

CURRENTS

December 2015 / January 2016



Cedar Bayou,
a year Later

Cedar Bayou — A Year Later

By John Blaha

DYNAMIC, defined as an adjective, is a process or system characterized by constant change, activity, or progress.

When a person thinks of Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough, one of the first thoughts that comes to mind is dynamic. Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough have been open and flowing to the Gulf for thirteen months as this article is being written.

This pass to the Gulf has been changing and reshaping itself since the very first flow of water started on September 25, 2014. In the first 75 days that Cedar Bayou flowed to the Gulf, the southern bank of the pass moved to the south 400 feet.

Since that time, the opening to the Gulf continues to move south and changes with every weather and tidal event.

Many questions are voiced by concerned anglers and the general public after every weather event or change in the bayou. The first reaction is generally, "What is happening?" and then people realize once again that the system is forever changing. The original designs for dredging Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough called for Cedar Bayou to be dredged to a bottom width of 300 feet and 9 feet deep. Through the permitting process, this design was modified to be 100 feet wide and 6 feet deep for both Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough, due to requirements put forward by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the permitting process. This process also includes input from Federal and State agencies. Though this was not the design originally sought, it was approved and the effort to open Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough was finally

becoming reality. A key component to CCA Texas's financial commitment to the project was to have a maintenance component to the project to ensure that the pass remained open, and when necessary, maintenance would be executed based on surveys and behavior of the pass in the time prior to maintenance needs.

"Cedar Bayou is like having another kid," commented Aransas County Judge Burt Mills. Mills continued, "Like a kid, you watch over them and you worry about them, but you know in the end it is all going to be okay. Sometimes you have to help them along, and with Cedar Bayou we are developing a maintenance plan and will do everything we can to keep it flowing."

Since its opening, recreational fishermen from across the state have visited the bayou to fish within it and in the surf. There have been days where as many as 25 to 30 boats have been in the bayou at any given time. Fishing has been consistent throughout this time, but because it's fishing and not always catching, some days are good and some days are not as good.





October 6, 2015, aerials from a year after the opening. Above, wade fishermen work near the mouth of the pass. At lower right, a shoreline shows the constant influence of heavy winds and tides. Cover photograph and shoreline images by Lisa Laskowski.

Then you have those days where you experience a trip like never before and you simply seem to throw your bait in a fish's mouth every cast.

Not only is Cedar Bayou providing a great benefit to the ecosystem, it is providing anglers from across the state with an epic fishing destination.

The biological impacts of the opening of Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough were felt immediately. Within just a few days, first-year marine biology students from Texas A&M Corpus Christi visited the site with Dr. Greg Stunz to see how sampling was done for research and to see the project. After pulling some sampling equipment, one of the students came forward to Dr. Stunz with a few small fish in

hand and asked Dr. Stunz what they were. Redfish! In the prior two years of sampling in the Cedar Bayou area, not a single redfish larvae had been found, and within a week of opening, larvae were now present.

The opening of Cedar Bayou coincided with the beginning of the fall run of redfish in the surf for spawning and the opening was already paying big dividends for the surrounding fishery. Post-opening surveys show that since the opening, the densities of redfish larvae at Cedar Bayou are significant and in line with other inlets.

Harte Research Institute

(HRI) sampling has also shown good presence of blue crab and Atlantic croaker, and the presence of southern flounder. These post-opening surveys provided great data and reinforced the importance of coastal passes tying Texas's bays to the Gulf of Mexico.

The immediate area of Cedar Bayou is rich with seagrass beds, which are critical habitat for many early life marine species and provide these species with the opportunity for survival. These seagrass beds have shown a resurgence in growth since the opening, and along with critical rains that the area has had this past spring and in recent months, the beds are as strong as ever.

"The opening of Cedar Bayou has provided a great benefit to the surrounding ecosystem," commented Quentin Hall, Masters of Science Graduate at Texas A&M Corpus

—Continued on page 8





26th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo winners claim one hundred and eighteen prizes

The 26th Anniversary CCA Texas Ford Dealers/Tilson Homes Corp/Capital Farm Credit State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo wrapped up at 5PM on Labor Day, Sept. 1 with a NEW record. Over 48,000 registered for the 2015 STAR with over 13,000 NEW recruits into CCA! This year's tournament offered over \$1,000,000 in prizes and STAR participants of all ages from all over the Lone Star state enjoyed some fabulous prizes thanks to registering before they went fishing! Twenty-six top prizes were claimed. Check out these winners below with their awesome prize packages as well as a list of ALL 2015 STAR winners.

Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division saw ten tagged redfish caught but only FIVE were lucky enough to get to drive home a truck/boat prize this year. Sadly, there were FIVE unfortunate anglers who did not qualify for the CCA Texas STAR and lost out on prizes to the tune of about \$45,000 - \$80,000 each!!! WHEN WILL THEY LEARN?!!!

For photos of many of the STAR 2015 winners and sponsors, see pages 6 and 17

2015 TOURNAMENT RECAP - This year's tournament had over a hundred fabulous prizes up for grabs. A total of one hundred and eighteen prizes were claimed and the twenty-six top prizes were presented to the winners during the CCA Texas BBQ and STAR Awards Ceremony on Friday, Oct. 9th at the Stafford Centre! These are the lucky winners of each division:

StarKids \$50,000 Scholarship Division - This year's StarKids Scholarship Division provided these three young anglers with college scholarships totaling \$50,000 each:

Adair Bates - StarKid Scholarship Flounder winner
Maritza Martinez - Houston Community Newspapers StarKid Scholarship Sheepshead winner
Laken Bellanger - Fox Sports Southwest StarKid Scholarship Gafftop winner

Academy Sports + Outdoors StarTeens Scholarship Trout Division - The Academy Sports + Outdoors StarTeens Scholarship Trout Division awarded a

\$20,000 college scholarship to these youths:
Austin Calhoun - StarTeen Upper Coast Trout winner
Tyler Gully - StarTeen Middle Coast Trout winner
Collin Dziuk - StarTeen Lower Coast Trout winner

StarTeens Inshore Scholarship Division - The StarTeens Scholarship Inshore Division awarded these lucky teens each a \$20,000 scholarship:
Freddie Velez, StarTeen Flounder winner
David Hill, StarTeen Sheepshead winner
Colton Carner, StarTeen Gafftop winner

Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division - This year all five truck/boat packages were claimed! These lucky winners drove home a fully-loaded 2015 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" truck and Haynie 23 BigFoot, Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax outboard motor and Coastline trailer:
Scott Hajovsky of Hempstead, 1st Redfish - Truck & Boat winner

Michael Gibbs of Hemphill, 2nd Redfish - Truck & Boat winner
Cuong Nguyen of Katy, 3rd Redfish - Truck & Boat winner
Ryan Cantu of San Antonio, 4th Redfish - Truck & Boat winner
Joe Contreras of Corpus Christi, 5th Redfish - Truck & Boat winner

Speckled Trout Division - These winners took home a Shoalwater 21' Cat boat, Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax outboard motor and McClain trailer:
James Pallan - Upper Coast Trout winner, Skip Kramer - Middle Coast Trout winner, Lee Roy Navarro - Lower Coast Trout winner

Offshore Division - These lucky anglers won the Polaris Ranger® Crew 570 EPS UVs in Polaris Pursuit Camo each with a Big Tex 35sa Trailer:
Krystal Treybig - Kingfish winner, Austin Overstreet - Dorado winner, Nathan Crowe - Ling (Cobia) winner

Inshore Division - The following are the proud owners of Blue Wave 180V Southern Skiff boat, Mercury 115 Pro OptiMax outboard motor and Coastline trailer:
Eric Thomas - Flounder winner, Wayne Grice - Sheepshead winner, Larry Capps - Gafftop winner

Runner-Up Winners - A total of 72 runner-up prizes were awarded this year. First through fourth runners-up in ALL divisions received a plaque, "special edition" STAR runner-up cap and gift certificates from Academy Sports + Outdoors. Gift certificate amounts for scholarship divisions: 1st - \$250, 2nd - \$150, 3rd - \$125, 4th - \$75 and for regular divisions: 1st - \$500, 2nd - \$250, 3rd - \$150, 4th - \$100:

StarKids Scholarship Division - Flounder: 1st: Reese Garcia (age 7) of Harlingen, 3 lbs. 10 oz. / 2nd: Wyatt Belz (age 8) of San Antonio, 3 lbs. 9 oz. / 3rd: Cody Elkins (age 8) of Mercedes, 3 lbs. 8 oz. / 4th: Adam Gwynn (age 9) of Corpus Christi, 3 lbs. 7 oz.

Sheepshead: 1st: Rylan Basci (age 6) of League City, 7 lbs. 10 oz. / 2nd: Madison Peterek (age 7) of Rockport, 6 lbs. 14 oz. / 3rd: Parker Huntley (age 10) of Baytown, 6 lbs. 13 oz. / 4th: Clay Brandenburg (age 8) of Katy, 6 lbs. 12 oz.

Gafftop: 1st: Addison Tullos (age 7) of Lumberton, 6 lbs. 1 oz. / 2nd: Ashton Sumrall (age 7) of Orange, 5 lbs. 15 oz. / 3rd: Josie Flores (age 9) of Los Fres-

nos, 5 lbs. 13 oz. / 4th: Troy Redfern (age 9) of Port Neches, 5 lbs. 7 oz.

Academy Sports + Outdoors StarTeens Scholarship Trout Division

Upper Coast: 1st: Andrew Owens (age 16) of Deer Park, 7 lbs. 8 oz. / 2nd: Dylan Balch (age 14) of Liberty, 7 lbs. 0 oz. / 3rd: Trevin Bridges (age 14) of Richmond, 6 lbs. 8 oz. / 4th: Mark Vasquez (age 14) of Pasadena, 6 lbs. 3 oz.

Middle Coast: 1st: Jamie Sifford (age 15) of Corpus Christi, 8 lbs. 9 oz. / 2nd: Kyle Albers (age 12) of Gillett, 7 lbs. 3 oz. / 3rd: Waylon Johnson of Victoria (age 13), 6 lbs. 10 oz. / 4th: Colton Knipling of Victoria (age 17), 6 lbs. 10 oz.

Lower Coast: 1st: Travis Crum (age 16) of La Feria, 7 lbs. 5 oz. / 2nd: James Anderson (age 14) of Port Mansfield, 7 lbs. 1 oz. / 3rd: John Schnautz (age 12) of Kingsbury, 6 lbs. 14 oz. / 4th: Caleb Snoga (age 13) of San Antonio, 6 lbs. 11 oz.

StarTeens Inshore Scholarship Division - Flounder: 1st: Alan Swanson (age 11) of Brenham, 5 lbs. 1 oz. / 2nd: Brock Hargens (age 15) of Corpus Christi, 5 lbs. 0 oz. / 3rd: Nicholas Sebring (age 16) of East Bernard, 4 lbs. 9 oz. / 4th: Drew Psencik (age 17) of Angleton, 3 lbs., 13 oz.

Sheepshead: 1st: Tyler Maresh (age 15) of League City, 7 lbs. 12 oz. / 2nd: Ian Wells (age 16) of Kemah, 7 lbs., 10 oz. / 3rd: Thomas Greene (age 15) of League City, 7 lbs. 1 oz. / 4th: D. Julian Lupian (age 11) of Baytown, 6 bs., 10 oz.

Gafftop: 1st: Saul Martinez (age 17) of Galveston, 5 lbs. 13 oz. / 2nd: William Flores (age 12) of Los Fresnos, 5 lbs. 12 oz. / 3rd: Macie Murty (age 14) of Bridge City, 5 lbs. 4 oz. / 4th: Brook Montgomery (age 14) of League City, 5 lbs. 4 oz.

Speckled Trout Division - Upper Coast: 1st: Jason Bartlett of Texas City, 9 lbs. 6 oz. / 2nd: Matthew Barrere of Pasadena, 9 lbs. 6 oz. / 3rd: Kelly Flores of Texas City, 8 lbs. 14 oz. / 4th: William Harris of Texas City, 8 lbs. 14 oz.

Middle Coast: 1st: Kevin Dziuk of Falls City, 8 lbs. 15 oz. / 2nd: Andrew Nelson of Sargent, 8 lbs. 15 oz. / 3rd: Broderick Gartica of Bay City, 8 lbs. 8 oz. / 4th: Jaycob Tyler of Sweeney, 8 lbs. 7 oz.

Lower Coast: 1st: Jon Hirschfield of Corpus Christi, 9 lbs. 0 oz. / 2nd: Reinhard Hagan of Yoakum, 8 lbs. 14 oz. / 3rd: Candelario Aguilar III of Corpus Christi, 8 lbs. 14 oz. / 4th: Vicky Milner of Pearland, 8 lbs. 12 oz.

Offshore Division - Kingfish: 1st: Chad Treybig of Wallis, 51 lbs. 13 oz. / 2nd: Ricky Wendel of Louise, 51 lbs. 13 oz. / 3rd: Brandy Hicks of Matagorda, 51 lbs. 8 oz. / 4th: Cole Divin of Plantersville, 50 lbs. 2 oz.

Dorado: 1st: David Price of Willis, 36 lbs. 4 oz. / 2nd: Brette Parrish of San Antonio, 36 lbs. 2 oz. / 3rd: Dave Sullivan of Port Aransas, 34 lbs. 12 oz. / 4th: Paul Felio of Seabrook, 34 lbs. 12 oz.

Ling: 1st: Chucky Ha of Beaumont, 78 lbs. 4 oz. / 2nd: Jeffrey Chavez of Beaumont, 75 lbs. 9 oz. / 3rd: Robert Mitchell of Helotes, 72 lbs. 2 oz. / 4th: Ginger Kacal of El Campo, 69 lbs. 12 oz.

Inshore Division - Flounder: 1st: Christopher Hayter of Port Arthur, 7 lbs. 10 oz. / 2nd: Wilfredo Velez of Santa Fe, 6 lbs. 14 oz. / 3rd: Welton Balch of Liberty, 6 lbs. 13 oz. / 4th: Alex Colon of Texas City, 6 lbs. 3 oz.



2015 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT SuperCab with Haynie 23 Bigfoot, the Redfish Division prize.

Sheepshead: 1st: Robert Ibarra of Baytown, 10 lbs. 5 ozs. / 2nd: Lionel Gonzales of Houston, 10 lbs. 3 ozs. / 3rd: Jack Horne of Dickinson, 9 lbs. 1 oz. / 4th: Jennifer Kraeer of Bayton, 8 lbs. 15 ozs.

Gafftop: 1st: Taurik Abuzinada of Houston, 6 lbs. 14 ozs. / 2nd: Nelson Powers of Cypress, 6 lbs. 10 ozs. / 3rd: Zachary Zimmerman of Beaumont, 6 lbs. 10 ozs. / 4th: Zachary Butler of Orange, 6 lbs. 8 ozs.

Special Bonus Drawings Winners-

These unique drawings give participants a chance to win a prize even if they never wet a line or caught a single fish during the entire tournament.

2015 Coors Light Early Bird Drawing Winners-

Every 2015 STAR entrant who registered prior to May 23rd went into this special drawing. A total of 21 names were drawn and these are lucky "Early Bird" winners: Dargel 210 Skout boat, Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax motor and McClain trailer: Terry Sharp of Round Rock; Mercury 9.9 ELPT BF Pro Kicker motor: Pamela Schramek of Deer Park; Three (3) Mettle H20 Reels & American Rodsmith Rod combos: Jake Galloway of George West; Raymond Williams Jr. of Alvin; Jimmie Gordon of Houston; Thermo-Electric Travel Cooler: Andrew Veal of Houston; Fifteen (15) CCA "Special Edition" Posters: 1. Grant Friar of Boerne; 2. Thomas Byrd Jr. of Elgin; 3. Clint Haney of Bulverde; 4. Scout Layne of San Antonio; 5. Nora Granado of Edinburg; 6. Glenn Michalak of Houston; 7. Alvin Wisniske Jr. of Houston; 8. Lisa Castle of Houston; 9. Rick Crisler of Magnolia; 10. Nathan Scimeca of Bayou Vista; 11. John Been of Hondo; 12. Tony Eugenio of San Antonio; 13. Savannah Rozacky of Woodsboro; 14. Gayle Piper of Navasota; 15. Kyle Pilaczynski of Devine.

New Tide Member Scholarship Drawing Winner – All "New Tide" Members (ages 6 - 17) were eligible for a bonus drawing that netted one lucky youth a \$20,000 college scholarship. The lucky winner was Trevor Casey, age 9, of Pearland.

Member Bonus Drawing Winner – Explorer by Dargel 210TV with a Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax outboard and McClain trailer. The lucky name drawn was Will Meriwether of Dallas.

2016 STAR NEWS! The STAR 2016 is set to begin at sunrise Saturday, May 28 and will run through 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 5 (Labor Day). In order to win at STAR, an angler must be registered and be a member of CCA. You're going to get in anyway, might as well do it now! Remember, everyone entered in the STAR Tournament, who will be 6 years old in 2016 and old-

er, is eligible to win the prizes being offered (even the TAGGED REDFISH DIVISION)!!!

TEXAS FISH & GAME MAGAZINE "BONUS DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION!" - *Texas Fish & Game Magazine* will continue to offer CCA Texas STAR participants a FREE one-year (12 issues) DIGITAL subscription. This subscription (normally \$11.99/year) will allow you to access the latest and most in-depth outdoors information anywhere and anytime on your smart phone, tablets and desktop. Now STAR anglers have the chance to embrace the latest in technology, plus conserve our natural resources. We are grateful to *Texas Fish & Game* for providing this STAR-only benefit, while saving some trees and giving you more options. If you still wish to receive *Texas Fish & Game* in print magazine form, no problem... a special STAR angler price of \$8 bucks a year (vs. \$17.99/year) is still available, plus access to the digital version at no extra cost! Please be advised your subscription WILL NOT be sent automatically. If you wish to take advantage of this special bonus you must declare it when registering for the tournament. If you have already signed up for the 2016 STAR, but did not declare that you would like this special offer and/or you have questions regarding your past or current subscription, please call (713) 626-4222 or email star@ccatexas.org.



2016 EARLY BIRD DRAWINGS! Don't forget, by signing up now you'll get your shot at landing one of the many great prize offerings just for registering early! Be on the lookout for special "Early Bird" prizes available ONLY for those entrants who sign up before the tournament kicks off. Everyone who signs up for STAR by **May 27, 2016** deadline will be automatically entered into the special Early Bird Drawings. Several prizes will be given away! They are sure to be a reel catch. **The 2016 STAR entry fee is \$20 for ages 18 and up - an awesome bargain!** Membership fee is \$30 annually and an additional \$20 to enter the 2015 STAR Tournament for a total

STAR has reached \$5,525,000 in scholarships awarded to children 6-17 years of age. Many thanks to our sponsors for making this happen. Without them, it would not be possible.

of \$45. For kids age 6-17, "New Tide" membership fee remains \$10 annually and the STAR entry fee is "FREE"! Each "New Tide" member **MUST sign-up each year for the current year tournament**. You can sign up NOW online at www.startournament.org!!!

LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA? Register family and friends, *of all ages* for a CCA Texas membership and 2016 STAR entry. This **Christmas gift** might put your loved ones in a new truck/boat combo or pay for their college education! Get everyone signed up for the **2016 STAR**. See STAR Platinum Print Membership Package and the complete Platinum Print Series below for more, great gift ideas!

CCA TEXAS STAR PLATINUM PRINT MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE, SERIES VI

Just as the rainfall is supercharging the bay systems, CCA Texas STAR is supercharged to announce the premium artwork line-up for the 2016 STAR Platinum Print offering. NEW this year is *Good Morning Cedar Bayou*, by the legendary Sam Caldwell.

Recognized by the Texas Commission For The Arts as Texas State Artist in 2004, Sam's work is already a staple in many CCA member collections. His technique in transparent oils explodes the colors in an action scene that pays tribute to CCA's latest finished project, the newly opened Cedar Bayou. Envision yourself and your son, together, right there in the surf, in search of an elusive STAR-winning trout. Thank you, Sam, for sharing this gift!

And for David Drinkard fans, STAR Platinum collectors can marvel over his next work in the series, *King Ranch Shoreline*. CCA outdoorsmen who hunt and fish will want this iconic scene of a trophy buck watching redfish action with pin-tail overhead... a Texas heritage, with a classic Drinkard sunrise... this one, indeed, captures it all! These amazing prints will have you wishing you were there! Specially commissioned for STAR members only, these beautiful pieces commemorate the precious opportunity found in Texas' blessed resources. Package includes your CCA membership (new or renewal), your 2016 CCA Texas STAR entry, plus your choice of either of these fine signed, limited-edition prints created exclusively for STAR, all for \$125! These one-of-a-kind prints are worth this price alone. If you would like to consider one, or several, of these limited-edition packages, go to: <http://www.startournament.org>. For more details and/or to place

COLLECT THE 2016 STAR PLATINUM PRINTS



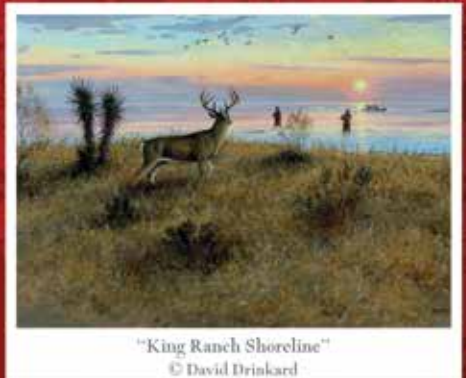
Two choices...one great cause!

Act now to own ONE of these signed, limited-edition prints in time for Christmas! Renowned artists Sam Caldwell and David Drinkard showcase their unique styles exclusively for CCA Texas STAR 2016. Pick your favorite or buy both!

CCA Membership and STAR registration included with your purchase.



"Good Morning Cedar Bayou"
© Sam Caldwell



"King Ranch Shoreline"
© David Drinkard

Proceeds from the sale of these limited-edition packages will help us continue to fund the STAR scholarships.

ccatexas.org ★ startournament.org
(713) 626-4222

your order with the STAR Dept., call (713) 626-4222. To ensure delivery in time for Christmas, please place your order by December 15, 2015.

STILL AVAILABLE! CCA Texas STAR Platinum Print, Series I, II, III, IV, V - STAR Reds, STAR Sightings, School Is In Session, Working the Spoils and Split Screen are still available. If you haven't purchased yet and would like to begin your CCA Texas STAR Platinum Collectible Series, please contact the STAR Dept. and we can get you fixed up. To own all seven of these commemorative pieces, purchase yours today before they're all gone! **Proceeds from the sales of Platinum Packages will help us continue to fund the STAR scholarships.**

DESERVING SPECIAL ATTENTION: In the Spirit of the Season, we give grateful thanks to all CCA members for remembering that STAR sponsors make this giant event possible. Since we don't make a dime on STAR, your continued patronage of the products and services of these fine partners empow-

ers their immense generosity to support the mission we all care about... kids, education, marine resources, and family fishing fun. We thank God for our blessed members and friends and wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Major sponsors for the 26th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament include: Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Home Corporation, Capital Farm Credit, Mercury Marine, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, Ozarka, Rio Ammunition, KTRK-abc13, Houston Community Newspapers & Media Group, Fox Sports Southwest, Time Warner Cable, Haynie Boats, Shoalwater Boats, Hoffpauir Polaris, Dargel Boats, Blue Wave Boats, Texas Fish & Game Magazine, Texas Oilman's Charity Fishing Tournament, Coastline Trailers, McClain Trailers, Chris's Marine and Mt. Houston Marine.

For more information, including a list of all the 2015 winners, go to <http://www.startournament.org>. Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!!!

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR'S NOTE: HOFFPAUIR DEALS AVAILABLE.

It's that time of year when the Texas outdoorsman is faced with the annual challenge to declare, "Do I fish or do I hunt?" What a great state we live in! Since hunting is red hot right now, we would recommend checking out the great Polaris deals from Hoffpauir: <http://www.hpolaris.com/>. With any ATV purchase, CCA members are eligible to receive a custom CCA cooler (\$330 value) free! Thanks Hoffpauir, particularly for the STAR scholarship support!



A few winners of the 26th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo



Adair Bates - StarKid Scholarship Flounder winner and Michael Thorn-Leeson Jr. and Richard Webb with Tilson Home Corporation.



Maritza Martinez - Houston Community Newspapers StarKid Scholarship Sheepshead winner with Jason Joseph and Susan Revegno of Houston Community Newspapers



Laken Bellanger - Fox Sports Southwest StarKid Scholarship Gafftop winner with Stephen Zapalac of Capital Farm Credit



Austin Calhoun - StarTeen Upper Coast Trout winner and Raymond Gonzales of Academy Sports + Outdoors.



Tyler Gully - StarTeen Middle Coast Trout winner and Sarah Cooke of Academy Sports + Outdoors.



Collin Dziuk - StarTeen Lower Coast Trout winner



Freddie Velez, StarTeen Flounder winner and Patrick Franz of Rio Ammunition



David Hill, StarTeen Sheepshead winner and Mark Brown of Whataburger



Colton Carner, StarTeen Gafftop winner and Ardia & Roy Neves of Texas Fish & Game Magazine



For the first time ever in the history of the STAR Tournament, the StarKid \$50,000 Scholarship Division was dominated by little lady anglers, ages 8, 9 and 10 years old... WOW! Now that's what we call girls with "reel" power!



New Tide Member Scholarship Drawing Winner - The lucky winner was Trevor Casey, age 9, of Pearland.



Pamela Schramek of Deer Park was the lucky winner of the Mercury 9.9 ELPT BF Pro Kicker, the 2015 Coors Light Early Bird Drawing



Austin Overstreet - Dorado winner



Terry Sharp of Round Rock was the lucky winner of the Coors Light "Early Bird" Grand Prize - Dargel 210 Skout, Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax motor and McClain Trailer.



Will Meriwether of Dallas was the lucky winner of the Member Bonus Drawing - Explorer by Dargel 210TV with a Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax outboard and McClain trailer.



Wayne Grice - Sheepshead winner



Larry Capps - Gafftop winner



Nathan Crowe - Ling (Cobia) winner



James Pellan - Upper Coast Trout winner, Skip Kramer - Middle Coast Trout winner, Lee Roy Navarro - Lower Coast Trout winner



Krystal Treybig - Kingfish winner



Eric Thomas - Flounder winner

Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division- FIVE lucky winners drove home a fully-loaded 2015 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" truck and Haynie 23 BigFoot, Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax outboard motor and Coastline trailer. View the winners and boats on page 17.



Skip Kramer - Middle Coast Trout winner



Lee Roy Navarro - Lower Coast Trout winner

CURRENTS is a membership benefit of the Coastal Conservation Association-Texas. It is published bi-monthly, alternate months from the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) TIDE Magazine. Address: 6919 Portwest, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77024. Phone: 713-626-4222. FAX: 713-961-3801. www.ccatexas.org

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This is the issue of December 2015 / January 2016
Vol. 34, Issue 1

This fall marked a year since the opening of Cedar Bayou!

To commemorate this huge milestone, CCA Texas put together a video which documents the status and progress of the pass, one year later. The video can be viewed on the CCA website at www.ccatexas.org/project-videos, as well as our YouTube page at www.youtube.com/ccatexasprojects.

— Kim Ogonosky

Great Foods / Editor Ellen Ohmstede Savory Crab and Artichoke Bread Pudding

2 T olive oil / 1 cup chopped yellow onions
3 T chopped garlic / 2 t Cajun seasoning
½ t thyme / 1 t salt / 2 t black pepper
2 15 oz cans quartered artichoke hearts (drained) / 1 lb fresh crabmeat (preferably jumbo lump) / 4 large eggs / 2 cups heavy cream / 2 cups milk
1 T fresh lemon juice / 6 cups cubed (1-inch) day-old French bread (about 1 loaf)
1 pound Brie, rind removed and cut into small 1/2-inch cubes / ½ cup freshly grated Parmesan / ½ cup minced fresh cilantro / 4 T melted butter

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 10x 13-inch baking dish. Saute onions in olive oil and 2 T butter and cook until golden, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic, 1 teaspoon of Cajun seasoning, 1 teaspoon salt, and 1 teaspoon pepper, the thyme and cook, stirring, until the garlic is fragrant. Add the artichokes and cook, stirring, another 2 minutes. Remove from the heat and let cool.

In a large mixing bowl, combine the eggs, cream, milk, lemon juice, cooled melted butter, 1 teaspoon of Cajun seasoning, 1 teaspoon pepper. Whisk to combine.

To the egg mixture add the bread, room temp artichoke mixture, brie, 1/4 cup Parmesan and stir to combine. Gently fold in the lump crabmeat and freshly chopped cilantro. Do not

break up crab meat. Let set for 20 minutes so that all liquid is absorbed.

Pour the bread pudding mixture into the prepared baking dish. Sprinkle remaining 1/4 cup Parmesan over the top. Bake until firm in the center and golden brown, about 1 hour. Serve warm.



Caught Red-handed!



Report from TP&W
Game Wardens

August 2: Willacy County game warden Rocky Corona and warden Roy Martinez were out patrolling the Port Mansfield area for the enforcement of fishing regulations. The wardens noticed several individuals fishing off a private pier north of the Port

Mansfield harbor so they decided to make contact. Upon inspection, the wardens discovered an ice chest containing 17 speckled trout in which 10 were undersize. Two citations were issued for the possession of undersized spotted sea trout and for keeping over the daily bag limit and the resources were seized. Restitution and cases pending.

October 26: An abandoned gill net was picked up approximately five miles north of the Mexican border. It was approximately 9,000 feet of net.

— William Skeen, Major Game Warden Region IV LE



We want you to fish for us!

CCA Texas and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) are looking for volunteers to help with fishing surveys for the East Galveston Bay Reef Restoration project. It's critical to have data before and after. You can be that important Fishing Scientist.

The \$3.7 million project will restore approximately 140 acres of oyster reef in the East Galveston Bay system. Areas targeted for restoration include one location on Hannah's Reef, two locations on Pepper Grove and two locations on Middle Reef.

This effort is an important part of the project. As a Fishing Scientist, your efforts will be critical in understanding the benefits of oyster reef restoration all along the Texas coast. Contact: Bill Rodney (TPWD)

at 281-534-0127 bill.Rodney@tpwd.texas.gov

Or, Bryan Legare (TPWD) Or, John Blaha (CCA Texas) at 713-626-4222, jdblaha@ccatexas.org



Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR TEXAS MARINE HABITAT

—Continued from page 3

Christi. "The area is alive with larvae of many marine animals and the growth and expansion of seagrass beds in the area has been great to see. The immediate and surrounding areas should see the benefit of this pass opening for years to come."

Quentin graduated recently from Texas A&M with his Masters of Science. Quentin's thesis title was "*Determination of Seasonal Abundance, Density, and Distribution of Nekton Species Proximal to Cedar Bayou Pre- and Post-Opening.*"

His research focus was on the effects of reopening a tidal inlet on nekton species. To read his thesis defense abstract, and to view his public defense on line, please visit <http://harteresearchinstitute.org/component/content/article/11-frontpage-news/290-watch-online-hri-master-s-student-quentin-hall>.

CCA Texas graciously thanks Quentin, Dr. Greg Stunz and the rest of the staff at HRI for their support and willingness to provide educational outreach about the ecological effects of the opening

of Cedar Bayou to CCA Texas volunteer chapters across the state.

In closing, Cedar Bayou is a project that the majority of CCA Texas membership, CCA Texas leadership and the general public has endorsed and supported. The project has had ups and downs, but it has been a full year and it continues to flow strongly between Mesquite Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.

As I close in writing this article, it has been a week of what ifs, from hearing it was totally closed only to find it flowing freely and then just a few days later having another big tide push in, with a front to follow, pushing water in and out. I and others have visited the bayou twice in the last five days, and even those five days have seen changes. The area some called closed was three to four feet deep on the second visit, and current was moving

strongly to the Gulf. Some areas had as little as 12" to 18" flowing across sand flats, and some of the main guts had water over eight feet deep, flowing like a swollen river.

Remember, by the time you are reading this article, it will have changed once again. For the worse in some cases and for the better in others. In the end, Mother Nature is in ultimate control and we are all here to try our best to help her along and make right what mankind may have disturbed in prior years.

Thank you to CCA Texas members, the general public and agencies that all supported not only this effort, but all of the other conservation-minded efforts of CCA Texas throughout the year. Merry Christmas and we hope your lines are tight throughout the holiday season.

—John Blaha



Concert for Conservation 2015

As thousands of music fans begin taking their places at the Sam Houston Race Park, **Folk Family Revival** opens the concert with a hammer down, full blast set that has the early crowd on their feet. Other bands in the rip-roaring lineup

include **Atlanta Rhythm Section**, **Eddie Money**, **Grand Funk Railroad** and the evening's headliner, **Lynyrd Skynyrd**.

As dusk begins, CCA Executive Director Robby Byers welcomes CCA members and thousands of

potential new CCA members. The lights are barely on when Grand Funk Railroad storms the stage with a non-stop performance that ups the energy level, and has thousands of fans singing along. The big moment comes as one of the nation's premiere bands appears

to deafening applause. Lynyrd Skynyrd is in prime form, and the crowd roars its approval. It will be difficult to top this one, but I'll be looking forward to 2016. — Sam Caldwell

Photos by Kim Ogonosky and Sam Caldwell. More Concert photos on page 20.





Upper Coast

By Capt. Ralph Frazier

Presentation, presentation, patience

As the days grow shorter and the temperature starts to fall, our thoughts turn toward giant trout swimming in the shallows. The only way we used to be able to catch 'em was to wade. With the new trolling motors and shallow water anchors, we can get close enough to reach them with a long cast. The clearer the water, the longer the cast and importance of being extremely quiet in the boat.

There are a lot of days in the winter when the wind howls out of the north, so when planning any fishing trip you need to take wind direction and speed into account. Also for early December and into January, how much fresh water Trinity Bay has been receiving, as this will dictate if Jack's Pocket will be holding a large number of fish. Jack's Pocket is a crown jewel for good numbers of big trout in the winter. But wherever, finding bait with clamshell and mud conditions nearby can be the key to getting on a number of big fish.

My personal favorite is to wade, and my favorite lures are topwaters. Always MirroLures, Top Dog and She Dogs (there's a slight difference in size and the sound they make), Corky's and a relatively new bait, the soft dine???. Both can be fished extremely slowly, or when conditions dictate, a little faster. Always a favorite in my boat or wading box, the Bass Assassin. I prefer the Sea Shad in the winter, a little smaller than fall. The paddle tail seems to get more reaction strikes. Remember in the winter months to slow the retrieve, and as I've said in the past, try to remember what you were doing with the bait when you got the strike. Presentation can be a key to a big box, but especially in the winter.

This is now wintertime fishing. Of course, you will always know the weather before you go, have emergency gear for all on board, remember the limits and consider turning the big spotted ladies back for further duty.

Hope this helps you put a few more fish on the stringer, and hopefully a wall hanger.

Tight Lines— **Capt. Ralph Frazier** 281-337-0321
Ralph2fish@aol.com

Middle Coast

By Capt. Mike O'Dell

How slowwww can you go?

For all you die hard fishermen, this is your time of year; no traffic at the boat ramps, no getting lines run over, just relaxing, easy fishing. If the water and weather is not too cold, there will be some great top water action for reds and trout.

When it is cooler (water temp under 50 degrees) trout will be found in the dark mud, using plastics. You may not be loading the boat, but the big trout are there, and they'll be caught by those who work for them, fishing slow. The trout bite will be light, so you have to work the bait slowwww. If you are not producing any hits, slow down even more, and try again before changing colors.

Falling tides and cold northers will blow out the water. But on the third or fourth day after a good front, the bite will be fast and furious; they are hungry and will eat. Live mud minnows, live mullet, live shrimp, and fresh dead on light Carolina rig will be deadly for reds and black drum. Fishing along shell for some really nice sheepshead will be good as well. When the winds pick up, you can hide behind islands for protection, and still catch fish. Just remember, don't block the run-outs of the flats. With the low tides, the number of run-outs for boat traffic is limited to shallow water depth.

Any time, gold spoons are a go for reds and silver spoons work well for trout in clear water. Plastic shrimp and crabs work for reds and black drum on Carolina rigs with light popping corks drifted with the currents. Dark colored plastics for muddy waters on just enough jig head to get them to the bottom work well too.

If the wind is down, the outside of Traylor Island and Quarantine are good places for fish this time of year. If you can get a parking pass, South Bay will be holding fish on lower water times. Corpus Christi Bayou is also a good place to look for fish on both falling tides and incoming tides.

Throw out a drift sock, drift the flats at a leisurely pace and enjoy the company of friends as you catch fish. Be sure you have ALL your safety equipment on board. Tight lines, and have a Happy New Year. —**Capt. Mike O'Dell**
361-438-1866 www.afishingfantasy.com

Lower Coast

By Capt. Sally Black

Trophies for the tough, comfort later

Winter-time patterns on Baffin Bay mean just one thing, of course... Trophy Trout season! As temperatures fall, Mother Nature gives notice that the winter is near. All predators, especially the Baffin Bay Big Girls, begin to really pack on the pounds. They are eating to survive the perils of winter.

Trophy Baffin trout also eat as much as possible all winter, in preparation for spawning activity which typically begins when the water temperatures rise into the 70's in the early Spring.

"Trophy trout season" calls all hard core anglers in search of a trophy trout, to begin putting together their cold weather wade gear to "grind it out" for that big fish. Wade fishing seems extreme in colder water temps, but it allows an angler to really slow down the presentation of the lure. Big trout hang around on or near the bottom in warmer areas that attract the "right size" bait, which would be mullet in the 4" to 12" range. Lures choices range from smaller, 4" paddle tails, to larger 5-6" plastic paddle tails and straight tailed plastics, all tossed on very light, 1/32 oz jig heads, worked low and slow. Corky's and Catch 2000's and other suspending baits work well, and never rule out a top water bite when conditions warrant.

Tough going, but hey—this winter the "New" Baffin Bay Rod and Gun will be open with a beautiful lodge and suites to sleep up to 20 guests. The lodge will be first class and the only thing like it on Baffin Bay. Many know we have always served great food and fine accommodations, but the new lodge will take it to the next level. Expect to have really comfortable beds, more great food and camaraderie in a setting that has been created like no other lodge on the Texas Coast.

Now's the time to book that trophy trout trip and enjoy the "new" Baffin Bay Rod and Gun lodge at "The Last Best Place on the Texas Coast!" with Capt. Sally, Capt. Black and our crew, Capt. Marcus and Capt. Josh. All of our calendars are on our website, www.BaffinBayRodandGun.com, and you can book right there. See you soon! —**Capt. Sally Black**
email: sally@captainsally.com Facebook: Baffin Bay Rod and Gun / 361-205-0624

"Now Approaching Cedar Bayou," Al Barnes' classic painting of a pair of whooping cranes as they near the Gulf of Mexico.



Released for further duty. Adam Gilvarry sends another fine Port Mansfield-area redfish out looking for your lure.



CCA Texas Social Happenings

In September we held our 2015 Annual CCA Concert for Conservation, and throughout the fall there were several fun and successful fundraising banquets. Continue to visit our website and Facebook page for real-time updates and information on our events!

In each issue of Currents, CCA Texas will feature a recent Facebook photo, Twitter Tweet, and Instagram photo. Please "Like" our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube to get the latest updates from CCA Texas and become a part of the conversation!

Facebook:

William (6) and Zachary Armstrong (3) recently went on a fishing trip with their dad on Sabine Lake and had great success! William is a proud Rising Tide member. Thank you Tory Armstrong for sharing, and for taking your kids fishing!



Twitter:

@jll24MIwriter: Waiting for Eddie Money to come on stage. @CCA_Texas @CCANational @SHRP Support conservation of our coastlines!



Instagram:

@cca_texas: That's one mighty fine lookin' pizza! Thank you to everyone who came out to the Southwestern Chapter banquet last night. There are still a few more banquets left in 2015, so be sure to grab a ticket to one of our remaining fundraisers! #joincca #conservation



Facebook: [facebook.com/CCATexas](https://www.facebook.com/CCATexas)

Twitter: twitter.com/CCA_Texas

Instagram: [instagram.com/cca_texas](https://www.instagram.com/cca_texas)

YouTube: [youtube.com/ccatexasprojects](https://www.youtube.com/ccatexasprojects)

Chapter Updates

Alvin-Pearland

Emery Sadler 713-501-2778

Monthly General Meetings (Anglers Night Out): 7PM - First Tuesday of the month.

Location: **Spring Creek BBQ**, 9005 Broadway, Pearland Tx.77584

November-February: **NO MEETINGS**

2016 Meeting schedule:

March-1, April-5, May-3, June-7, September-6, October-4

Alvin/Pearland CCA Chapter Banquet June 16, 2016, 6pm. Location: Knights of Columbus Hall, 2320 Hatfield Road, Pearland Tx 77581.

Happy Holidays! We would welcome new board members who would like to get plugged in. Our monthly chapter meetings have a great speaker lineup and we will have a raffle. Bring a friend, a kid and get plugged in!

—Emery Sadler

Aransas Bay

Carter Crigler 435-830-5984

jccrigler@hotmail.com

2015 was another great year for the Aransas Bay Chapter. The completion of the Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough Restoration Project in 2014 has resulted in a most notable increase in fishing/boating activity originating at the Goose Island and St. Charles boat ramps. Access to the surf by the opening of Cedar Bayou has afforded new fishing opportunities for trout, red drum, black drum and flounder, along with promising improvement of the habitat in affected bays and flats.

Activities supported by chapter volunteers during 2015 include: **Babes on the Bay (Sweet Sixteen)**, which was a bit on the wet side, support for the **Abandoned Crab Trap Clean-Up program**, the Aransas Bay **Chapter Banquet XVI**, which enjoyed a sell-out for the second year in a row, the **Billy Sandifer Big Shell Cleanup**, which became a little exciting as a rising surf led to a disappearing beach minimizing the return route of volunteers, a team in the **Interchapter Challenge Tournament**, and support for the **Fulton 4-5 Learning Center in Rockport** to conduct its annual 'Wetlands Field Trips'.

A special thanks goes to all participants/attendees of the **16th Babes on the Bay and Banquet** along with the exceptional support from sponsors, donors and strong volunteer support for community activities which result in both events being success stories. Looking forward to

Chapter Updates have been edited for brevity to allow everyone's voice to be heard. For the full version, go to your chapter's area in the CCA website. Drop by www.ccatexas.org, click on Chapters.

seeing all of you in 2016.

How time flies! It is hard to believe that registration for **Babes on the Bay XVII** will start in just a short time after you receive this issue of Currents. In case you are wondering, **Karol** has put in a "no rain request" to the weather gods for both Friday evening and all day Saturday. Online registration will be used exclusively to sign up for the tournament and to reserve vendor spaces starting in mid-January. The design and selection of some unique goodies for the swag bags for **Babes XVII** is in full swing.

Last year's Babes entrants will receive a letter in December outlining the 2016 event. Please visit the web site (www.babesonthebay.com) in early January, and review the registration process to determine if you have any questions. If you have questions contact **Karol Scardino**, Tournament Director, at 361-386-0028.

Correction to October/November 2015 Currents - Tackle Town was inadvertently omitted from the list of Table Sponsors for our 2015 Banquet. We apologize for this error and truly appreciated their continued support.

Mark your calendars:

13-14 May 2016: Babes on the Bay

13 August 2016: Aransas Bay Chapter Banquet
Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas with family and friends.

Tight lines —Carter

Austin

Scott Sanderson 512-637-1750

scott@mbsquoteline.com

All year long we get calls asking, "What's the boat this year and when can I buy tickets?" Well, this is hot off the press; our **2016 boat has landed in Austin and tickets are on sale now!** **Shallow Sport** did it again (owner **Wes Hudson** is a great friend and partner of CCA) and this year it's their super-hot and popular **21 Mod V!**

Like every year, she's decked out with a **Yeti**, digital gauges, custom aluminum work,

plus a lot more. And yet again, **Coastline Trailers** (owner **Marty Strakos** is also a great friend of CCA) has made sure she'll roll down the road in style, on a **Coastline Custom trailer** with black aluminum, mags and all the Coastline finer touches. This package is HOT! Go to www.ccaaustin.org



A Gulf Coast Nessian, or an Adam Gilvarry GoPro photo?



TEXAS






Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube!

for info about tickets or contact **Blake Masters** at blakeat@gmail.com. But don't wait! We will only sell 700 and they ALWAYS sell out early.

The Austin chapter held our Officer elections for 2016 at our October meeting. Congratulations and thanks are in order for the following folks. These are big jobs for volunteers and taking on one of these roles demonstrates a significant commitment to the CCA cause. **Josh Cook**-President, **Dennis Blaine**-Secretary, **Steven Benton**-Treasurer, **Barron Johnson**-Banquet Chairman, **John Kane**-Asst. Banquet Chairman, **Jason Magdalena**-Asst. Banquet Chairman, **Neal Meinzer**-Sponsorship Chairman, **PJ Todd**-Community Relations Chairwoman, **Dan Appling**-Membership Chairman, **Scott Sander**-Live Auction Chairman, and **Knox Kronenberg**-Junior Board President.

On a personal note, I'm honored to have served in the role of President for the last 4 years. It's been a fulfilling and rewarding experience and I sincerely thank our board, sponsors, donors and members for their unwavering support.

We had great successes along the way and I'm certain the new officers will carry our chapter to even greater heights—starting this year!

If you want to keep up with our fun and active chapter, but aren't getting Austin communications, call the CCA Texas office at 713-626-4222 and ask them to put you on the Austin mailing list.



Use this QR Code to purchase Austin boat tickets.

Be sure and join us for the upcoming **Anglers' Night Out** events, **January 20** and **March 16**, at **Abel's on the Lake**.

Save the Date- May12th, 2016-and join us for Austin's 37th Annual Banquet. Watch www.ccaustin.org for tickets and all the information you need on the absolute best event in Austin. Be sure to Friend us on Facebook by searching Coastal Conservation Association Austin Chapter. It's a great way to keep up with everything going on in our chapter and make sure you don't miss a thing.

Best wishes for the happiest of holidays from the CCA Austin Chapter! — **Scott Sanderson** 512-637-1750 scott@mbsquoteline.com

Bay Area

Curtis Anderson 832-421-6377

Brazoria County

Wes Dingee 979-299-8245

We recently held our October GMM meeting and were joined by **Capt. Randall Groves** at the Sea Center Texas hatchery where he covered the technics he uses when targeting fish, various weather and water conditions, and the type of tackle he uses to address these issues.

It was one of our largest attended GMM events and we appreciate everyone who attended. Thanks again to **Capt. Randall Groves** and if anyone is interested in fishing the Tri Bay area you can reach him at rgroves@cmaaccess.com.

We have set the date for our 2016 Banquet for April 14, 2016 and it will be held at the Dow Academic Center with our Social and Auction



Brush Country Kids Day. Fishing, trophies, lunch and a fish release by TP&W's Robert and his son Justin.

items Preview starting at 6:30 followed by dinner at 7pm. Talk about good. And, **Trent Allen** will be providing a Cajun dinner for the event. All this is sure to make this a great Banquet. Tickets for this event as well as the Gun and Cooler raffle are available for purchase by contacting **Drew Adams** at 713-626-4222, **Wes Dingee** at 979-265-6555 or **Dan Johnson** at 979-265-6555 or 979-481-3907.

Our next GMM meeting will be held in March so keep an eye on your mailbox and CCA Texas Brazoria County Chapter page (www.cca-texas.org) for the date and who the guest speaker will be for this event. We are always looking for new board members to join us and if you are interested you can call me at 979-265-6555 or 979-481-3907. — **Dan Johnson** djohnson@sparklingclear.com

Brazos Valley

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

Brenham

Dennis Crowson 979-451-2472

The Brenham CCA chapter concluded its year with our initial Fall tournament in Matagorda. Tournament winners were: 1st place trout: **Darrell Murski** / 1st place redfish: **Russell Hall** 2nd place stringer: **Ryan Kettler, Bruce Kettler, JT Gaskamp** / 1st place stringer: **Bruce Buenger, Leonard Phillipp, Ricky Carpenter**

Thanks to **Russell Hall, Ryan Kettler, and JT Gaskamp** for putting on a great first tournament. The next meeting of the Brenham CCA will be January 28th. Hope everyone has a great holiday season.

The Brenham CCA is sponsored by **Mike Hopkins Distributing**. For more information contact **Dennis Crowson** at dennis.crowson@hotmail.com or 979-451-2472.

Thanks, — **Dennis** Dennis.crowson@hotmail.com



Brush Country
Hank Henry
361-215-6803

Kid's Day! All went well. We had about 30 kids and their parents. **Jerry and Margaret Smith** cooked lunch for all of us. Thanks to them and the Optimist Club for that, once again. We also had a fish release. My thanks to TP&W, and **Robert** and his son, **Justin!** Here are some photos that show the fish release and the lunch and awards ceremony in the Rec Hall after that. My thanks to all who helped, especially **Brenda** (who put it all together)! — **Blaine**

Centex

Wayne Webb
254-405-1300 sheyhunt@aol.com

Central Houston

Todd Buster Mobile, 713-545-1897

Colorado Valley

Eugene Ulrich 979-249-7425

Greetings from the Colorado Valley! Our chapter officers recently attended the **Lee County Chapter Banquet** in Giddings. It turned out to be a great night for our neighbors to the north. A few of our chapter members also attended the **banquet in Port O' Connor**. They really put on a



THINK RED. SEE BLUE

CCA makes marine conservation a reality. In addition to relentless efforts to educate the public, CCA also partners with organizations like Academy Sports + Outdoors to promote and enhance the present and future availability of coastal resources. Look for exclusive "Think Red. See Blue." conservation campaign gear at your local Academy store. There are approximately 50 CCA-branded products that include CCA shirts, hats, rods, reels, tackle boxes and bags, coolers and much more. A portion of the sales from these products goes to support CCA's important conservation work, including funding habitat restoration efforts.



5⁴⁹ CCA
5-gal. Bucket
Style CCA 5 GL RED



19⁹⁹ Academy®
Rope Handle
5-gal. Bucket
Style P9GLANH

 Academy
Select stores only



17⁹⁹
CCA Floating
Fish Light
Style CCA-104A



34⁹⁹ Fitec Blue Mono
Lead Cast Nets

46⁹⁹ 6' Cast Net
49⁹⁹ 7' Cast Net



59⁹⁹ CCA Deluxe Tackle Bag
• Includes three utility boxes



34⁹⁹ CCA Tackle Bag
• Includes two utility boxes



4⁹⁹ each
CCA Large
Utility Box

2⁹⁹ each
CCA Medium
Utility Box

24⁹⁹

Plano CCA
Double-Layered
Tackle Satchel
Style 115575



Contents not included.



54⁹⁹ each

EXCLUSIVE

CCA Bubba Blade
Breaking Knife
Style BB-CCA8BKBP



CCA Bubba Blade
8" Thin Flex
Fillet Knife
Style BB-CCA-8TF

499⁹⁹

Heritage
Red Fish 10' Sit-On
Fishing Kayak

Style KFHRF1001

- 10" round front storage hatch
- Two vertical rod holders and one swiveling rod holder

HERITAGE

99⁹⁹

Lew's
Speed Spool
LFS
Bailcast Reel

LEW'S



69⁹⁹-79⁹⁹

Shimano
Sedona
Spinning Reel

SHIMANO



99⁹⁹

No-Limits
Redfish
Kayak Paddle
Style FSNOMC4012

NO-LIMITS





Grand Funk Railroad turned it up a notch early in the CCA Concert for Conservation. Get a load of that top hat.

good show in POC.

Our chapter is busy planning another general membership meeting for January as well as starting to prepare for **our banquet which will be held next year again at the Knights of Columbus hall in La Grange on March 31st.** Please be early about reserving your tables because we sold out last year and certainly do not want to leave anyone out. You can **contact me at 979-249-7425 or Trish Kubena at 512-581-2588** for tickets or table requests.

Hope everyone's fall fishing is going well now that the 100 degree days hopefully are over and the water cools off a bit. Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all! —Eugene Ulrich

Corpus Christi
Jay Gardner 361-658-7159
tarponchaser@mail.com

Greetings from the Corpus Christi Chapter! It's been a wild ride this fall so far with the red tide lurking around, but things are clearing and hopefully will continue to do so. The **Guides Cup** went well again this year despite some really tough weather. Thanks **Bruce Laser** for organizing it, and **Joseph and Cody** for helping out.

The Babes on Baffin Ladies fishing tournament was a smashing success again this year. We had over 300 anglers, with 75 new CCA members and the rest renewing. There were 71 live fish that went to the hatchery to be used as either brood stock or in the kidfish ponds, which ties the highest number for fish donated. There are still some visors and shirts that are available

from this year's event. You can contact Tournament director **Lauren** at babesonbaffin@yahoo.com for more details and to order merchandise.

Next year's date will remain the same, which is **Columbus Day weekend** for 2016. Thanks to everyone who sponsored or fished and supported the tournament, it really was a good deal. Great job to **Lauren, Cody, Margaret Ehman, Judy, Valerie, Michelle, Angie, and the rest of the CCA-CC folks** who helped put this event on. The tournament was dedicated to **Hector Mendieta**, and Hector's wife **Nancy Mendieta** was on-hand for the event, and to accept the honors on behalf of Hector. There wasn't a dry eye in the place during the dedication, and it charged the crowd up during the captain's meeting on Friday. I'm already looking forward to next year, and my mom, **Jo Gardner** already called dibs on getting me to captain a team in the skiff.

We are now getting focused on our **2016 Fundraising Banquet which will be held on March 10th at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi.** This year's banquet Chairman, **Cliff Johnstone** is already up and running down the road. Boat Chairman **Joseph Briones** and his compadre **John Fry** already have the boat and the ATV, and are selling tickets. Food and Beverage Chairman **Jake Herring** is getting things secured, as is Silent and Raffle Chair **Judy Arnold.**

Boom! What else can you say, except GO TEAM! Look myself or Cliff Johnstone up if you're interested in renewing your sponsorship, becoming a new sponsor, or wanting to know

how to get involved. We can always use more hands on deck.

We will be having our Christmas party here around the first part of December, and we would like to wish everyone out there a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year! Please take the time to cherish your friends, family, and loved ones, as life is too short to let chances slide to tell people how important they are to you. We've lost some good ones recently, including **Mike Morgan.** His friendship and memory will always be cherished. If you find yourself around here in the Coastal Bend, look us up and say hello. —**Jay Gardner**

Dallas / North Texas
Hal Thomas 972-612-1684

We have been busy with fall festivities including another **Texas Sized Fish Fry at TCU for Mr. Gear** and his many guests. We cooked and served fish, shrimp and many other delights as a tailgate party for the group. One guest commented that he has not had redfish this good since he was a small boy. We were satisfied that we please the crowd.

We also cooked for **Mr. Baker** at his home while many of his colleagues and close friends enjoyed another game night watching the Dallas Cowboys on TV. We cooked and served over 30 people and had a fun and entertaining event. The Fish Fry has been a regular item in our Annual Banquet and our generous donors always put us to work in some of the most interesting locations one can imagine.

We are set for next year on April 21, 2015 at the Frontiers of Flight Museum and we are ready to take reservations for sponsors. If anyone is interested in volunteering or donating as a sponsor, please give any of the committee a call or let **Drew** know in the Houston office. Happy Holidays to all—**Hal Thomas 972-768-3521**



A few of the Corpus Christi CCA attendees at the Concert for Conservation.

East Texas

Dr. Jim Norman 936-554-3165
jnorman7@suddenlink.net

Fort Bend

Robb Gaston 281-239-9755

Hardy har, har, and Feliz Navidad Amigos and fellow anglers, I hope your coolers are as full as mine. Fall weather has been great to Matagorda Bay. The washout from wannabe Hurricane Patricia came and went. When she left, it left fresh water and new fish. I take great pleasure in saying, "Bye Hurricane Season 2015!"

The flounder run has been amazing for me, and I hope it was the same for you. Enough about me, I would like to give a shout out to our very own **Harvey "Skip" Kramer for coming in first place in the CCA STAR Trout Division!**

We have some great things in the works for our 2016 banquet. Stay tuned for more updates, and exciting information about our banquet. Until then keep those lines tauged, and enjoy the cooler weather. It pays off to buy insulated waders for the gulf coast. It is nice when I get to use my insulated waders for 3 months out of the year. Here is to an amazing year of fishing 2016.

—Robb Gaston

Fort Worth

Hunter Baird 817-437-8351

Hello from your FW board. It was that time of year where the board undertakes an event specifically for you, our members. We hosted our semi-annual fish fry at **Rahr Brewery on November 12th** and provided fish that we caught ourselves so that we could say THANK YOU to each one of you for your continued support over the years.

As an additional thank you, we covered the cost of all of your refreshments that evening. Thank you for making some time to join us at the fish fry.

A special thanks to this year's sponsor, **InPro Fabrication**. You can find more information about them at <http://inprofld.com>. Thank you, **Andrew Rico** for your continued support of CCA!

Also put on your calendar that our **Annual Banquet is set for Cinco de Mayo**



Galveston Pres. Ken Ellis presented the Region 4 Game Warden of the Year award to Jennifer Weaver. The Galveston boat featured a spectacular redfish wrap.



this year – for you non-native Texans that is May 5th, 2016 – at world famous and cinco de mayo famous – Joe T Garcias. Our sponsorship packages have stayed level with last year and if you are interested in learning about our different sponsorship/table packages, please email **Hunter Baird (bairdhunter@gmail.com)**, **Todd Mulford (todd_mulford@mhb.com)**, or **John Black (jonathan_black@mml.com)**.

Thank you to those who stepped up and sponsored our koozies (**Spencer Perry at <http://wspco.com> and <http://wsperry.com>**) and tumbler last year (**Robert Humphreys with Lone Star Ag Credit at <https://www.lonestaragcredit.com/locations/fort-worth>**). Here's to cold cerveza, great friends and a good time.— **John Black**

Galveston

Dr. Ken Ellis 713-962-7731

We held a general membership meeting on November 12 at the **Barefoot Brewery**. Our guest speaker was **Joanie Steinhaus** from the Gulf of Mexico Office of the Turtle Island Restoration Network.

She gave a very informative presentation on the initiative of **Turtle Island Restoration Network** to protect the endangered Sea Turtle. Thank you, Ms. Steinhaus for taking the time to speak to our group.

We'd also like to recognize CCA Texas Game Warden of the Year, **Jennifer Weaver**. We were proud to have the opportunity of presenting her with this award at our banquet in August. We surely appreciate the work they all do.

We'd like to wish all of our members a safe, healthy and happy holiday season. Grab your loved ones and share some quality time on the water this holiday season. Tight Lines—**Ken Ellis**

Golden Triangle

Joel Foxworth 409-466-2614

Greater Sugar Land

Richard Lindley

832-270-0398

richardlindley@att.net

Oct. 17 was our President's Cup fishing tournament. 50% of money raised goes to our **Kid Fish fund**. The winner's of this year's President Cup went to **Joel**, Heavy Trout also **Joel**, Heavy Red Fish **Mark Bennett**, and Heavy Flounder to **Gary Holland**. 2nd place Trout to **Robert Copeland**, 2nd place Redfish to **Buford**, 2nd place flounder to **Billy Andrews**.

Side pots were Heavy Trout to **Joel**, trout closest to 2 lb to **Bob Hracovy**, RedFish with most spots to **Buford**, Heavy Flounder to **Joel**.

It was a great weekend and I thank every one who came and helped make it all possible.

We are also working hard on our next banquet which is set for April 7, 2016 so mark your calendars. —**Richard Lindley 832-270-0398**

Greater Woodlands

James Kay 281-363-4417

www.ccatexas.org/

greater-woodlands

Just a quick note today. We have been a little dormant these past couple of months. Many people are busy hunting and getting ready for the holidays. We will get things

back moving in the New Year of 2016. So, to all CCA Members and friends, have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you in 2016. Keep Conserving...To Keep Fishing!!! —**James Kay**

Guadalupe Valley

Jon Eric Rodriguez

361-243-1017

Hays County

Tim Young 512-573-7939

hayscountycca@gmail.com

Heart of the Hills

Jim Simmons 210-380-5709

fishxsurf@AOL.com

Hill Country

Miles Engelke 830-303-1827

WE wrapped up our year on October 20 with our final general meeting for the year. Our speaker was **Michael Krueger**, recently retired from the Wildlife Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department after 27 years of service.

Michael gave a very informative talk on Wildlife Management and Chronic Wasting Disease including slide presentations. The social was good and we gave away attendance prizes. Thanks to **Creative Eyewear and Rust Game Place** for setting up with their merchandise.

With 2015 starting to appear in my rear view mirror, my thoughts are on 2016. We will start the year off with our fourth annual Social at the **Red Barn in Seguin**. The tentative date is Sunday April 3, 2016. Next will be our Spring Tournament, and we will have three General Meetings (dates to be announced) and our

Thanks to my Executive Board, Board of Directors, Vendors and Sponsors for making the Hill Country Chapter one of the most successful chapters within CCA. My wish is that you will move forward with me as we prepare for a successful 2016. Hope to see you on the water or doing something you like. My cell is 210-260-8968, Cast me a call if you would like to get involved. Treasure The Trips—**Miles**

Houston Homebuilders

Mack Davis 832 381-6130

Houston Real Estate

Dale Couch 281-953-2510

Katy

Laredo

Jesse Martinez

jesse@laredo.twcbc.com

956-763-5555

Lee County

Byron Kalbas 979-540-0056

We held our 5th annual banquet on Thursday October 15. A great big Thank You to our wonderful sponsors, buyers and all the folks who came out to support CCA.

With your help and generosity we were able to exceed our goals and have another outstanding fundraising banquet. We are very appreciative of all the folks who came out to support the CCA because it can't be done without you.

Also, a big thank you to our banquet committee who put in the extra time and effort to sell tickets and tables, set up for the banquet and their hard work before and the night of the banquet to help it run smoothly. God's blessings to all. —**Byron Kalbas**

Live Oak

Brad Kotrla 979-732-1669

Lower Colorado

Tim Munos 979 332-2876

What started out as a fantastic steak dinner hosted by the fine folks at Las Palmas Lodge in Matagorda turned into a great day of fishing. Eight of the area's finest guides joined forces to find out who is the best of the best. Numerous bidders at our Lower Colorado CCA banquet went to battle to get the chance to fish in this exclusive event.

At 6:30 am on October 6, the boats set out to find the big ones. Each team needed to produce 5 trout and 3 redfish. The weather was perfect for a day of wade fishing and grinding to find the trophies. This was a lure only event, so you had to really match wits with the fish of prey to convince them to take your offerings.

Waiting on the dock at the harbor were the board members of the Lower Colorado Chapter: James Hobbins, Ronnie Bose, Tim Munos, Melvin Gardner, Don Busha, Bobby Busha, Clint Hewitt, with a Chicken and Sausage and Shrimp gumbo prepared by Clint Hewitt and Ronnie Bose and a Dutch Oven Peach cobbler prepared by James Hobbins.

Capt Jerry West and his crew of Jay Huit, Hank Huit and Anthony Kimmey were the first boat to arrive at about 2:20pm. Their stringer produced a weight of 32.10lbs, a bar that was set too high for the remaining guides and crew. "We had our stringer of fish by 9am and simply fished for upgrades. Everyone in my boat caught fish and contributed to the team efforts. I couldn't have asked for a better group of fisherman to spend the day with," said Capt Jerry West.

The Lower Colorado Chapter of CCA president Tim Munos of Busha Boats presented Capt Jerry West with the Guides Cup and the plaques to the team members Jay, Hank and Anthony. On behalf of the chapter, Thank you to the elite 8 fishing guides who spent the day with their clients to see who would be awarded the cup: Capt. Tommy Countz, Capt. Kenny Hauf Jr., Capt. Kenny Hauf III, Capt. Walt Wendtland, Capt. Don Woods, Capt. Jerry West, Capt. Charley Paradoski, Capt. Tommy Alexander. And once again, congratulations Capt. Jerry West on the first Colorado Classic Guides Cup win. Thank you and have a nice day, — Clint Hewitt

Lower Laguna Madre

Oscar Garcia III 956-491-8148

Mainland

Eric Minor 281-534-6242



Lower Colorado Guide's Cup fishing tournament. Capt. Jerry's team, and Jerry receiving the cup from President Tim Munos.

Matagorda Bays

Chad Hensley 979-543-2734

MidCoast

David Jenkins 361-578-5580

We hosted our annual Speedy Stop Guides Cup Tournament in Port O'Connor, October 8 and 9. The 21 guides and their fishermen were treated to a great meal on Thursday evening and hamburgers after fishing on Friday. There were several nice stringers brought to the weigh in station and all live fish were taken to Palacious by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Captain Kelly Parks and Team Desperados were this year's 1st place winners, 20.9 lbs, 3 trout and 1 redfish. 2nd place was Captain Tommy Ramirez, 20.1 lbs, and Captain Kirk Morgan with 19.6 lbs came in 3rd. Congratulations to you and those that participated.

We would like to thank the following for your continued help and support in making this fishing tournament another success; Cliff Thomas and the Speedy Stop family, Jimmie Burns and the Waterloo family, The Sanctuary at Coasta Grande and Homeowners Association, Hartman Distributing, Del Papa Distributing, Eichorn, Gonzales and Miller Jewelers, and especially the Mid Coast Board Members for all

their hard work to bring this tournament together.

As always, we have a boat for next year's banquet, which is set for May 6, 2016. The boat is a 23' Haynie Cat, Fully Loaded, with a 250 Mercury Sport XS and a Coastline all Aluminum Trailer. Tickets are available at The Tackle Box of Victoria, Victoria All Sports, and with any Board Member. Tickets are \$100 each, and we will only sell 1000 for this boat this year. You will be able to see the boat displayed at Academy, on some weekends, during the coming months. I hope you enjoy the Holidays, God Bless you and your families—David Jenkins 361-578-5580 jenkins12@sbcglobal.net

Northeast Houston

Jason Law 713-898-8594

Northwest Houston

Alan Massey 281-414-6341

At press time, our December General Meeting: Speaker will be Captain Game Warden Fred Ruiz who has worked for TPWD for 13 years as a game warden. He is a veteran and served 7 years in the Army as a paratrooper at Fort Bragg and Vicenza, Italy. We hope you were here, enjoying the event, courtesy of Houston Distributing. Of course there will be our usual Christmas raffle with some great prizes.

Also just a reminder, please remember that we are always happy to accept donations for the annual Kidfish program.

Our sincere thanks to both Houston Distributing and Academy. They are active sponsors of our meetings and many events. We are especially fortunate to have such great support. As a reminder, we are using email for meeting announcements. If we don't have your e-mail address and you would like to receive announcements of future meetings and events please contact our CCA Assistant Director Drew Adams dadams@ccatexas.org. See you at the next meeting. — Alan Massey

Orange County

Scott Bandy 409-988-3667 sabandy@ymail.com

As we enter the holiday season, we wish all a Happy Holiday Season.

The 2015 CCA Star Tournament has ended and we would like to congratulate some lucky anglers that placed on the final leaderboard from the Orange County area. First Place winner in the STARKids Gafftop, Laken Ballanger of Orange. 2nd runner up in same division, Ashton Sumrall also of Orange. 3rd runner up in the STARTeen Gafftop, Macie Murty of Bridge City.

In the INSHORE DIVISION, Gafftop 4th runner up Zachary Butler of Orange. Congratulations to our local winners.

Our chapter meetings are on the 2nd Monday of each Month at Roberts Steakhouse and Restaurant. Contact Info : Scott Bandy-scottbandy77@yahoo.com

Louis Moore- louis_moore@yahoo.com

Davis Dixon - dcdixon149@yahoo.com

Matt Still - mstill@ccatexas.org

— Scott Bandy

Port O'Connor

Bill Moore 361-983-4690

Another great year! The 16th Annual POC CCA Banquet was held on October 17, at the POC Community Center and was a complete sellout before the doors opened. We apologize to those who requested tables and tickets, but due to the size of the facility, it will only accommodate so many.

The banquet was another success, with ev-

MidCoast's 23' Haynie Cat boat for the 2016 banquet.



everyone enjoying the great weather, good food, and good time enjoyed by all in attendance. It could not have been a success without the diligence and dedication of all board members, volunteers, and donors. Special thanks to banquet chairmen **Carl Ray and Jim Busby**, VP's **Mike Sharp and Dain Whitworth**, Treasurer **Ann Brownlee**, Secretary **Jim Busby**, and Sergeant at arms **Sonny Cook**.

Also, our outstanding board members, **Ann Brownlee, Barbara Skalak, Candace Stryker, Carl and Pam Ray, Chris Smisek, Dain and Judy Whitworth, Donnie and Julia Klesel, Fred Carr, Jim Busby, Gayle Wilson, Jimmy and Barbara Crouch, Joyce Wilson, Lefty and Joanne Ward, Mike and Maxine Sharp, Pam Johnson, Patti Elkins, Suzie Onishi and Monique Moran**. Thank you to **Pam Johnson** for doing an outstanding job on the program. To our CCA AD **Ellen Ohmstede**. To **Sam Caldwell** for the beautiful program cover.

Again, our appreciation to a special group who make our banquet a success, **the donors**, who make possible all the items, gifts and trips, you will be notified individually to say "thank you" to all of the table sponsors, who will be listed in the next issue— all who attended and helped make this a successful banquet.

We again want to thank the local businesses who assisted in selling the tables/tickets: **Sonny's Marine, Coastal Bend Marine, Coastal Boat Services, Tigrett Real Estate and Port O'Connor Rod and Gun**. So, come spend some of your holidays with us- visit some of our donors or just kick back- enter your skiff in the **Christmas Boat Parade** in POC, "Where it all began." —Bill Moore

Prairie

Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103

Kind of quiet in The chapter this time of the year, but we are planning our Christmas Party the first part of December at **Randy Goebel's Man Cave** and we will have our annual Chinese Christmas gift exchange.

I would like to wish everybody a safe and Happy Holidays and a special thanks to all at the CCA headquarter staff and a Special thanks to **Coleman Todd** for all the hard work and support on our Banquet and other events throughout the year.

Starting January, we will start be planning our April Banquet Fundraiser. If anyone wants to be a Cap Sponsor let us know. Thanks and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. --Ron Chess 979-525-9254

Redfish Bay

Norman Oates 361-758-0266

The chapter board wishes all members and supporters a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thanks again for all of your support throughout the year.

We hope you are looking forward to the coming year's CCA activities. **Our Annual Redfish Bay Chapter Banquet is scheduled for April**

Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division- These five lucky winners drove home a fully-loaded 2015 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" truck and Haynie 23 BigFoot, Mercury 150 Pro XS OptiMax outboard motor and Coastline trailer.



Scott Hajovsky of Hempstead, 1st Redfish – Truck & Boat winner



Michael Gibbs of Hemphill, 2nd Redfish – Truck & Boat winner



Cuong Nguyen of Katy, 3rd Redfish – Truck & Boat winner



Ryan Cantu of San Antonio, 4th Redfish – Truck & Boat winner



Joe Contreras of Corpus Christi, 5th Redfish – Truck & Boat winner

23, 2016. The **Take a Kid Fishing** event is always the first weekend in June, and the **Beeville Fish Fry** is the Thursday before dove season. Mark your calendars! We all want to have fun while supporting a great conservation organization. See you there! —**Norman C Oates** 361-758-0266 H 361-790-2748 C

Rio Grande Valley

George McCaleb 956-984-8688
gmccaleb@hotmail.com

Sabine-Neches

Darin Johnson 409-790-9855

Greetings from the Sabine Neches Chapter. Hopefully everyone has dried out from our Halloween floods. What a way to start the flounder run, duck and deer season. It's hard to believe the holidays are here already, and what does Sabine Neches get to do, **we are planning for our March Banquet!** That's right, **in five short months we will be cranking it up for our annual Banquet/ Crawfish Boil/Fundraiser!**

It's never too late to drop me a line to get involved with our ever-growing event. Mark your calendar, Thursday March 3 at the Bob Bowers Civic Center in Port Arthur, Texas. Put it on your Christmas list, tickets or tables to this event are a great present! Don't wait until the last minute as we have sold out the event for the past three

years!

Our only other bit of news is that we are still in the works for a **Tri-Chapter Challenge** on Sabine, vs Golden Triangle and Orange County Chapters. We are still trying to work out the time frame for this inaugural event. In the meantime we want to wish everyone Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas! Tight lines to all, and to all a safe journey outdoors! —**Darin M Johnson** 409-502-1010

Sam Houston

Brandon Kolaja
281-797-6908

San Antonio

Jimmy Gibson 210-287-4378

The CCA San Antonio Night Out October 1st was a great evening with our special friends **Sally and Aubrey Black from Baffin Bay Rod and Gun Club.** They spent more than 2 hours giving our group an update on fishing the fall in Baffin Bay. The room was full of interested fishermen with questions on what lures and strategies work in Baffin, and Sally and Aubrey stayed busy answering questions.

December is always a special time of year and I hope this update finds you in the Holiday mode. Your San Antonio Chapter is busy wrapping up the year and looking forward to enjoying the holidays with our families and friends.

January will be here soon and we will be forming committees for our spring activities which will include our **3rd Annual "Hooked on Clays" Sporting Clays shoot at the National Shooting Center in late March**

and our **Annual Over the Top Banquet at the AT&T Center to follow in early May.** Sign up Information on both events will be posted on our Web Page in the near future. We will also have a booth at the San Antonio Boat Show, come by and renew your membership, sign up for one of our committees or just talk fishing. We can always use another fish story. We will be meeting as a group mid-January and want to encourage anyone interested in volunteering their time to get involved. Come join us and have some fun working on our sporting clays event or our banquet committee. Thank you for doing your part as a member. Until the next Currents, travel safely, enjoy the Holidays ad the great outdoors. Contact me for any information: 210-692-2486, or e-mail me at jimmy.gibson@CSTBrands.com Vaya Con Dios Mi Amigos—**Jimmy Gibson**

San Bernard

Jayson Zahradnik 832-535-7738
jayson.zahradnik@alleynrsource.com

San Gabriel

John Melnar
512- 497-8284

San Jacinto
Jim Wilson
713-828-7639

Southwestern
Robert Hart
830-879-5541

TAMU
Ian Kocher Mays Business School
512-632-9222
ikocher12@gmail.com

Texas State University
Welcome to new
president
Alex Limon
817-880-4044
arlimon26@gmail.com

Tomball/Magnolia
Matt Maddox 281-770-7858

Tri-County
Christian Hildebrand 830-534-2730

Trinity Bay
Gerald Payne 281-385-2894

Trinity Valley
John Hebert Jr 936-334-2528

West Houston
Mike Ayers 832-248-9352

October wrapped up a busy month for our chapter as we hosted the 4th Annual CCA Texas/ CastAway Fishing Tournament at Harborwalk. This tournament is a great yearly event and all proceeds benefit CCA Texas to help our fisheries right here at home!

We would like to thank Mac DeLaup & CastAway Fishing Rods, Brad Schweiss & the Houston Gold Exchange, Harborwalk Marina



Lynyrd Skynyrd finished the CCA 2015 Concert For Conservation evening to a standing, singing along and applauding CCA crowd.

and Floyd's on the Water for your support and contributions. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help things run smoothly. While we cannot name everyone, please know all of your help and time is greatly appreciated.

The winners for the heaviest redfish, trout and flounder all also took home a custom Schweiss CastAway watch donated by the Houston Gold Exchange and every angler took home a new rod donated by CastAway Fishing Rods. Fun Fact for this tournament... The redfish with the most spots had 142 spots! You can find pictures of the tournament on our Facebook page.

Lastly, I would personally like to thank longtime West Houston Board Members Gary and Rachel Brown. This tournament would never take place without your time and dedication. Thank you for taking the time to make this a

great event for CCA Texas!!

We now turn our attention to our 30th Annual Banquet scheduled for May 2016. To keep up to date on the latest information for our Chapter, please check our chapter page on the CCA Texas web site or like our Facebook page.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Our Chapter has a lot to be thankful for and we are looking forward to a great 2016! Until next time, spend some time outdoors and stay safe out there! t

—Mike Ayers

West Texas
Craig McDonnold
432-682-3499



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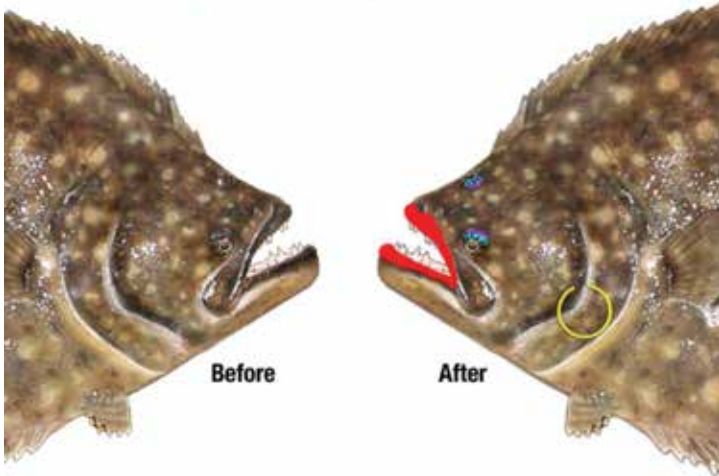
It will take you just a few minutes to order for your truck, car, or boat trailer. To place your order, input in your network browser (Google works best), TxDOT Special Plate Order Application. Follow the next thread to Coastal Conservation Association. These plates would also make great gifts for any fishing enthusiast. So drive in style and help support our Habitat projects at the same time.

If just half of our members drive with our CCA plates, it will generate almost \$800,000 each year to fund future Habitat projects. Now that is driving for a cause.

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December 2015 / January 2016

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Best wishes for many big fishes and a healthy 2016 from the crew at CCA

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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 <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us> To focus on fishing and boating, visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/>



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: <http://www.ogttx.com/>



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- NEW TIDE: \$10 _____ Tide newsletter, decal.

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