CCA-sponsored Nearshore Reefs

UT-Brownsville researchers report culverts deployed in 2011 now harbor large populations of red snapper.

By Richard Kline Ph.D

At the South Padre Island Reef: Only an hour after leaving the docks of Port Mansfield, there are three keeper snapper in the box and she has been broken off twice. Now, her reel is screaming again and her arm is aching...is she stuck on the bottom? No, she is not! She looks into the water. It is golden-red from all the snapper rising from the depths to investigate the squid dropped overboard. The artificial reef is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you’re gonna get.

The federal government will again close the red snapper season after only a few weeks. But, thanks to CCA and the TPWD Artificial Reef Program, Texas anglers can still enjoy fishing and catching the abundant red snapper near-shore.

Hard structure is reef fish habitat; however, the majority of the western Gulf of Mexico is composed of sediment. While our oil platforms rapidly disappear, artificial reefs have become the predominant offshore hard structure in the area. Numerous reefs have been placed by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department over the years, although there is still an ongoing debate regarding their function. Are they primarily fish habitat or do they simply serve as fish aggregation areas?

Saltwater recreational fishing has a two billion dollar impact in Texas alone, and the benefit of additional hard structure is clear: MORE FISH. However, we still need to optimize our artificial reef configurations for maximum benefits to fishermen and the reef fish populations. The deployment costs, construction costs and lifespan of the structures need to be carefully considered.

Eight short miles off the jetties of Port Mansfield lies the South Padre Island reef (PS-1047). It is a reefing block covering 160 acres, composed of a tugboat and 5000 concrete culverts that were placed in 2008 and 2011.

Soon after this 2011 deployment, I applied for a grant from CCA and the TPWD Artificial Reef Program to study the effects of the deployment of this reef on the resulting fish populations and recruitment (arrival of young fish to the site). We recognized early on that the way the culverts were deployed might show differences in fish populations. These differences might shed light on the optimal configuration for future installations of artificial reefs.

The average depth at the South Padre Island reef is 68 feet. The entire region has a persistent layer of suspended particles (called the nepheloid layer) that moves around and can greatly affect visibility in the area. On good days, divers can see fifty feet away; on typical days, visibility is only 10-15 feet; and on very bad days, you cannot see your hand in front of your face. On these bad days, which occur often in winter, it is impossible to adequately monitor the

On the cover: Near Reef Reds, by Sam Caldwell. The artist’s concept of the new pyramid reefs, along with concrete culvert reefing at PS-1047.
reefs using visual surveys. To overcome this obstacle, we are using side-scan sonar to describe the culvert reef. This technology has allowed us to visualize the magnitude of the culvert field. It has also enabled us to identify some very, very large fish.

So, what have we learned so far? Although this study is still ongoing, there are some trends that we can already see.

**Catheline’s study:**
Her fish census data shows that the concrete culverts have a lot of red snapper over them. In other words, the 5,000 culverts that were deployed, thanks to funding from TPWD and CCA, are serving their purpose. Even though this area is heavily fished, there are numerous red snapper on the artificial reef. On the other hand, we have never observed any adult red snapper over bare areas. No statistical differences are seen in the number or the size of red snapper, between our categories of culvert patches—loose and dense. However, the highest numbers that we have ever observed were on dense configurations of culverts, 106 in a single observation!

Grey snapper and grey triggerfish are also abundant on the two patch categories; however, they are seen in slightly higher numbers on the dense reefs.

The results of this study so far suggest that placing concrete structures in loose configuration over a wider area may be adequate and more cost effective for future reef deployments, especially if habitat for red snapper is the goal. We have observed red snapper to be the dominant fish on the reef followed by grey snapper (mangrove), Atlantic spadefish, almaco jacks, and sheepshead. Some other important but more rare fish we find are groupers such as gag, scamp, Warsaw, and once, even a black drum. Divers will delight in the numerous colorful reef fish that we find at the artificial reef including porkfish, spotfin butterflies, rock hinds, orange filefishes, blue angelfish, cocoa damsels, belted sandfish, and cubbyu.

**Rachel’s study:**
Her project with the juvenile fish uses standardized monitoring units for recruitment of fish (SMURFs). Our first idea for using these units was simply to discern the types of fish that were arriving at the reef. But since there were differences in the culvert densities, we decided to compare the effects of the reef structure on the appearance of young fish (recruitment). These SMURFs are set out in the three different reef densities of: bare, loose and dense, and collected with a mesh enclosure. We found that the young fish have an opposite pattern to the adult fish observed in Catheline’s study. Far more juvenile fish arrive at these SMURFs in the bare areas.

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Collage: Porkfish, orange filefish, blue angelfish, cubbyu, cocoa damselfish, and rock hind can all be seen scuba diving on the culvert reef. Photos, Seth Patterson and Gwyn Carmean

Left: Grey snapper and grey triggerfish congregating over an upright culvert. Note the hazy nepheloid layer below. Photo, Catheline Froehlich

Below: Red snapper and grey triggerfish are two of the most prominent members around the concrete culverts at PS-1047. Photo, Seth Patterson
STAR entrant. The STAR tournament entry fee is still an awesome bargain at only $20 for ages 18 and up! Membership fee is $25 annually, plus $20 STAR Tournament for a total of $45. In order to win at STAR, an angler must be registered and be a current member of CCA. You know you’ll go as much as we do it now! Remember, everyone entered in the STAR Tournament, who will be 6 years old in 2014 and older, is eligible to win the prizes being offered (even the TAGGED REDFISH DIVISION)! Get everyone signed up for the 2014 STAR…right now!

YOUNG ANGLERS FISH FOR FREE! For young anglers ages 6–17, a $10 “New Tide” membership fee is required annually, but their STAR entry fee still remains FREE! Parents, we want all kids on the water! CCA “New Tide” members will continue to have the opportunity to win giant sponsorships to fund their college educations for just the price of a $10 CCA “New Tide” Membership. We thank our generous sponsors for making it possible for us to offer young anglers this great opportunity. Keep in mind, signing up as a “New Tide” membership DOES NOT automatically register member in STAR. “New Tide” Members MUST be at least 6 years of age in 2014 to be eligible to fish STAR and under age 18 to enter for FREE. It is the “New Tide” Member’s responsibility to register each year for STAR.

Don’t miss “the boat” or “the truck and boat”, or the truck or boat or Polaris… register today! You can sign up NOW online at http://www.startournament.org!!!

BERKLEY GULP CHALLENGE RETURNS! Icons in competitive angling, Berkley Gulp! and Abu Garcia Revo Reels are teaming up to provide STAR anglers more chances to win! If you’re looking for a winning edge this year, be sure and take the 2014 Berkley Gulp/Abu Garcia Revo Reels Challenge “Use Gulp, Abu Garcia and Win! To qualify for the Berkley Gulp/Abu Garcia Revo Reel Challenge Prize Package, STAR anglers must catch a winning fish using a Berkley Gulp bait OR Abu Garcia Revo reel, abide by all rules of the CCA Texas STAR Tournament and be on the FINAL leaderboard after the close of the 2014 CCA Texas STAR Tournament on Sept. 1st, 2014. The prize package will include a Limited Edition All Star Team Series Rod, Abu Garcia Revo S Baitcast Reel, Berkley Trilene XL fishing line, Gulp Alive Baits, Berkley tackle bag. This fine collection is bound to enhance your skills even further. Berkley Gulp, Gulp Alive baits and Abu Garcia Revo Reels are available at Academy Sports + Outdoors, another proud partner of CCA Texas STAR tournament. You can see the display there. We thank Berkley and Abu Garcia for their continued partnership with us in the spirit of CCA’s mission. We all want to put something back into the water for everyone.

MORE EXCITING NEWS! To help with just the right baits, Academy Sports + Outdoors generously provided all current CCA Texas members with a $10 coupon. Be sure and get to your nearest Academy Sports & Outdoors before this special offer expires!

And, of course, don’t forget to take advantage of all the other special Member incentives available to CCA Texas STAR participants. Please see below for more details.

CCA TEXAS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS - Our most generous sponsor offerings still continue to add more value to your CCA Texas Membership. Be sure and remember to take advantage of the following wonderful benefits your CCA membership affords you!

- Ford X-Plan Pricing (see details below)
- $10 gift card courtesy of Academy Sports and Outdoors (see details below)
- Texas Fish & Game Magazine subscription (see details below)
- $1,000 worth of free upgrades with your purchase of a new Tilson home (see ad on page 23)

FORD X-PLAN PRICING - CCA Texas members have been remarkably honored by the Texas Ford Dealers. They approved X-Plan pricing for us; that is, every current member can buy (or lease) any Ford product at the same price Ford employees must pay. This means we can save up to $1,000 or much more, just by having a valid $25 CCA membership card!!! Our Ford Partner Code # is CCA 61; go to http://www.fordpartner.com/, if you are considering a purchase. And please share your gratitude with the dealers for helping to make this great offer possible for CCA Texas members.

SIGN-UP EARLY AND RECEIVE A SPECIAL BONUS FROM ACADEMY SPORTS & OUTDOORS - One more great reason to sign up! Academy Sports + Outdoors mailed out a $10 gift coupon in May just in time for fishing season! Be sure use this special offer before it expires 6/30/14. Special thanks to Academy Sports + Outdoors for continuing to make your CCA membership and STAR entry such an awesome value!

TEXAS FISH & GAME “BONUS” SUBSCRIPTION!!! Texas Fish & Game will again honor this year’s STAR entrants with a ONE-YEAR (12 issues) subscription to Texas Fish & Game Magazine. Please be advised your subscription WILL NOT be sent automatically. If you wish to take advantage of this special bonus you must declare on your application form. If you have already signed up for the 2014 STAR, but did not declare that you would like this special offer and/or have questions regarding your past or current subscription, please call (713) 626-4222 or email star@ccatexas.org.

2014 PRIZE LINE-UP - This year’s contests have a chance at winning over 100 prizes including trucks, UV, boats, motors, trailers and college scholarships in the following categories:

Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division – Texas Ford Dealers continue to make this division the “Best in Texas”! They will again give each of the first five registered STAR participants who caught tagged redfish a brand new truck to get
to their fishing destination in a tough, dependable and stylish ride. The first five registered anglers to weigh-in a tagged red will receive a 2014 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" truck. Haynie Boats returns with the awesome Haynie 23 Bigfoot rigged with a Mercury 150 L Pro XS motor and Coastline Trailer completing this amazing package. The next five weighed in will receive the same boat, motor and trailer packages.

For young anglers not of legal driving age and who reel in the famous tagged red, he or she will receive the boat package plus a college scholarship, in lieu of the truck.

**Special note: check out the new TV commercial documenting the work of CCA Texas. Thank you, Texas Ford Dealers for your support of our mission! Really over the top.**

**TROUT DIVISION** - With winners in the upper, middle and lower coast regions, each winning angler will take home the Shoalwater 22' Legend with a Mercury 150 L Pro XS motor and McClain trailer. SPECIAL NOTE: If you’re unsure a trout is large enough to qualify, consider this "easy rule-of-thumb" - if length is less than 27 inches, chances are it won’t meet the eight pound minimum weight requirement for the Trout Division. Unless you intend to mount your fish as a personal best, why not think about re-leasing anything that might not make the cut so she can re-seed the bay.

**OFFSHORE DIVISION** - Blue water anglers who land the heaviest kingfish, dorado and ling (cobia) will each win an awesome Polaris Ranger® Crew 570 EPS UVs in Polaris Pursuit Camo each with a Big Tex 35sa Trailer! See page 6 for a photo of the Polaris Ranger.

**INSHORE DIVISION** - Each winner that reels in the largest flounder, gafftop and sheepshead will be handsomely rewarded with Blue Wave’s 180 V Bay boat, a Mercury 115 L OptiMax motor and McClain trailer.

In the past nineteen years, $4,810,000 in college scholarships has been awarded to fisher-kids across the state. And 2014 continues to offer plenty of reason for everyone to round up their kid(s), a rod and reel and head for the water.

**CAPITAL FARM CREDIT STARKID FLOUNDER DIVISION** - This division gives entrants age 6-10 a chance to win a $50,000 college scholarship for the largest flounder caught throughout the summer. SPECIAL NOTE: Look for the upcoming mailer from Capital Farm Credit- proud partner of the STAR Tournament!

**FS SOUTHWEST STARKID GAFTOP DIVISION** – This division gives entrants age 6-10 a chance to win a $50,000 college scholarship for the largest gafftop caught throughout the summer.

**HOUSTON COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS STARKID SHEEPSHEAD DIVISION** – This division gives entrants age 6-10 a chance to win a $50,000 college scholarship for the largest sheepshead caught throughout the summer.

**ACADEMY SPORTS & OUTDOORS STARTEENS TROUT DIVISION** - This youth scholarship division is open to all New Tide members ages 11-17 and awards a $20,000 college scholarship for each fisher-teen with the largest trout in the upper, middle and lower coasts. SPECIAL NOTE: The minimum weight requirement for the trout is six pounds. For all fish weighing less than six pounds, if no intentions of mounting young angler’s prize catch, please take a quick picture and immediately release back into the water.

**TIME WARNER CABLE STARTEENS INSHORE DIVISION** - This youth scholarship division is open to all New Tide members ages 11-17 and awards a $20,000 college scholarship for each fisher-teen with the largest flounder, gafftop and sheepshead statewide.

**2014 BERCLEY GULP/ABU GARCIA REVO REEL CHALLENGE “USE GULP AND WIN”** - To qualify for prize package, STAR anglers must catch a winning fish using a Berkley Gulp bait or Abu Garcia Revo reel, abide by all rules of the CCA Texas STAR Tournament and be on the FINAL leaderboard after the close of the 2014 CCA Texas STAR Tournament on Sept. 1, 2014. Prize package includes a Limited Edition All Star Team Series Rod, Abu Garcia Revo S Baitcast Reel, Berkley Trilene XL fishing line, Gulp Alive Bait and Berkley tackle bag.

**RUNNER-UP PRIZES** - The first through fourth runners-up in all divisions will receive various gift certificates from Academy Sports & Outdoors. Special thanks to our friends, Raymond and Matt.

“**NEW TIDE**” MEMBER DRAWING - The “New Tide” Scholarship Drawing will be offered again in 2014. “NewTide”/STAR participants at least, 6 - 17 years old in 2014, are eligible for a bonus drawing that will net one lucky youth a $20,000 college scholarship even if the participant never wets a line or enters a single fish during the entire tournament.

**MEMBER BONUS DRAWING** - This unique drawing offers STAR entrants a chance to win a fabulous boat prize package even if the participant never wets a line. One lucky contestant’s name will be drawn to win a model with a Dargel 210TV boat, Mercury150 Pro XS OptiMax outboard and McClain trailer.

Please don’t forget to thank our wonderful sponsors for their loyal support... return the favor by remembering them when making your purchasing decisions. They make this wonderful family event possible. Major sponsors for the 25th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament include:

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STAR has reached $4,810,000 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.
Visit the CCA Texas Online Store and check out our newest product!

16 oz Silicone Pint Glass

*Perfect for a day on the boat!*

- BPA Free!
- The world’s first silicone pint glass
- 16 oz. pint glass is unbreakable!
- Made of 100% food grade silicone, FDA approved and non-toxic
- Dish wash it, nuke it, freeze it, bake in it, bounce it and even run over it with your car.
- No more broken glass or throw away cups.

Visit the CCA Texas Online Store at joincca.store.com

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Concert for Conservation 2014

As some 6,000 music fans begin taking their places at the Sam Houston Race Park, Wade Bowen opens the concert with a hammer down, full blast set that has the early crowd on their feet. It is by far the largest assemblage ever to attend a CCA event.

As dusk begins, CCA Executive Director Robby Byers welcomes CCA members and thousands of potential new CCA members. The lights are barely on when 38 Special storms the stage with a non-stop performance that ups the energy level, and has thousands of 38 Special fans singing along. The big moment comes as one of the nation’s premiere singer/musician/songwriters appears to deafening applause.

Hank Williams Jr. is in prime form, with powerful lyrics, superb guitar and fiddle solos that sees a broken fiddle bow, followed by the fiddle itself, launched offstage. The crowd roars approval. It will be difficult to top this one, but I’ll be looking forward to 2015. —Sam Caldwell

See page 10 for additional Concert for Conservation photos by Sam Caldwell.
Welcome to the CCA Texas Online Auction

Sponsored By Costa Del Mar

We have some great merchandise up for grabs this month!

Available online 11 am, June 16, ends June 23 at 11 am.

To bid and win, go to ccatexas.org and click on the link (left hand side) online auction.

Good luck! —Erich Schneider

Metal Texas Wall Art — This is a one of a kind piece for CCA Texas. It is a cut out of Texas with our iconic logo branded right into the metal.

Join CCA Metal Redfish Sign - This a custom made piece for CCA that depicts our iconic Join CCA Redfish logo on a metal tacker that would be a perfect addition to any home.

This just in from the Outdoor Writers Association of America—art from Currents newsletters takes top awards in national contest.

First Place, Illustration/Graphic Contest, General/Overall Category, “Big Surf, Big Sky, Big Fish On,” cover of the February/March 2013 Currents.

Second Place, Illustration/Graphic Contest, General/Overall Category, “Deep Red Structure” cover of the June/July 2013 Currents. Both were paintings by Sam Caldwell.

Texas BBQ Shrimp

COURTESY OF GOODE COMPANY BBQ

Yield: 1 serving

Ingredients
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons fresh minced garlic
½ tablespoon fresh ground black pepper / ½ tablespoon sweet paprika
6 fresh wild-caught Texas Gulf shrimp, head/shell on, U-12 size / Pinch fine sea salt
½ tablespoon fresh rosemary, chopped
4 dashes Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce (don’t substitute another brand)
8 dashes Cholula Hot Sauce / 1 lemon, juiced (about 2 tablespoons) / Splash of light beer of your choice (or whatever is on hand)
2 tablespoons unsalted butter

French bread

Directions
Heat a 10-12 inch skillet over medium heat. Add the olive oil, garlic, pepper and paprika. Cook for about 1 minute.

Add the shrimp, sea salt and rosemary. Cook for approximately 30 seconds on each side.

Add the Worcestershire sauce, hot sauce, lemon juice and beer. Bring to a simmer and reduce slightly. Swirl in the butter and lower heat to allow the shrimp to absorb the flavors. Serve in shallow dishes with plenty of crusty French bread to sop up the juices.

Note: Seek out fresh-caught local shrimp. Bait shops are an overlooked source of seafood. Nothing beats live shrimp, regardless of whether you buy them or catch them in a cast net. Head-on shrimp break down very quickly and must be kept on ice and cooked as soon as possible. For those who prefer peeled and deveined shrimp, give this dish a try and you’ll discover the richer shrimp flavor from the shells and the heads...just like crawfish.
than at the loose and dense culvert configurations.

Furthermore, very small red snappers are consistently found in these barren areas of the reef. We have even seen very small Warsaw groupers arrive in our comparison to the Texas Clipper, a single structure reef located further offshore, the reef near Port Mansfield with its thousands of culverts, spread configuration and large surface area has the benefit of minimizing overfishing while maintaining a year-round state-water fishery.

If you get a chance to fish at this easily accessible reef off Port Mansfield, we highly recommend it.

CCA Texas staff has taken the next step to show its membership and the general public exactly what HTFT is doing. You can now visit www.ccatexas.org and click on the Conservation tab. There you will see the “Project Videos” link where you will be able to view all the great work of HTFT.

Now on YouTube— along with Kim Ogonosky’s new video footage of Cedar Bayou:

Pre-construction flyover footage on our website: http://www.ccatexas.org/conservation/habitat/project-videos/

Press release with a couple of photos on our website: http://www.ccatexas.org/partners-dig-deep-to-open-cedar-bayou/

Facebook album with several photos: https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.618247538231086.1073741862.496466737075834&type=3

Cedar Bayou now underway!

Steady work has finally seemed to take hold and the dredge is working in the northern end of the bayou. Excavators and bulldozers are working as well up on the beach at Vinson’s Slough.

The path of both Cedar Bayou and Vinson’s Slough has been cleared and are currently “roads” for the workers

Rick Kline is an Assistant professor of Biology at the University of Texas at Brownsville. He is a fanatic diver and avid fisherman. Please stay tuned as UT-Brownsville becomes part of UT-Rio Grande Valley in 2015. Photo, Jonathan Lê
This past oyster season was particularly challenging for Game Wardens in my Victoria District. Most of our oyster fishermen are very hard-working and follow the rules to make an honest living delivering quality product to the consumer. However, this past season, the industry had a big shortage of live oysters which drove the market to record high prices, and local reefs were depleted early. Many oyster boats from the upper coast have been coming to our local bays since Hurricane Ike covered many of the oyster reefs in Trinity and Galveston Bays with silt. Undoubtedly, the drought has finally taken its toll on our local reefs, as fresh water is needed to grow oysters.

Our biggest challenge in past oyster seasons has been fishermen harvesting and returning to dock with undersize cargo. An oyster must be 3 inches to be legal and boats are allowed up to 15 percent of undersize oysters between ¾ and 3 inches. Wardens use a gauge with measurements of 2 7/8 plus and 1 inch, to give the fisherman the benefit of the doubt.

Checking oyster boats for undersize cargo is one of the dirtiest and most labor intensive jobs for a Game Warden. Wardens are required to cull, measure, and count 5 percent of the cargo to make a determination for undersized. Culling, measuring, and counting as many as 1000 oysters on a boat takes some time even for the most experienced Wardens. If a vessel’s oyster cargo exceeds a certain percentage of undersize oysters, the captain is written a citation to contact the local Justice of the Peace and make a plea to the charge of “Undersize Cargo.” The captain and crew are also required to return all the oysters on board the vessel back to the reef.

This past season, some of our restricted areas in the bay were holding good numbers of legal size oysters. Wardens started working at night to make sure that fishermen were not taking oysters from restricted areas. Violations in restricted areas is of particular concern to wardens since it involves the public’s health.

Wardens working oyster boats during the day are tired. But a Game Warden may go home after a long day, of culling, counting and measuring, only to be called out to patrol the bay looking for boats oystering illegally.

On the night of November 19, 2013, Calhoun County Game Wardens Robert Dominguez and Ben Bailey patrolled through the night near a restricted area at the head of San Antonio Bay. Approximately 5 am (with the use of night vision donated by CCA) wardens located and watched an oyster boat dredging in the restricted area. The night vision gives wardens the advantage in the cover of darkness, unless fog rolls in. After wardens made more observations to ensure oysters were being harvested, they contacted and notified the individuals that they were under arrest for “Dredging At Night” and “Oystering In Restricted Area.” Wardens use GPS units (donated by CCA) to mark coordinates of the arrested vessel oystering for court purposes. The wardens escorted the captain and crew of the vessel to the Seadrift City Harbor where their oyster vessel was secured. Subjects were transported to the Calhoun County Jail for processing. Subjects have pled guilty to the court and sentenced. —Rex Mayes, Captain Game Warden

Photos by Lisa Laskowski

A new Currents section: Report from TP&W

Caught Redhanded!

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Upper Coast
By Capt. Robert Sloan

There will be wind

Next up, from Sabine Lake all the way to San Antonio Bay, two of the finest fish-catching months of the year. As a bonus for CCA members, I’ll include most of August.

There will be wind, deep into June. For the Sabine-Galveston complex, on those southern-breeze days, I’ll fish the protected shorelines of East Galveston Bay. For Sabine Lake windy days, go to the Louisiana shorelines. But, most of the time in the Upper Coast, you’ll enjoy great weather and good fishing almost anywhere. On Sabine Lake, fish around Johnson Bayou and Willow Bayou. Drift with red Bass Assassins attached to ¼ oz. Bomber Shad jigheads.

Wherever, on clearwater days, I like to wadefish at daybreak with topwaters—Super Spooks and the Badonk-adonks. At full light, go to the soft plastics. My favorites have become the Yum Houdini shads, chartreuse pepper or camo-white.

The Jetties, Galveston or Port O’Connor—believe it or not, I’ll chunk lipless crank baits like the Bomber Super Pogie. Of course, heavy gold and silver spoons will attract strikes until you get cut off by Spanish mackerel. Rig accordingly, or lose all your spoons. Bob Kalmbach uses one of those strange-looking anchors with the flexible prongs to anchor on the rocks, and usually gets the anchor back.

Of course, on those super days with light southeast breezes and high tides, you must go to the surf. Wade out from the beach, but not too close to San Luis Pass or Pass Cavallo, equipped with a flotation vest, common sense, gold spoons, Bass Assassins and wire. Or drift-fish just outside the third bar for big surf run specks.

Wherever, be sure to respect the other fisherfolks and remember that courtesy is catchable. Just outside the third bar for big surf run specks.

Middle Coast
By Capt. Gordon Taylor

Anything with chartreuse in it

The long and cold spring is over, and summer time patterns will be happening with warmer temperatures, and more anglers at the local boat ramps. One of the best practices every boater should follow is to make sure your boat, as well as your fellow anglers, is totally prepared before launching at the dock.

June and July can be some of the most productive months to fish, with a variety of options from using your favorite artificial lures to using the wide range of live baits that are now available. Start early using your favorite lures while either drifting or wading the islands in Redfish Bay. Look for baitfish activity up tight against the islands and cast a small Super Spook Jr. Or, throw a 1/8 oz. leadhead with your favorite soft plastic. Some of the best colors are the 4” sea shad morning glory, new penny, and anything with chartreuse in it by Salt Water Assassin Lures. Wade the shorelines of Traylor Island and Mud Island early in the morning before the sun starts heating up the bays, and work your way to deeper water. Remember, the fish are trying to stay comfortable in the summer like we are.

For the bait fishermen, the outside of Traylor Island, Dagger Island, Mud Island, and Allyn’s Bight will be producing nice limits of trout using free lined croaker. Or, use live shrimp under popping corks drifting the bays. When winds lay down, head to the wells in Corpus Christi Bay and free line croaker, mullet, or shrimp with a small split shot just above a 5/0 wide gap hook.

Summer is here, so take care of the angler’s in your boat. Take time to apply sunscreen, and stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water. The most successful trip out is not measured by the amount of fish you catch, but by how many of your anglers arrive back safely at the dock.

—Capt. Gordon Taylor / 1-361-319-0099 / jtaylor39@cableone.net

Lower Coast
By Capt. Aubrey Black

Hand me that topwater and watch this

Capt. Sally and I expect June and July to be as good as 2013’s two months. That time frame saw our best big-trout period ever. Excellent reds will be in the mix, as well as good black drum. The health of black drum has definitely recovered, after two years of recuperation in good water.

We’ll be fishing a lot on the south shore of Baffin Bay, and the sandy side up shallow on Padre Island. Early, in the day, start with topwaters. I like the Super Spook Jrs. And the Skitterwalks. Come to think of it, Currents Editor Sam Caldwell took a personal best speck on a Skitterwalk that almost pulled him out of my boat. Silver top, red belly. Later in the day, or if the topwaters aren’t working, go to 4-inch Seashad paddle tails. Be sure and rig with very light jig heads. Makes all the difference in the world when you’re fishing shallow in grass.

And, that’s just June. July will be fairly close to the same, with the difference of fishing in deeper water, particularly around the rocks on the north side of Baffin. Brown tide is still here and there, but it doesn’t seem to bother the fish when you find them in the off-color water. I often fish the brown patches and do well, maybe because there are fish there, and no fishermen.

Speaking of fishermen (and fisherladies) be sure and share the the resource with the other folks on the water. Be considerate and safe, with an eye for the weather before you go and while you’re out there.

Won’t be long before we’ll be looking at autumn fishing and eyeing arriving ducks. Best wishes from me, Capt. Sally and six retrievers.

—Capt. Aubrey Black / 361-557-0090 / Drop by the website for up-to-the minute information: www.baffinbayroandgun.com

Hank Williams Jr. with a healthy fiddle and bow; after a long, fine riff, a great fiddle throw. Photo, Sam Caldwell
CCA Texas Social Happenings

Be sure to check out the newest addition to our videos, “Texas Gulf Coast Breakwater Projects at J.D. Murphree and Sargent-Matagorda” on our Project Videos page (www.ccatexas.org/conservation/habitat/project-videos/).

Now that Restore Cedar Bayou is in full swing, we will be updating the Project Videos page regularly with more footage on its ongoing progress. Additionally, be sure to check our Facebook page for weekly photos and updates on Cedar Bayou.

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

Facebook
Joe Lawson from the Austin Chapter sent us this photo of Justin Lawson and his first keeper Trout. Way to go Justin!

Twitter
On the JD Murphree Shoreline Breakwater project. @DUSouthernNews: Great video of #Texas #coastal #conservation https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xARUVplfHaE @CCA_Texas @DucksUnlimited @TexasDU @TPWD

Instagram
Cedar Bayou Dredging
Preparing the dredge for operations at Cedar Bayou. Thank you to all of our members, sponsors, partners, and Aransas Bay County for making this project a reality!

CCA Texas on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CCA Texas

CCA Texas on Instagram: www.instagram.com/ccatexas

CCA Texas on Twitter: www.twitter.com/CCA_Texas

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

Chapter Updates

Alvin-Pearland
Emery Sadler 713-501-2778

Our Kid Fish was held May 17. We had another successful year with many new faces joining us at Umphrey Pier for a fun morning of fishing. Thank you to our sponsors for your generous support, you made a great day for the young anglers: Daley’s Hunt & Fish, Classic of Southeast Texas, Beaumont Pepsi, Matt Peavey for donating the Lil Debbie’s, Anecele’s; to the Sabine Neches Board members, Orange County CCA, SALT club and to our chapter members who volunteered their time.

I would like to say Thank You to everyone for all of your support over the years, but this will be my last post as I would like to welcome our new President, David Rocknic. David and his wife Teresa have been board members for the chapter and now will be leading the charge for our upcoming events. We wish you the best David! Until next time, tight lines to all! See you on the water! — Darin M Johnson

Aransas Bay
Carter Crigler 435-830-5984 jccrigler@hotmail.com

Great news from Aransas County! Work on the Cedar Bayou/Winson Slough Restoration Project has begun. As of May 1, the dredge was being readied for operation with related equipment on barges staged in Mesquite Bay ready to move through existing channel for off-loading. Following the whooping crane calendar, the project is scheduled to be completed by the time of their return in the fall.

Babes on the Bay XV, that’s right, the fifteenth Babes, is now history and the Aransas Bay Chapter would like to express our thanks to all of the entrants for their participation. A big thank you goes to all the vendors, volunteer TP&W Game Wardens who conducted the weigh-in and the dedicated chapter volunteers for their support. A special thanks goes to Karol Scardino, tournament director, for her continued dedication and commitment to making Babes on the Bay the world’s best all-woman fishing tournament.

A donation of $5000 on behalf of CCA Babes On The Bay, Aransas Bay Chapter, will be made to “Go For Fish, Not Drugs”, a kids fish event sponsored by TP&W Game Wardens. It is hoped that all of you had a great time and that you will join us again next year.

Our 15th Annual Banquet is scheduled for 9 August at the Paws and Taws Convention Center in Fulton, Texas. Come join us for a fun filled evening consisting of a live auction, including trips, sculptures, art, etc.; raffle; door prizes; and silent auction. Tickets will be available at Rockport Tackle Town and Ace Hardware Rockport and include dinner, open bar, and a CCA Membership. For any questions concerning advanced ticket reservations, sponsor opportunities, donations or any other matter contact Michelle Green, Banquet Chairperson, at jeepgirl.green@gmail.com. Tight lines. — Carter

Austin
Scott Sanderson 512-637-1750 scott@mbsquoteline.com

The 35th Anniversary Austin banquet is in the books and May 8, 2014 will go down in history as another record night for CCA Austin. Some 1750 CCA supporters joined us for a fantastic night of great food and fun. The support of, and enthusiasm for, our banquet is incredible. There's no other event that compares. And for that we owe sincere thanks to all of our sponsors, donors and members that make our banquet so successful.

A lot of people won a lot of great prizes. George Majewski is the proud owner of a new Shallow Sport via the 2014 Austin boat raffle. Jennifer Goodrum drove off as the winner of the 2014 Custom Surf/Hunting 4WD. William Boaz bought the lucky raffle ticket to take home the John Deere Gator. All told lucky winners walked off with nearly $200,000 in prizes!

Next up on the calendar for Austin is Anglers’ Night Out at Abel’s on the Lake July 16th. Like the banquet, ANO continues to grow and 200 or so gather with us at these for fun, festivities and a free meal compliments of Smokey Denmark’s. We always have a great guest speaker. Remember, admission is free and you don’t have to be a member to come so BRING A FRIEND AND ASK THEM TO JOIN CCA. We have great raffles with all kinds of great prizes and that’s where George bought his winning Shallow Sport ticket. So there’s another great reason to come.

Be sure to “Like” Coastal Conservation Association Austin Chapter on Facebook to keep up with everything our awesome chapter has going on.

We have a lot of fun on the Austin board putting together all the amazing events for you throughout the year. If you would like to jump on board and help, just send me a note and we will welcome you. Now it’s time to go fishing! — Scott Sanderson

Bay Area
Curtis Anderson 832-421-6377
Brazoria County
Wes Dingee 979-299-8245

~11~
reel in the BIG ONE

Selection and prices vary by store.

**139.99**
EVEENDAY
Abu Garcia C3-5500 CCA Baitcast Reel
Style: C3-5500 CCA
• Gear ratio: 5.3:1
• Four bearings

**59.99**
EVEENDAY
CCA Tackle Bag
• Includes 3 utility boxes

**34.99**
EVEENDAY
CCA Tackle Bag
• Includes 2 utility boxes

**19.99**
EVEENDAY
CCA Scale and Pliers Tool Kit
Style: CCA8K1

**54.99**
EVEENDAY
CCA 5-gal. Bucket
Style: CCA 5 GL RED
• Use to hold bait and more
• Made in the U.S.A.
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.

Prices good June 1-July 31, 2014.

39.99
EVERYDAY
Zebco CCA Spinning Combo
Style CCA40722M, NS3
• Aluminum spool and 11-in. handle
• 230 yds./10 lbs.
• Two-piece design
• Five bearings
• Use with mono or braid

39.99
EVERYDAY
Zebco CCA Inshore 6-ft., 6-in. Spincast Combo
Style CCA733C, NS3
• 11-in. EVA handle
• Two-piece design
• 90 yds./20 lbs.

12.99
EVERYDAY
Men’s CCA Short-Sleeve Graphic Tees
EXCLUSIVE

shop academy.com | stay connected
Brazos Valley
John Ben Strother 979-220-1738
jbsunlimited@yahoo.com
This is the greatest time of the year because our banquet is over, STAR is starting, and the Conservation Concert is coming up May 17. We are making trips to the Rockport area to “practice fish” for the Inter-Chapter Challenge on June 14th. Hope to see all the chapters participate because we always have a good time and tell a lot of fish stories.

We are looking for some new faces to join us on our trips. Our meetings are on the second Tuesday every month and are at the Brazos Valley Pavilion at 6pm. As always, there is food, beverages, and plenty of fish stories. If we have enough people attend we even have a drawing for a rod! Give me a call, text, or e-mail if you need more information. Hope to see you there. —John Ben

Brenham
Dennis Crowson
979-451-2472
Denniscrowson@hotmail.com
On April 24th, we held our 20th annual banquet. It was the largest and most successful one yet with over 4,000 pounds of crawfish and fixings served. Thanks to all the sponsors, especially Mike Hopkins Distributing, Ammotogo.com, Academy, and Germania Insurance. Also, a big thanks goes out to all the board members for their help in putting on this spectacular event. Greg Schomburg and Rodney Forester admire the golf cart, donated by ammotogo.com, that was raffled off at the event. —Dennis

Brush Country
Henk Henry 361-215-6803
Brad Hensel 254-776-3411
Central Houston
Todd Buster
Mobil, 713-545-1897
The 38th Annual Central Houston Chapter banquet took place on May 1, 2014. Even with high expectations going into the banquet, it was a great success; table sales, raffle ticket sales, and the silent and live auction all increased across the board. I would like to thank all of the Board members that worked hard over the past year to make this a successful event. And an extra special thanks to everyone who purchased a table at this year’s event and to our sponsors: Academy Sports & Outdoors, Silver Eagle Distributing, Goode Co. Catering, Fishing Tackle Unlimited, Mowdy Boats, Lagoon Trailers, Simms Fishing Products, and Waterloo Rods. If you are interested in becoming involved in the Central Houston Chapter or purchasing raffle tickets, please contact me at tbuster@busterandgoodebuilders.com. Tight Lines! —Todd Buster

Colorado Valley
James Loehr 979-250-3958
WOW, WHAT A KEEPER! The Colorado Valley Chapter would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all those who attended our banquet and/or helped out in any way to make it such a huge success. Thanks so much to all our donors, sponsors, cap sponsors, auction item contributors, auction winners, and also the KC bunch for preparing such a terrific steak and shrimp meal. We certainly hope all the people going on their fishing trips and hunts enjoy the experiences as well as all the other winners of the raffles. We were very fortunate to have such a great number of new Bull Red tables this year. If you did not get the opportunity to attend this year, please get your requests in early next year as it looks promising to have another wonderful event.

We would like to commend our committee personnel and their spouses for putting out the tremendous effort and commitment it took which made the banquet such a great success. Also, we would like to say a big thanks to Ellen and the CCA staff for their expertise. We also would like to extend another special thanks to Saunders Distributing and Brown Distributing for their continuous support.

Our chapter is discussing having a “Fun Fishing Day” in either Port O’Connor or Seadrift sometime this year. If anyone is interested or has any comments/suggestions, just give us a call. We are also planning another general membership meeting in September so be looking for the notice.

Hope all had a great Easter holiday and wishing bent rods and tight lines to all. Hope you volunteered for the Warrior’s Weekend in Port O’Connor on May 17, 2014. Maybe you took a hero fishing. For information go to warriorsweekend.org. —James Loehr 979-250-3958 / Eugene Ulrich 979-249-7425

Corspus Christi
Randy Poelma 361-851-1129
r_poelmacpa@sbcglobal.net
It has been a tremendous honor to serve as this chapter’s president the past two years. These banquets have been sold out a week before banquet date and this year’s 2,100 tickets sold was a milestone. We will continue to refine and expand our reach in the quest for “the fish”. The 2015 Banquet is already set and work has begun for the new leadership to carry forward into the 2014 – 2016 term.

Please mark your calendars now for the three upcoming “on the water” events (listed below) for the CCA Corpus Christi Chapter: Upcoming events: Poco Rojo Kids Fishing Tournament – September 6, 2014 / Contact Mike Henry, 361-816-0300 or Randy Poelma, 361-658-3613. The Kids Fish will be held at the CCA/CPL Marine Development Center in Corpus Christi. E-Blasts are forthcoming for early registration for this event. Guides Cup - October 2-3, 2014 / Contact Bruce Laser, Chairman, 361-548-2035. Captain’s dinner, Thursday evening (Doc’s Restaurant) at 6:00 pm. Babes on Baffin and Blue Ladies Fishing Tournament – October 18, 2014. We are looking forward to our Babes on Baffin and Blue Ladies Fishing Tournament, which takes place October 18th at Blue’s Lighthouse at Port O’Connor. Friday night’s check-in and social will start at 6 pm. The Tournament features a live weigh in / donation bonus with the live fish going to the CCA/CPL.

Dallas/Central Texas
Robert DiCicco 214-799-2369
Just a few weeks ago the Dallas Chapter faithful turned out for another great evening. With tasty food from TJ’s, the Frontiers of Flight Museum as the backdrop and an incredible funny special guest, Lefty Kreh, whom we honored as Sportsman of the Year, the night was a great time for all.

Julio Morales and I are looking ahead to another great year with local chapter meetings including insightful speakers and topics, assembling a team to compete in the next ICC tournament, and expanding the banquet to reach our greater audience here in North Texas.

Thanks to Robert and the wonderful team of past presidents of our Dallas Chapter, and for the endless hours of service from all of the volunteers that care about the fish and the habitat. Tight lines, —Hal Thomas / 2015 Dallas Chapter President

East Texas
Dr. Jim Norman 936-554-3165
jnorman7@suddenlink.net
Ahoy Mates, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Robb Gaston, and I am Fort Bend’s new chapter president. I am super excited to take the reins of this awesome group of guys.

Now onto business. Our Fort Bend committee members have just wrapped up our 28th annual banquet, and what a great banquet it was. We had around 350 in attendance this year and would like to thank each and every one for your generous contributions and support. This year’s Grand Prize was a 18.5” JH Performance Outlaw w/115 HP Yamaha from Sport Marine in Richmond, Texas, with a Coastline Aluminum trailer. I’d like to thank JH Performance Boats and Sport Marine in Richmond for all they did for us on this year’s boat, what a great group to business with. I’d also like to thank AMJ Designs in Rosenberg for the awesome boat wrap they did for us this year. I would also like to give a special thanks to Steve Onstad and The Swinging Door in Richmond for allowing us to hold our monthly meeting there all these years.

Our new chapter officers take seats after our banquet each year and I’d like to welcome them: Vice President – Donnie Powers; Secretary – Clint Shepard; Treasurer – Matt Meyers. This is a great group of guys with some great
new ideas for chapter. I’m looking forward to sitting on the other side of the table for a while.

Special thanks to last year’s officers: Chapter President – Clint Shepard; Vice President – Garren “Puggs” Schmidt; Treasurer – Jim Black.


Fort Worth

Fearn Mastin 817-291-1302

We hosted the 18th annual banquet at the usual hotspot, Joe T. Garcia’s in the historic stockyards in Fort Worth. We are proud to announce record attendance as your board worked tirelessly into the night to make the event one for the record books for each of our guests.

Ken Crank was spectacular on the mic throughout the entire night and we thank him for his continued commitment to helping us have a such a successful event. There were numerous new items in the live auction that kept everyone engaged and focused on the fish. Brute Outdoors came through with a couple of coolers to add to our give away and Rough Creek was kind enough to donate an overnight stay and fishing for two at their award winning lodge.

Joe White Tank Company led the charge as our lead sponsor bringing behind them a long list of other sponsors – we thank each and every one of you for your contributions. Without you this event wouldn’t be possible.

With the increase in interest in kayak fishing we want to give a special thanks to Backwoods and Hobie Kayak for their contribution of the Hobie Mirage Outback Kayak. One of our lucky guests is now able to enjoy the adventure of kayak fishing as the proud new owner of this incredible kayak.

From South Carolina to South Padre fishing and Alaska to Africa, we covered the globe during a night of camaraderie and fellowship. Keep your eyes open for updates on our next event at Rahr Brewery. Until next time, happy fishing.

~John Black

Galveston

Dr.Ken Ellis 713-962-7731

Greetings from the Galveston Chapter. Like many of the other chapters this time of year, we are in full swing planning our 22nd Annual banquet and fundraiser. Our event will be held at the Galveston Island Convention Center on Saturday August 2nd. This is a new location for us this year.

We have a fantastic boat package for 2014. Tickets are on sale now for our 21’ Tunnel V Explorer by Dargel with a Yamaha 4 Stroke F 150 and a McClain Trailer.

and a McClain Trailer. Tickets are $100 each and we are only selling 400 so get yours while they last. Our Live Auction is going to feature some fantastic trips to places near and far! We will be putting together another 10 gun raffle too! You won’t want to miss this one.

We will have group of raffle tickets with the newest fishing and hunting gear as well as cool things for the ladies. This year, our chapter will have the honor of presenting the CCA Game Warden Officer of the Year Award for 2014. We plan on having several exhibitors this year, so if you want in on the action contact us ASAP.

We will be planning our General Membership meeting to be held on Thursday June 19th at M & M Bar and Grill in Galveston. Our guest speaker will be the guys from the Shimano Pro Staff. We’ll be sending out an email with more details.

Congratulations to all those other chapters who are wrapping up successful banquets. Be sure and make plans to come see us on the Island, Saturday, August 2. Tight lines, ~Dr. Ken Ellis

Golden Triangle

Josh Kaczynski 409-554-1325

Greater Sugar Land

Weems Turner 713-857-8897

Our 2014 banquet was April 3 at the Stafford Center and it was a great success. This was a new venue and it worked out very well. Many thanks to Steve Meyer and Chris Hall for co-chairing the banquet, Judy Kveton for all the activities she successfully accomplished and Jeff Flasik for the program and the advertising it contained. Bob Bailey and Buford Jurica were very active in selling raffle tickets. Thanks to our board members for their active participation in making the banquet successful. A special thanks to Richard Lindley for performing my duties in my extended absence.

The Greater Sugar Land Chapter is very active in conducting Kid’s Fish events in our area. We provide rods, reels, line, hooks, corks and bait for the kids. Most events start at 8:00 am and end at noon. Our first event was April 26 at New Territory in Sugar Land and we had over 100 kids that fished and caught and released bass, perch, catfish and turtles. We want to thank our three new board members, Brandon Cherry, Ryan Kemp and Matt Mahon, who assisted with this event.

Our next event will have been May 17th at Sugar Land Memorial Park at 15300 South University Blvd in Sugar Land. We anticipate having 300 kids fishing this event. Next will be June 7th at 1700 Glenn Lakes in Missouri City followed on June 21st by a joint effort with the Elks 151 at 1700 Glenn Lakes in Missouri City for veterans. Big thanks to Barbara Lindley for chairing our Kid’s Fish events. We request our chapter member’s assistance in conducting these events. If you are able to assist us, please contact me.

We will not meet in June or July. We will meet the 1st Wednesday of each month from August 2014 through May of 2015 at Spring Creek BBQ, 4895 Hwy 6, Missouri City, TX 77459 at 7:00 pm. —Weems Turner wtturner@ducommun.com

Greater Woodlands

James Kay 281-363-4417

Put it on your calendar, The CCA Texas Greater Woodlands Chapter Banquet will be July 17th, 2014 Thursday Evening at The Grand Palace in Spring, Texas. Please visit our web page or contact one of our Board Members for details. This will be our 7th Annual Banquet and Fundraiser and should be our best ever.

We would like to welcome one of our new sponsors that has recently moved into the Spring / Woodlands area. NAUTIC Group www.nauticgroup.com has opened a new store and will have a few boats on display at our banquet. They represent over a dozen manufacturers from small bay/lake boats to mega yachts.

Come out to our Banquet to meet Kevin, John & Nathan.

We would also like to recognize two other sponsors that have stepped up to the plate and increased their sponsorship levels. Dyna-Therm Corporation www.dyna-therm.com is our Platinum Pre-Sale Raffle Sponsor. This will be a (20) item raffle, with (20) winners. Purchase multiple tickets to increase your chances of winning. Thank you Scottie for all that you have done for our chapter. PRAXAIR (Praxair Distribution, Inc. (PDI) www.praxair.com has stepped up to a Silver sponsor this year. In visiting with Steve, he said it just make sense to give back to the community and support and organization like CCA. Thank you Steve.

You will want to mark this future date down. August 19, Tuscon fishing; we will have Chester Moore Jr. come speak to our chapter. Chester loves to share his knowledge and is passionate about fishing and the great outdoors. It will be a great night to bring the family out and get the youth involved. Location to be determined.

At the Fishing and Fishing Stories, well I am going to need to table that till next article. As I write this we are in a winter pattern (sort of…). The low tomorrow will be 46 degrees on May 1st. Till next time, Keep Conserving…to Keep Fishing!

—James Kay

Guadalupe Valley

Jon Eric Rodriguez 361-243-1017

Hays County

Tim Young 512-573-7939

gypsyoutcast@gmail.com

We are already hard at work on our next banquet scheduled for July 23, 2014. The banquet will be held at the San Marcos Activity Center. Our 2013 banquet was a smashing success and we are expecting the 2014 banquet to be even better. —Tim Young

Heart of the Hills

Randy Plummer 830-377-0737

Hill Country

Darlene Cook 800-594-2056 ext 217

We had our 2nd Annual CCA Social and Fish Fry Sunday, April 28th at the Red Barn in Seguin. One hundred and seventy people attended. There were children’s games, a Silent Auction for a Lab puppy and other items, plus a raffle for a large Yeti. There were a lot of great door prizes for adults and youth. A special thanks to Quinn and Dawn Koehler for another successful Social, and to Miles Engelke and Royce Harborth and friends for cooking the amazing fish.

Our next General Meeting was May 20th at the Elk’s Lodge in New Braunfels at 7pm. Jay Watkins was the guest Speaker. A trip with Jay

~15~
was raffled. The Hill Country Chapter fishing tournament is June 7th in Rockport. Weigh in is at Cove Harbor North and the reception is at Drifter’s. I hope you registered for the tournament at the May 20th meeting.

The Hill Country Banquet is August 21st at the New Braunfels Civic and Convention Center. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Todd Thetford at 830-660-8825. If you have a condo, fishing or hunting trip you would like to donate please call me. We are happy to accept a cash donation, too! Keep casting for the big one! — Darlene Cook / 830-214-3067 Darlene@knbtf.fm

Houston Real Estate

Dale Couch 281-953-2510

We held our annual networking event in February. Great turnout — great outcome. We want to thank Al Brende for his donation of a week at his condo in fabulous Aspen. Also want to thank Mack Davis for his tireless efforts to recruit donations as well as offering several donations personally. — Dale Couch

Katy

Clint Hilton 713-515-3991

The Katy Chapter has been “chunking and winding”, getting plans laid for our annual banquet! We are hosting our event at Agave Road again, June 19. We are bringing the bayou back! Our meal is gonna have the premium crawfish or catfish, and all the fixin’s that everyone raved about. We also decided to run the GIANT gun raffle again - 15 winners, $20/tkt or 6/$100. Our banquet has grown every year, and we expect this one to be bigger than last. We started selling tickets and tables a few weeks ago and are on track to surpass last year. We’ve also had some big league sponsors step up: FireDisk Grills (www.firediskgrills.com) is going to provide chef prepared appetizers for the banquet, LED Shop of Texas (www.ledshopoftexas.com) jumped in with some ‘bright’ donations, Red River BBQ is providing koozies again, Wet Sounds (www.wetsounds.com) tuned us up with a great stereo system that Mobile Innovations (www.mobileinnovationstx.com) will install, MacQuarie Energy made a sizable underwriting donation, and the list continues to grow.

As you all know, CCA doesn’t exist without donations, and businesses can’t donate without customers. As you buy quality items, please keep these LOCAL businesses in mind.

In March we hosted Texas State Game Wars fourth annual “Pachanga De La Pesca” fundraising banquet on Thursday May 22, 2014. The upcoming banquet will be held at the Laredo Civic Center again this year with the doors opening at 6:00. Jerry’s Cajun Country Cookers will be providing the crawfish. The event will include a live auction, $5 raffle prizes and a 10 gun raffle. Individual tickets and reserved tables of 10 are currently being sold. If you haven’t already reserved your seat for this great event, please contact jmartinez@bushlan.com or any of the Laredo CCA board members. Sincerely. — Jesse Martinez

Laredo

Jesse Martinez jmartinez@bushlan.com 956-763-5555

We will be holding our annual “Pachanga De La Pesca” fundraising banquet on Thursday May 22, 2014. The upcoming banquet will be held at the Laredo Civic Center again this year with the doors opening at 6:00. Jerry’s Cajun Country Cookers will be providing the crawfish. The event will include a live auction, $5 raffle prizes and a 10 gun raffle. Individual tickets and reserved tables of 10 are currently being sold. If you haven’t already reserved your seat for this great event, please contact jmartinez@bushlan.com or any of the Laredo CCA board members. Sincerely. — Jesse Martinez

Lee County

Jason Seale 979-412-0270

jason@basslerenergyservices.com

JMark your calendars for our 4th annual Lee County CCA chapter banquet on Thursday, October 16 at the Sons of Herman hall in Giddings, TX. — Jason Seale

Live Oak

Brad Kotrla 979-732-1669

Lower Colorado 20 foot SVT Tran Cat boat, powered with a 4 stroke 175 hp Suzuki outboard.

Lower Colorado

Tim Munos 979-332-2876

By the time you read this article, our Fourth Annual KidFish Tournament, scheduled for May 17th, will have come and gone. At the time of this writing, several businesses in Bay City have stepped forward and made contributions to help cover costs of this event. Those businesses are: Dependable Machine Inc., First State Bank, Wells Fargo Bank, IBC Bank, Capital Farm Credit, Tim’s Auto Body Repair, Matagorda County Cattlemen’s Assn., OXEA Chemical Corp., Celanese Chemical Corp., Walmart, Bell Realty Co., Lyle Printing Co., Taylor Bros. Funeral Home, and HEB Food Stores. Also, Serve Outdoors Inc., and the Matagorda County Birding and Nature Center. A huge “Thank You” to all these businesses. Without you, our CCA Kidfish events would not be possible.

Our 6th Annual Lower Colorado Chapter Fundraiser Banquet is set for August 15th, 6 pm, at the Bay City Civic Center. We are excited to present our new 20 foot SVT Tran Cat boat, powered with a 4 stroke 175 hp Suzuki outboard, on an aluminum Coastline trailer. It’s a great looking boat and we have four sponsors for thank you for putting it together. They are Transport Boats of Palacios, Busha Boat Works of Bay City, Suzuki, and Coastline Trailers.

For the price of a banquet ticket, you get a CCA membership, a delicious meal, drinks, entertainment, and a world class auction, all this for the price of a tank of gas. There will be special raffles, bucket raffles, and the famous Crab Caper for those who like to throw the “bones”. It takes a lot of effort from a lot of people to make this event a success. If you can help with banquet ticket sales, boat raffle ticket sales, contacting Underwriters, or just need information, so contact our Banquet Chairman, Stephen Zapalac (979 244-6633) or Tim Munos at Busha Boat Works (979 245-3369), Ronnie Bose (979 429-0457), or John Kubecka (979 245-9571) in Bay City. Put a reminder in your calendar for August 15th and make plans to be there.

Our chapter meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6 pm. Call Tim or myself for location and/or information. We would be glad to have you come. — John Kubecka, Secretary, 979 245-9571 or jkubecka@yahoo.com.

Lower Laguna Madre

Welcome new president, Oscar Garcia III 956-491-8148

Welcome to these new officers and board members: President- Oscar Garcia III / Vice-President- Javi Suarez / Treasurer- Travis Flanagan / Secretary- Wes Hudson

Executive board members: Remberto Arteaga / Victor (Sammy) Mock / Michael Kreider / Clayton Mock / Stanford Knowles / Brian Heinsberger / Valerie Cervantes

Our 5th Annual Banquet will be held this year on Thursday August 14, 2014. Platinum tables $1,500 Red bull tables $1,000 Individual tickets $85. For more information please contact: Oscar Garcia III at 956-223-9489 or 956-491-8148 or, Javi Suarez at 956-530-7978 Thank you for Supporting CCA TEXAS! — Valerie A. Cervantes / Social Media Coordinator For CCA LLM

Mainland

Eric Minor

281-534-6242

Matagorda Bay’s fully rigged 23ft HDX Dargel KAT w/ 200HP Yamaha motor, McClain Tandem Aluminum Trailer.

Matagorda Bays

Linc Lutruck 979-541-9901

with boat photo:

Sponsored by Solid Liberty Services, Polasek Construction, and Dargel Boats.

The 29th Annual Matagorda Bays CCA Banquet will be held on Thursday June 26th at the El Campo Civic Center This year’s boat raffle will feature a fully rigged 23ft HDX Dargel KAT w/ 200HP Yamaha motor, McClain Tandem Aluminum Trailer. The live auction will feature a Customized Golf Cart from B&D Carts, Argentina Dove Hunt, Stainless BBQ Pit from Multi Fab Metals, and much more!

Don’t forget about the Matagorda Bay Guides Cup to be held at Harbor Bait & Tackle
in September, this event is made possible by the support of our local guides and sponsors, Duckett, Bouligny & Collins LLP, Harbor Bait & Tackle, and El Campo Sheet Metal. Be sure and get your tickets early, the banquet has sold out the past four years. You may contact Wesley Sennell at 979-277-2973 for banquet and boat ticket information.

The 9th Annual Matagorda Bays CCA Lil’ Salties Fishing Blowout was held on May 10th at the Matagorda Harbor. This was a FREE TOUR-NAMENT FOR KIDS between the ages of 3 and 14. This event has averaged over 230 kids for the past 8 years and is possible because of the generous donations of our sponsors. Thank you to our Lil Salties corporate sponsors, E. A. Collins & Sons, Backup Utility Contractors, Mustang CAT, Multi Fab Metals, O’Day Drilling, Polasek Contraction, Dalton Crane & Trucking, Prasek Hilljoe Smokehouse, Schmidt Implement, Hydro Tex, Texas Tackle Factory, Full Auto Firearms, and Cedar Creek Woodshop. Thank you again to all of the sponsors who make this event a huge success. See the next Currents Publication for more details on this event. —Linc Lutruck

MidCoast
David Jenkins 361-578-5580 jenkins12@sbcglobal.net

As this Currents reads for press, the Midcoast Chapter has completed our Banquet on May 9th. Again, we will have a sold out house, all tables are gone and the donations are doing great. The only problem is that it will be two more months for me to give you some kind of report on the success of our event. I am proud that we have a SCB Stingray that will be given away and want to thank Eric Simmons for putting together such a beautiful boat. Also want to thank Jimmie Burns and the Waterloo Rod Co. USA for providing us with several rods. The Tackle Box here in Victoria did a banner job selling boat tickets this year, almost half of the tickets were sold through their store. Darrell Hester and the Victoria AllSports Store again this year provided several guns. Thank you for your support. I will have a much better report on my next Currents newsletter, and be able to report the boat winner to all who bought tickets. Thanks to supporting CCA and the Midcoast Chapter. —David Jenkins

Northeast Houston
Jason Law 713-898-8594

Northwest Houston
Alan Massey 281-414-6341

Our Chapter’s Annual Member Appreciation Fish Fry was a great success. Captain Jim Hamp ton gave an excellent speech and lots of tips for fishing in Galveston Bay. We also raffled off a trip with him for three people.

We held our 2014 Annual Kid Fish at Sylvan Beach Pier in La Porte, Texas. The kids caught a lot of fish and all received trophies and prizes. They were also treated to a free snow cone courtesy of Linda’s Sylvan Beach Bait & Tackle who are also our sponsor for this annual event. We also want to thank Harris County Precinct 2, the City of La Porte for their continued support. I want to thank all of our volunteers who showed up to make this event a great success. I also want to thank all of our board members who donate to our kid fish. Without you we couldn’t make this happen.

Our next General Meeting will be on June 3rd, 2014 starting at 7:00 PM in the Stein Room at Houston Distributing, 7100 High Life Dr. off Cutten Rd & Hwy 249. Our guest speaker is Dustin Koreba, a veteran of the Texas Kayak fishing scene and Director of the Texas Kayak tournament series. We will be raffling off a kayak fishing trip for 2 people.

We are always looking for directors so if you are interested in giving us a hand we will meet the 1st Tuesday of an ODD month.

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 of future events please send your email address to CCA or Loretta.vazquez@att.net – Loretta Vasquez 281-723-9693

Orange County
Scott Bandy 409-988-3667 sabandy@gmail.com

We are in full banquet mode as summer starts. Mark your calendars for August 21 at 6pm, at The Orange County Expo Center. Ribeys will be served by Mike Lemoine and his Crew from Spanky’s. Table sales have started as well as a Sportsmans Raffle. If you want information on a table sales or raffle tickets contact a Banquet Committee member or Matt Still in the CCA office. (Scottbandy72@yahoo.com or louis.moore@yahoo.com) The chapter meets the second Sunday of each month at Roberts Meat Market and Steakhouse at 6pm.

Tight Lines! —Scott Bandy

Port O’Connor
Bill Moore 361-983-4690

We will be scheduling a meeting in the near future for preparation of the 15th Annual POCC CCA banquet, so be sure to pencil in the banquet date, Saturday October 18th. We would love to have you join us for what promises to be a great event. We will also be holding a general membership meeting/appreciation dinner in early July. We are working on those details now. We’ll be sending out an email to the chapter members with more information.

So, as the weather warms and the north wind calms, come see us, or if you want to get involved with the chapter and/or banquet- contact us in POC. “Where it all began.” —Bill Moore

Prairie
Sharon Goebel 979-877-4103

WHAT A NIGHT on April 3rd! We had our 17th annual banquet at Cat Spring Hall. We had a sell-out event! The meal for the evening was prime rib and shrimp served by Mikeska’s BBQ. The evening started with our cap and card game. If you purchased a ticket you got a cap with a playing card attached. If your card was drawn from a separate deck of cards, you won that gun. We had nine guns that were donated by IOS Store in Bellville, Texas. Thanks to Adam Noviskie, Jason Beaman and Wesley Goebel for selling the tickets for the guns.

We also had a silent auction. Throughout the night the girls were selling five dollar raffle tickets. Thanks to Amy, Erin, Jennifer, Audra, Stacey, Lori, Cassie, and Katy for selling the tickets this year. A big thanks to Wittenburg Printing for doing their service and providing the program. On June 14th CCA will have the InterChapter challenge fishing tournament at Aransas Pass. Prairie Chapter will have a team with James Henderson as our captain.

We would like to thank all corporate tablet sponsors, cap donors, and sponsors for making this possible! And thank all the board members for their hard work and to the new members who stepped up to help!

We are in the planning stages for our annual kids fishing tournament that will hopefully be held this summer. Place and date will be announced soon. Thanks and have a great year! See you next year! —Ron Chess, Sr. 979-992-3295

Redfish Bay
Norman Oates 361-758-0266

We set a new record on April 26 with over 315 meals served! In 2013, we set a record with 23 corporate tables; this year we had 30! Thanks to everyone who made this possible. Our board brought in more donations and sponsors than ever before, and our attendees said it was a great banquet and a lot of fun.

As always, our banquet is a family affair with lots of raffle, silent auction, and live auction items for every taste and gender. Thanks again for our CCA staff, board members and attendees for making this a great event.

Our Take a Kid Fishing event is scheduled for June 6 and 7. The sign up and shrimp boil with start at 6 PM on the sixth, and fishing will be on Saturday until noon. Weigh-in will start around 11 AM on Saturday, June 7. Bring the kids; this is for future fisherpersons, and it is a good time for all. —Norman O Cates / 361-758-0266 H 361-790-2748

Rio Grande Valley
Phil Teinert 956-367-4267 pteinert@texasbass.com

Sabine-Neches
Darin Johnson 409-790-9855

Our Kid Fish was held May 17. We had another successful year with many new faces joining us at Umphrey Pier for a fun morning of fishing. Thank you to our sponsors for your generous support, you made a great day for the young anglers: Daley’s Hunt & Fish, Classic of Southeast Texas, Beaumont Pepsi, Matt Peavey for donating the Lil Debbie’s, Ancleit’s; to the Sabine ~17~
Neches Board members, Orange County CCA, SALT club and to our chapter members who volunteered their time.

I would like to say Thank You to everyone for all of your support over the years, but this will be my last post as I would like to welcome our new President, David Rocknic. David and his wife Teresa have been board members for the chapter and now will be leading the charge for our upcoming events. We wish you the best David! Until next time, tight lines to all! See you on the water! — Darin M Johnson

Sam Houston
Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908

Hope everyone is having a great year. Plans are underway for our upcoming fall banquet, set tuned as the date is finalized. If anyone is interested in getting involved, we would love to have you! Give us a call. Meanwhile, get out there and enjoy the warm weather. — Brandon Kolaja

San Antonio
Jimmy Gibson 210-287-4378

Our 35th Annual San Antonio Banquet held May 1 has come and gone and I want to thank our membership for their generous support and contribution to the continued growth and success of our chapter. We had 1800 enthusiastic CCA members in attendance which broke our all-time attendance record, but most important, broke our all-time fundraising record by 10%.

We could not have accomplished any of this without your support, our banquet committee contributions and our generous sponsors. I want to personally thank Dr. Mike Sarosdy and Robert Mendosa, our Banquet Co-Chairs, and the 60 volunteers who worked for months putting this banquet together. A production like our banquet cannot be produced without committed volunteers and generous sponsors. Our volunteers and sponsor group are the best of the best. They have a can-do attitude that is unequaled, from IBC Bank, to Silver Eagle! Budweiser our boat sponsor, Coors Light for their generous supporter of the Harley, Lone Star Beer for their supporting the Hunting Buggy, XX sponsoring the raffles, the RV donation by Crossroads RV, Rockport Rattler for their endless contributions to CCA from trips to hunting trucks and the list goes on. It is a pleasure to work with such a distinguished group and it is a pleasure to report to you that we had a tremendous banquet.

While the banquet is always our biggest event of the year, I also want to thank our membership and Silver Eagle Distributing Co., your local Anheuser Busch/Corona distributor for supporting Our First Annual “Hooked on Clays” Sporting Clays Shoot, held on April 4 at the National Shooting Center. We had 150 shooters, lots of give a ways, a great BBQ dinner served by Wack’em and Stack’em and outstand Cajun music provide by John Botter, made for a wonderful Friday afternoon. If you missed the first shoot don’t miss the 2nd Annual “Hooked on Clays” shoot planned for April 3rd, 2015. The shooting center is world class and the group of CCA volunteers and NSC staff put on an outstanding event. This is a must event so put it on your calendar for next year.

Your CCA Chapter is always looking for individuals to volunteer their time, resources, and thoughts as to how we can better serve this great organization. Come join us and have some fun working on one of our committees. You will get satisfaction knowing you contributed to our efforts to improve our coastal marine habitat.

Remember our first battle cry “SAVE THE REDFISH.” As always, thank you for doing your part. Until the next Currents, travel safely, enjoy your summer and take family, friends, and kids fishing. — Jimmy Gibson

To contact me for any information please e-mail me jimmy.gibson@CSTBrands.com

San Bernard
Jayson Zahradnik 281-202-8438

San Gabriel
John Melnar 512-497-8824

San Jacinto
Jim Wilson 713-828-7639

Southwestern
Jody Jacobs 210-827-7180

TAMU
Cameron Blackwood 713-591-7097

Texas State University
Welcome new president, Ryan Wishnow 832-444-3598
rn1303@txstate.edu

Tomball/Magnolia
Matt Maddox 281-770-7858

Please join us for our annual banquet on Thursday, June 26, once again being held at the Tomball VFW. For tables and tickets, contact Kim Vollentine, 713/626-4222 or kimbrown@ccatexas.org. Doors open at 6 p.m.

— Matt Maddox

Tri-County
Jason Trial 830-570-2988

Trinity Bay
Gerald Payne 281-385-2894

The winter of 2014 just didn’t seem to want to let go. Hopefully the summer of 2014 won’t be too brutal here in southeast Texas where the daily bag limit on mosquitofish is unlimited. The STAR Tournament has kicked off and there has likely been a couple tagged redfish along with a gorgeous speckled trout, tipping the scales of 9 pounds-plus on the upper coast leaderboard by now. Good luck to all participants and be safe out there on the water.

The first 6 months of 2014 has been an exciting time here in the Trinity Bay Chapter. There have been guests attending our meetings and a new addition to our board. Securing the new site in Baytown, Texas for our August 22, 2014 banquet has generated new ideas for the annual event. Based on early reports, more local sponsors are thrilled the banquet is returning closer to home. In addition to our usual seasoned to perfection boiled shrimp and sides, there will be plenty of cold refreshments to quench your thirst while partaking in raffles, card games and auctions.

If you are interested in participating in any of our chapter functions, please let us know. We have monthly meetings in Baytown, Texas on the first Wednesday of each month. We have a great bunch of individuals that dedicate themselves towards the work of CCA and have a lot of fun doing so.

Banquet information: August 22, 2014 at Nuevo Leon Social Events, 1000 Park Street, Baytown, Texas 77520. We look forward to seeing everyone again this year. — Gerald “Get er Done” Payne

Trinity Valley
John Hebert Jr 936-334-2528

West Houston
Joe Perez 832-279-4794

The 28th Annual West Houston Crawfish Boil & Banquet is now in the books! With close to 600 of our closest family and friends attending, this year’s event was another outstanding success! Thank you to all of those who came out. Your support directly relates to the success of our event, year after year.

We would like to thank all of the table buyers this year and give special recognition to VCE who purchased two Gold Tables and also to our Silver Table buyer’s - Academy Sports & Outdoors, Budweiser/Silver Eagle Distributors,

Thank you to our vendors who came out to display their newest products and to share a few fishing stories of their own - Coastal Redneck, Footcush, Fish-N-Hunt, Ron Hoover, EZ Wade, Ron Hoover, Murals by Bree & Bill Edwards Art. We also would like to thank all of those who donated items for the auctions and raffles. These items are essential in helping the event and each and every item was greatly appreciated.

Last but not least, thank you to all of the West Houston Board Members and the CCA Texas Staff for your dedication and hard work in putting this event together. The success of this event is squarely on your shoulders and you came through with flying colors!

As we put the 2014 banquet behind us, we are already working on the remainder of the General Membership Meetings. We are also working on the 3rd Annual Joint Chapter Fishing Tournament which will be held in October. Please keep in touch via our Facebook page or the Chapter page on the CCA Texas website for future dates and details. Thank you again to all of you who turned out for the banquet. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did and are already looking forward to seeing everyone again next year! Now the Board is going fishing! Good luck and be safe on your next trip! — Joe Perez

West Texas
Craig McDonnell 432-682-3499

We just finished up another fun and successful banquet at Midland Country Club with approximately 275 people in attendance. The open bar, crawfish, shrimp, prime rib and cooked-in-the-ground whole hog had everyone primed and ready to bid on some really cool trips.

I’d like to thank our 10 Bull Red and 30 Speckled Trout table sponsors, because without y’all it wouldn’t be possible.

Additional thanks to Phoenix Lease Services, Reece “Boudin”

Boudreaux and Tyler Smith for all the work they put in buying, boiling and serving crawfish, shrimp and all the fixin’s to a large and hungry crowd. Getting good crawfish in West Texas is no easy task, but they get-it-done every year.

Thanks go to LPC Crude Oil, Inc., Tim Kohn, Daniel Carter, Steve Mills, Rusty Smith and Robert Curry for the long hours required to cook prime rib and whole hogs. They both turned out cooked to perfection.

Also, a huge thanks to the John and Maurine Cox Foundation for helping to underwrite our banquet expenses and ensuring us a successful banquet. Thank you from the “500 Miles From Brine” chapter, — Craig M. McDonnell

Texas Sporting Journal
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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.

The fishing periods will be seasonal times during the months of June to August, then September to November, December to February and March to May.

Pre-construction efforts through the end of 2013, and post-construction efforts will take place beginning June 2014 through 2015.

For more information regarding how you can Fish for Science, contact: Bill Rodney, (TPWD), at 281-534-0127, Bill.Rodney@tpwd.texas.gov. Or, Bryan.Legare@tpwd.texas.gov. Or, John Blaha, CCA texas at 713-626-4222, jdblaha@ccatexas.org.

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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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