatures drop. I like a 3" paddle tail lure in a motor oil and chartreuse tail—slowly!

Most of the redfish have been staying in deeper water, which will be the trend throughout the next few months. Just like trout fishing, remember to work the bait slow this time of year.

The LLM is in great shape and is getting better. Lots of different species of fish roaming the flats, including blue crabs which is a great sign!

Take a kid fishing. Teach Catch and Release and send the photos to Currents! Happy Holidays and good luck on the water! —**Capt Bryan Robinson** 956-241-5520

[bryandrobinson@yahoo.com](mailto:bryandrobinson@yahoo.com) / *Capt. Bryan is a past-president of the RGV chapter. He loves guiding flyfishers.*



*Young Jack Robinson with a recent red CPR.*

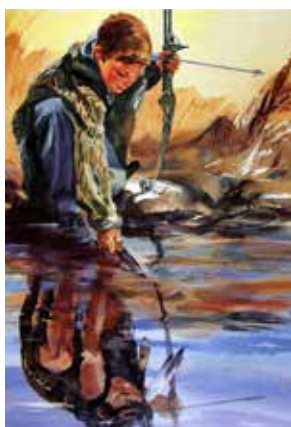
# Great Photos 2025

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

Important: Send jpegs and include name of subject, title, your name as well as the names of anyone in the photo if possible. Email jpegs to [sam@samcaldwell.com](mailto:sam@samcaldwell.com). Give us your best shot, and keep CURRENTS an award-winning newsletter.

**Want to share even more of your Great Photos?** Limited space means we can use only a few photos, but here is a good option for your Great Photo: Send it to us to use on Social Media! Send the photo, along with the name of who should receive the photo credit, and some information about the photo to [info@ccatexas.org](mailto:info@ccatexas.org) and you may see your photo used on one of our social media platforms! Want to follow us on social media? See Pages 36, 37, and 38 for connections to Facebook, Instagram and X/Twitter. Every entry there will also be an entry in the CURRENTS Great Photos Competition.

**New for 2025: art prizes** for Best In Show and First Place photos. Texas State Artist Sam Caldwell is donating classic art prints, *Dawn Patrol* and *Ancient Traditions* as First Place and Best In Show awards.



**Feature coming up for you CPR fans:** There are now a wide variety of "Tough" cameras on the market that can stand up to the abuse inherent in saltwater use. Surprisingly, your cell phone can be among them. Check the **Great Photo Page** next issue. —*Photo Editor*

# Let's Go Retro!

Here are a few Great Photos from previous years of CURRENTS.



FROM FEBRUARY 2019: Two new CCA workers. Left, Jenn Thomasson is now Tournament Director of Babes On The Bay. On right, Charlotte "Cee Cee" Fitzgerald will serve on the State Board of Directors in Governmental Affairs. Cee Cee's father, Phillip Fitzgerald was one of the CCA's earliest members. Locale of the scene was the Houston 2019 meeting at the Armadillo Palace in Houston. Cee Cee is now the Port O'Connor Chapter President.



May 2018: Connected! Adam Gilvarry says hooking a tarpon demands patience, luck and a hungry fish.

Retro from CURRENTS 2017: Dai Yu Lange with a 36" redfish. Note the broken rod held by Chris Smisek. Vizi Lange boated this 25.5 speck, as Chester looked on. Little Miss Naranjo heads for the surf.



# Port O'GetdownConnor Shrimp Gumbo

*4 Tablespoons flour / 4 Tablespoons bacon fat / 2 Quarts fish or chicken stock  
1 lb. fresh deveined shrimp, boiled for 5 minutes / 1 lb. sliced and sauteed andouille  
sausage / 2 cloves garlic, minced / 1 large onion, chopped / 1 Cup celery, chopped  
1 medium green pepper, chopped / 2 bay leaves / 3 sprigs parsley, chopped  
2 Tablespoons file / Salt and Pepper to taste*

In heavy dutch oven, heat bacon fat, add flour gradually, stirring constantly so it heats evenly. Continue to stir until roux becomes the color of an old penny.

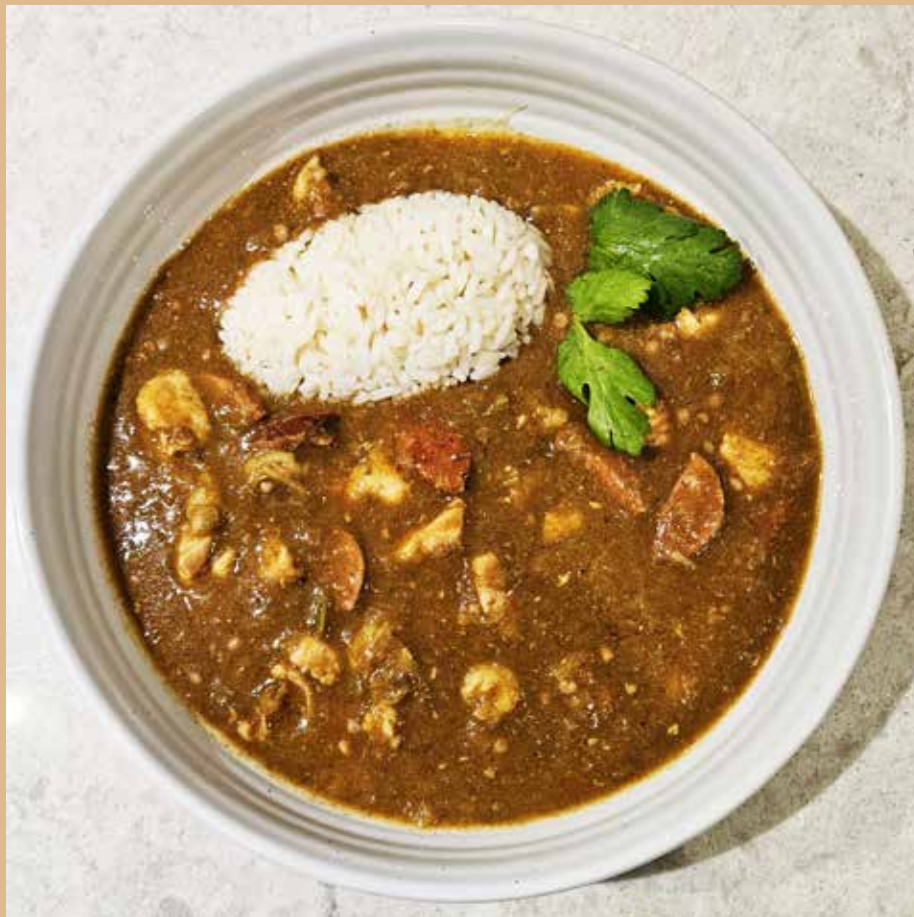
Add vegetables and cook until soft.

Add stock, sausage, bay leaves, salt, pepper and parsley.

Bring to a boil and simmer for an hour.

Add shrimp and simmer for 5 more minutes.

Remove from heat, add file and serve over rice.



Great Recipes Editor Liz Hewitt



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## Great Christmas gift idea for a fishing friend:

Two classic Caldwell paintings as high quality Gclees. Signed with original art remarques and matching numbers, # 3/20.

Both took wins in Texas and National Outdoor Art contests. 20" x 30" Signed, numbered and remarqued. The pair, \$800.



### Surf Hawk

Surf green to the beach, a light southeast wind, trout looking for gold spoons. A trophy trout for the fisherman, redfish lunch for the osprey.



### Bedrock of the Bays

A trophy red searches for crabs on an oyster reef and goes for a gold spoon instead.

Gallery quality glee art prints on canvas, 20" x 30" / Signed and numbered 1/10 are only available as a pair at \$1000. Remarqued to the owner by the artist.

Prints 2/10 are \$300 each. Personal remarques available.

Drop by the website for these two new art prints and many more images by Sam Caldwell.

[click here to visit](#)

[www.samcaldwell.com](http://www.samcaldwell.com)

Texas State Artist 2004 / DU State Artist 2010-2011

Dallas CCA Conservationist 2015

2016 Perry R. Bass Wall of Fame

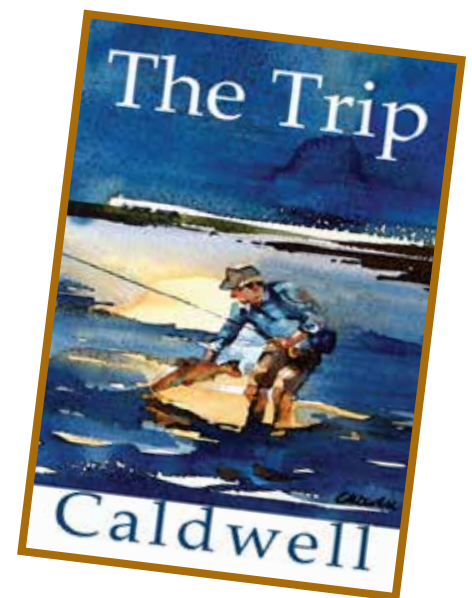
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A Retro tale from  
*Not That Serious Collected*  
by Ben Kocian and Sam Caldwell

### Liar's Den:

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# Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Drive, Suite 100  
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December 2024 / January 2025

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



BEST IN TEXAS

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

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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)



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)

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

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

Method of payment  
 Check/Money order  
Charge to my:  
 MASTERCARD  
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 AMEX  
 DISCOVER

MEMBER: \$40 \_\_\_\_\_ Membership card, decal, bumper sticker, Texas CURRENTS newsletter & TIDE magazine.  
ASSOCIATE: \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Per each family member. All membership privileges except TIDE and CURRENTS.  
LIFE MEMBER: \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ CCA Life Membership piece, print, plus member gifts. Payable in four \$250 installments.  
STAR ENTRY FEE: \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ 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)